

## **Project Handover Ceremony at AnseBoileau Secondary School**

10 September 2020  
AnseBoileau, Seychelles

The High Commissioner of India, General Dalbir Singh Suhag conducted the Project handover ceremony for the 'Construction of Boundary wall & Renovation at AnseBoileau Secondary School' which was executed under the High Impact Community Development Projects Phase-1 (HICDP) funded under India's grant assistance.

Dignitaries and guests present at the occasion were Principal Secretary for School Education, Dr. Odile Comarmond and the Head Teacher of the School, Mrs. Gina Labiche amongst other officials.

Speaking at the occasion the High Commissioner noted that with this event, formally the 9th project of the 33 High Impact Community Development Projects costing SCR 35 Million (USD 2.5 Million) currently in the final stages of completion and which are spread across all the 3 Main Inner Islands of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue is being handed over. These come as a direct grant-in-aid from the people of India to their Seselwa brethren for their community developmental aspects. It is to be noted that India's developmental partnerships are marked by respect for partners, diversity, care for the future and sustainable development and does not come with any conditions, nor is it influenced by any political or commercial considerations.

This project in AnseBoileau Secondary School in particular, costing SCR 2.39 Million (USD 133,000), covers construction of Boundary Wall, Levelling the Surface, Construction of Access Road of 160m leading to Dining Hall of School. This project was awarded to Seychelles based, 'All Weather Builders'. High Commissioner said that he is delighted to note that the project has been completed within the scheduled period. Apart from this, there are 32 such projects in Phase-1 of High Impact Community Projects being implemented in Seychelles, all using Seselwa labour and material. These projects shall not only generate more employment and business opportunities to Seselwa, but also touch the lives of each and every one of them!

All of such noble works are being carried out in Seychelles, inspite of all hindrances posed in front of both the Governments of India & Seychelles due to COVID-19. This is the level of commitment and dedication the High Commission of India devotes for the community level project assistance for its best maritime neighbour and friend, Seychelles!

The High Commissioner addressed the children and the day's activity also coincides with our year-long celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of the world epitome of Peace and Non-Violence, Mahatma Gandhi. The United Nations General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution declaring his birthday, 2nd October as the 'International Day of Non-Violence'. The principles that he practiced and propagated through his life are worthwhile to emulate even to this date.

Government of India, taking the footsteps of the Mahatma, has pioneered many initiatives for fighting against climate change and for sustainability including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), wherein more than 75 countries have already ratified their cooperation and it is a proud moment that Seychelles is one of the founding members of the ISA and will be availing Solar Implementations to

the extent of USD 8.7 Million under this development partnership arrangement directly from the people of India. This would cover rooftop solar installations in various government building, housing units and even solar street lighting in various locations in Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. In fact, the Government of India has committed more than USD 1 Billion Concessional Credit Lines for the Solar Projects under ISA in the African countries alone.

High Commissioner also gifted 800 washable and re-usable cotton face masks to the School management to be distributed to all the students and the faculty and expressed that this small gesture will go a long way in our collective fight against COVID-19 pandemic in Seychelles.

The High Commissioner concluded his speech by thanking and saying that he looked forward to more such opportunities to meet and greet them in the near future.

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