



Celebrate Seychelles

The National Theme for 2006 is “Celebrate Seychelles” In spearheading the theme President James Michel in his New Year Message invited all Seychellois to take stock and celebrate all the country’s achievements over that past thirty years of Independence. Health is one area doing Seychelles proud --- and indeed in this aspect every Seychellois have reason to celebrate.

Access to the health care by all Seychellois was high on the agenda of discussions to reorganise the health care system thirty years ago. The government pursued this challenge relentlessly and today all Seychellois do have access to quality health care delivered free of charge at all health centres and specialised institutions. Sixteen health centres, situated within walking distances – or short rides – of most households, provide primary health care coverage at community level. The opening hours- on average 8 hours per day - also contribute to the overall accessibility of health care services.

However, the most significant aspect of the health care system is the spectrum of services available to cater for the conditions of every infant, child, adolescent, adult and elderly.

Credit for the health successes has to be attributed to the men and women committed to the promotion, restoration and preservation of the health and well-being of their co-citizens. Thirty years ago practising health professionals were few. Again the government embarked on an aggressive campaign to give value to the different health disciplines and encourage Seychellois to partake in the diversification of the services. Indeed today, most of our health cadres, besides doctors, are Seychellois. Health is a dynamic area therefore training and retraining of health personnel together with adequate remuneration packages remain vital components of the human resource development process.

Health is an integral part of our individual and collective undertakings, so much so that private and non-governmental organisations, the media and the public in general contribute in their own specific ways towards the promotion of health and healthy lifestyle.

Although it features among the smallest countries in the world, Seychelles is proud of its health achievements. The following health statistics clearly illustrate those achievements:

1. All vaccine preventable diseases have been eradicated
2. 100% of the population have easy access to health care services.
3. Immunisation coverage of infants up to pre-school age is 100%
4. The doctor /population ratio is 152 per 100,000 people
5. Life expectancy at birth stands at 66 years for men and 77 years for women
6. Infant mortality stands at around 15 per 1000 live births

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