

**2016 Budget Speech Presented by Jean-Paul Adam, Minister for Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy,  
National Assembly, Wednesday 23rd December 2016**

**Mr Speaker,**

**Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly, Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Members, my fellow Seychellois,**

**1.0 Introduction of the theme- ‘Creating opportunities and building resilience for every Seychellois’**

During this last month the people of Seychelles have dedicated themselves to the electoral process which ended on the 18th December.

After having exercised their rights in peace, it is important that we continue to provide each and every Seychellois the opportunity to dedicate themselves to the future of our country.

It is with this principle in mind that I present the National budget to this Assembly today.

The National Budget for 2016 is being presented under the theme: ‘creating opportunities and building resilience for every Seychellois’.

During 2015, we have done our utmost to create opportunities for the public to participate in the budget planning process. I have sincerely appreciated the engagement of the different sectors and groups of people I have met during these consultations. I am very pleased with the discussions I have had with everyone.

I trust that in the future we may continue to use such platforms to allow continuous discussions and interactions on the budget.

It is important that we do not perceive the budget process as only something that is presented at the end of each year- but that it is viewed as an interactive process where we exchange ideas with the aim of creating better opportunities for each and every one of us.

Naturally, because of limitations in available resources, not every suggestion could be considered. However, the debate, and this continuous exchange of views, will facilitate the engagement of every person in the budget process.

**Mr Speaker,**

I would also like to thank all Members of the National Assembly, and the people of Seychelles for allowing the presentation of the budget at this moment- outside of the electoral calendar.

Christmas-the time for families to unite and celebrate together is upon us. But it is also a time for reflections. It is also evident that we must re-double our efforts to work for the benefit of our people during this festive season.