



**Opening Remarks by Ms Jenifer Sullivan
Second Deputy Governor – Central Bank of Seychelles
Guy Morel High Achievement Scholarship 2024 Award Presentation
Friday March 1, 2024
Guy Morel Training Room, Central Bank Building**

**Governor,
First Deputy Governor,
Board Director, Professor Ogara,
Scholarship Committee Members,
Scholarship Awardees and Guests,
Colleagues,**

Good Morning, and welcome to the award presentation ceremony for the 2024 Guy Morel High Achievement Scholarship.

Each year, the scholarship programme continues to attract increasing interest, a testament to its growing popularity and recognition as an essential pathway for nurturing local talents. This trend holds true this year; we received a remarkable total of 27 applications, almost doubling the 14 received in 2023. Notably, 5 applications were for undergraduate studies, while 22 were for postgraduate pursuits. Impressively, 78% of the applicants - 2 for undergraduate studies and 19 aspirants of a postgraduate scholarship - were shortlisted and subsequently interviewed. The calibre of candidates was exceptionally high, presenting a considerable challenge throughout the selection process.

The applicants showcased a range of interests, encompassing most of the priority areas identified by CBS, including computer programming and risk management, which were newly introduced for this year's scholarship offer.

At the end of the selection process, Keith and Aden attained the highest scores for the postgraduate and undergraduate categories, respectively, and were recommended for the scholarship award.

Currently working at a securities dealer, Keith aims to utilise the scholarship to strengthen his expertise in data analytics to make well-informed decisions, craft reliable solutions, and adopt more modern practices. Aden, on the other hand, seeks to leverage his passion for economics to drive positive change and contribute to the country's economic growth and development.

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, I sincerely congratulate the two scholars, as well as your parents, family, and friends whose support has been instrumental throughout your journey. We wish you every success in your studies, and I am confident that you will demonstrate your exceptional qualities and strive for excellence in your academic endeavours.

I would also like to acknowledge all the other applicants who participated in the highly competitive selection process and wish them every success for the future. This year, our applicant pool included participants from various fields, such as regulatory authorities, government ministries and agencies, banks, and other private sector stakeholders. This highlights a palpable thirst for knowledge that we have directly observed throughout this year's selection process.

In closing, I would therefore like to emphasise the importance for employers to continue to invest in the advancement of their staff, recognising that such support ultimately benefits the organisation as a whole. In the same vein, I would also encourage other organisations to provide similar learning opportunities to address the skills gap within the continuously evolving financial landscape.

Thank you.