

Telecommunications

CWS rolls out 5G package

One year after the launch ceremony of the 5G network, Cable & Wireless has released their 5G network package, allowing up to 1.2Gbps data speeds for 100GB Unlimited Data.

by J. Larue

To recall, Cable and Wireless, the first telecommunications company to launch a 5G network in Seychelles, had hosted the official launching ceremony last year in June 2020. The official rollout of the package, which was expected to be done in the previous year in July, was impeded by the COVID-19 pandemic. On 9 Friday, CWS announced a new package offering 100GB at a speed of 1.2Gbps, and unlimited data to follow at a reduced rate, including unlimited calls and SMS.

TODAY spoke to the CEO of CWS, Charles Hammond, last Friday, and he explained the delay in the package rollout.

"5G had been activated since its launch, but the pandemic has severely affected the rollout, as in it had affected our ability to get set packages out. When you need to launch proper packages, it is a bit more complicated. You need Apple, for instance, to certify it, which has been done, and you



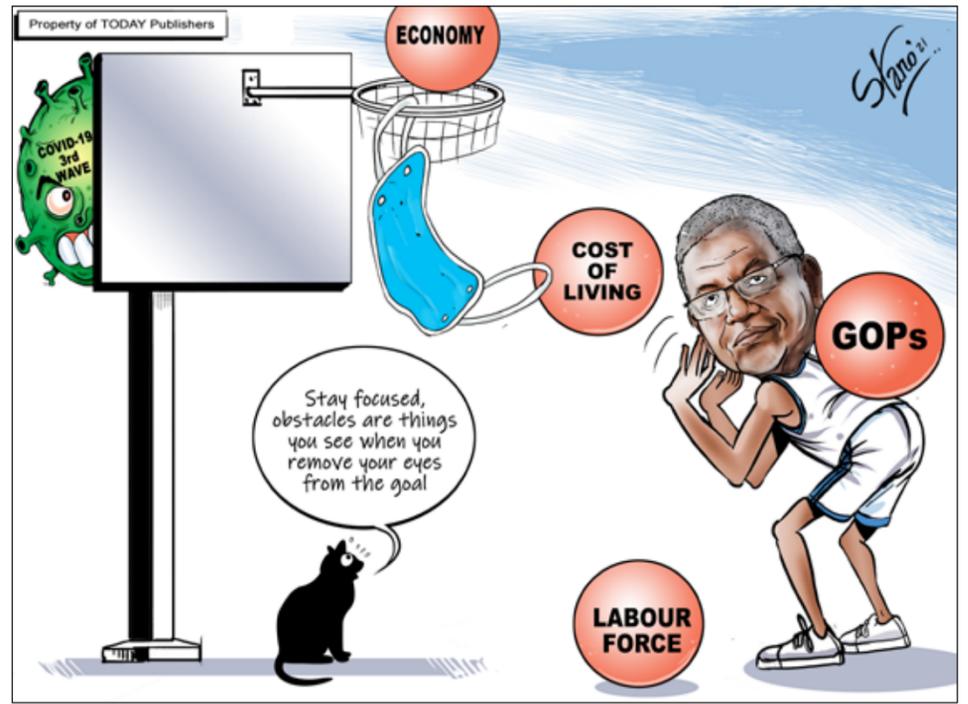
CWS has finally rolled out their 5G service package

need Samsung to certify it, which they haven't, as they have yet to come down to Seychelles because of the lock-downs. These had hampered the rollout," said Mr. Hammond.

"Your first 100 GB will go up to 1.2Gbps, and after the 100 GB, you will go into what you call a reduced speed, but you would still be able to do a lot of things. You would be able to watch Netflix, stream YouTube, load videos,

use WhatsApp, and you would still be able to do everything, but not go as quick as the first 100 GB," he added.

To use the 5G services, customers would need a 5G supported device. As mentioned last year, the network will, for the time being, be available at Roche Caiman, Victoria, Eden Island, and Beau Vallon. The monthly subscription to the network stands at SCR4,950.



Island Conservation Society

New postal cover commemorates ICS' 20th anniversary

To celebrate their 20th anniversary, the Island Conservation Society (ICS) issued a new commemorative postal cover in partnership with the Seychelles Postal Services. On Saturday, 10 April 2021, the partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding to mark the memorable occasion.

by J. Larue

What may come off as a trivial gesture carries quite a bit of weight and meaning. Although tiny and easily disposable, stamps of a country are in reality miniature works of art that carry the history, culture and art of a country. Thus, it is an introduction for anyone coming into the country or seeing the stamp elsewhere in the world, as to what the country is all about.

