

## POLICY ON RESTAURANT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The policy on restaurant was approved by cabinet in 2010, however, it is being resubmitted to cabinet to incorporate the recommendations in the Tourism Master Plan 2012 2020 which was approved in May 2012.

The government recognises the need to foster the development of restaurants and catering establishments that complement other sectors in the tourism industry. It is also important that there be restaurants offering different cuisines, whether located within hotels or standalone.

### 2. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective is that the restaurant sector offers a service that contribute towards the overall satisfaction of visitors by offering a cuisine that highlights local tastes and using local inputs as much as possible so that their stay in Seychelles is a unique experience and more enjoyable. Foreign cuisines will also be encouraged to give more diversity to the experience and improve the choices available.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

There are currently 53 restaurants and cafeteria in Seychelles.

<u>Location</u>	<u>No.</u>
Mahe	35
Praslin	11
La Digue	5
Other	2

## POLICY STATEMENTS ON RESTAURANT

### Policy 1

#### **Licence Category**

**There shall be only one licence category called *restaurant*.**

There shall be only one licence category **restaurant**, defined as follows:

**Restaurant** means *any establishment that prepares, cooks and serves meals and beverages for sale to customers, either on a self-service or full-service basis.*

This restaurant licence has incorporated the previous cafeteria category and allows the licence holder to operate either on a self-service (as cafeteria) or full-service basis.

### Policy 2

#### **Ownership/Investment**

**Investment and ownership of restaurants is open to locals and non-Seychellois alike.**

In order to enhance the diversity in the culinary offerings, non-Seychellois shall be allowed to invest in restaurants and shall be encouraged to concentrate on specialty cuisine so that the objective of increasing the diversity may be met. Investment in restaurant by non-Seychellois must be for a minimum of 21 covers.

Condition of licence shall state the type of cuisine approved.

### Policy 3

#### **Management**

**A person must possess the necessary qualification or experience to manage a restaurant.**

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### Policy 4

#### **Sale of Alcohol/Tobacco**

**A restaurant operator shall also be authorised to sell alcohol and tobacco products under the same licence to its clients who are dining on the premises.**

A holder of a restaurant licence shall be allowed to sell alcohol and tobacco products to its clients of not less than 18 years old as stipulated in Licences (Liquor and Outdoor Entertainment) Regulations 1998, and shall not need to pay a separate licence for sale of tobacco and alcohol.

Policy 5

**Bar Service Area**

**A restaurant operator may also operate a public bar service under the same licence, provided the bar service is a separate and distinct area.**

A holder of a restaurant licence is allowed to have a bar service area without paying a separate bar licence, however, the bar area must have a separate entrance and distinct area.

Policy 6

**Takeaway Service**

**A restaurant licence holder is also authorised to provide catering services or a takeaway service under the same licence, provided there be a separate outlet and entrance for the takeaway service.**

A holder of a restaurant licence can also offer catering or a takeaway service without paying a separate licence, however, there must be a separate entrance and outlet for takeaway service.

Policy 7

**Other Activities**

**A restaurant is allowed to host other activities or private functions subject to the necessary approvals from the relevant authorities.**

Normally, a restaurant may hold private functions until 11 pm as per the Noise Pollution Act and other laws and regulations enforced by the ministry responsible for environment. Any function that will last later than 11 pm needs the approval from the relevant authorities, which includes the SLA, the Police and others.

Policy 8

**Location/Site**

**The location of new restaurants shall be subject to conditions and approval of relevant authorities.**

The location of new restaurants shall be subject to condition and approval of all relevant authorities such as the Planning Authority, Land Transport Agency, Seychelles Tourism Board and others.

Policy 9

**Parking Facilities**

**All restaurants must have sufficient parking spaces as per the requirement of the Seychelles Tourism Board, Planning Authority and Road Transport Commissioner and Land Transport Agency.**

There should be sufficient parking spaces available for clients as per the requirements of other relevant authorities. The different regulatory bodies should be consulted.

Policy 10

**Statistics/Information**

**All restaurants are required to submit the necessary information and statistics to the National Bureau of Statistics or Seychelles Tourism Board, periodically or whenever requested to do so.**

The licensing regulations should be amended to legally bind all operators to submit the necessary information and statistics periodically or whenever requested to do so by NBS or STB.

Policy 11

**Standards/Regulatory Bodies**

**All restaurant operators must meet the minimum standards and criteria of all regulatory bodies.**

The restaurant sector involves many regulatory bodies and each has its own statutes which regulate certain aspects of the sector. All operators must comply with the requirements and standards of all the regulatory bodies which include the Planning Authority, ministry responsible for health, Fire and Rescue Services Agency, Seychelles Tourism Board and others.

Policy 12

**Non-Compliance**

**All Restaurant operators shall be fined in cases of non-compliance to the set requirements.**

All operators need a valid license to operate. In order to be licensed all operators should comply with the criteria and conditions of all regulatory agencies. Should an establishment not meet the criteria and conditions a warning shall be issued, and if after being given sufficient time to rectify such deficiencies, the problem persists, a fine shall be imposed. For continued offences the suspension or revocation of licence shall be applied.

Department of Tourism  
*Approved December 2012*