The commemorative postal cover was handed over by the CEO of the Postal Service, Errol Dias, to the Chairman of the ICS board, Adrian Skerrett. The limited-edition cover, which comprises six stamps, is destined to become a collector's item and features some of the colourful wildlife stamps of Seychelles overprinted ICS 2001-2021.

The director of Human Resources and administration, Marina Souffe, a key member in the fruition of the commemorative postal

cover, explained that the stamps featured are not new.

"They have been there for some time, however, we were not using them. To make the cover, we took the stamps and cancelled them. The cancellation will be dated 10 April, 2021," she stated in an interview with the media.

An overprint takes an existing stamp, and it commemorates a special event or perhaps a change in currency or a change in value. It is an additional layer of text added to the face of an existing



The commemorative postal cover is now on sale at the Post Office gift shop for SCR100

postage stamp. Historically, post offices throughout the world have used overprints for a variety of purposes. These include to make changes to the face values when prices change, impose surcharges, raise additional tax in times of war or for the establishment of postal services in countries or territories before they had produced their own stamps. For example, the first stamps issued by British Indian Ocean Territory in use from January 1968 were actually Seychelles stamps overprinted B.I.O.T.

The most famous varieties of overprints are commemorative issues. These can command significant interest in the field of philately the world over. The first commemorative overprint issue in Seychelles was released in 1967,

featuring four stamps overprinted with Universal Adult Suffrage

1967. The last overprint issue came in 1986 to commemorate International Creole day, overprinting 'Lazournen Enternasyonal Kreol' over a one-rupee stamp of a Madagascar Fody.

The Chairman of the ICS board himself is quite passionate about philately and values the significance of stamps. "In my youth, I was an avid stamp collector, and I remember setting myself the ambition to collect a set of stamps from every country in the world... It is an honour for ICS to join this list of events that are deemed worthy of commemorating with an overprint issue," he expressed.

The commemorative postal cover is now on sale at the Post Office gift shop and can be bought for SCR100.



CEO of Seychelles Postal Service, Errol Dias, (left) hands over the commemorative postal cover to the Chairman of the ICS board, Adrian Skerrett (right)



Mrs. Faviola Sanders, the sole person who took the Retail Banking Level 2 course, receiving her certificate. She is currently on an accelerated programme, completing Level 3

by A. Edmond

The graduating group is the bank's first cohort to undertake the Retail Banking Academy's (RBA) international online training programme and receive professional certification in retail banking. The programme was fully funded by MCB, and a first for the Seychelles banking sector. The event took place on 9 April at MCB's headquarters at Caravelle

House.

The RBA trains Certified Retail Bankers with the objective of enabling them to play a leading role in the development and professionalisation of consumer-oriented retail banking across the world. The programme allows for practical implementation, with the aim of achieving real improvement at an operational level as well as of profitable growth. It encompasses three core modules; Retail Banking I, Retail Banking II and Retail

Banking III. Graduates who received their

certificate under the Professional Retail Banker (PRB) programme

designed for those who are considering a career in retail banking

or have just started a career in retail banking, were Helvin Alcindor, Jonathan Adrienne, Valerie Lebon, Julianne Marie, Nigel Samson and Phoebe Servina.

Meanwhile, Audrey Adrienne, Belinda Baptiste, Marisa Delorie and Christel Hoareau received certification at the Retail Banking Level 1.

Mrs Faviola Sanders was the only person who sat for and graduated for Retail in Banking Level Two; she has now progressed to an accelerated course following Level Three as she has 10 years of experience and technical expertise. Next year, Mrs Sanders will graduate as a Certified Retail Banker, equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree, and an achievement recognised both locally and internationally.



MCB's first cohort of RBA graduates, a first for Seychelles

Mauritius Commercial Bank

11 staff receive certificates under the RBA programme

Last Friday, 9 April, the Mauritius Commercial Bank of Seychelles (MCB) hosted a graduation ceremony for 11 of its staff members at Caravelle House. The graduates had undertaken a prestigious training at certificate level for retail bankers, with MCB Seychelles being the first bank in Seychelles to offer this opportunity to its staff.