

**Agency for Social Protection**

**“You’re an incredibly special group, performing a remarkable task”**

As part of a number of festivities held to commemorate the Agency for Social Protection’s (ASP) ten-year anniversary, a prize-giving ceremony was organised to celebrate the long-serving staff of the organisation. Amongst the highlights were speeches by notable guests, animated musical performances and of course the presentation of certificates and gifts.

by H. Pragassen

A grand and lively ceremony was held at the ICCS yesterday afternoon, to celebrate the staff of the ASP for their years of dedicated service. Attended by various distinguished guests, which included the Designated Minister and Minister for Fisheries, Jean-Francois Ferrari (who was standing in for the President of the Republic), the event was hosted by Dennis Mathiot, who happened to be one of the awarded staff members.

Following Mr. Mathiot’s introductory speech, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ASP, Brenda Morin, took to the podium to personally express her gratitude for the devotion and loyalty of the workers. Ms. Morin led a standing ovation for the staff and spoke a little on the bright future she is anticipating for the organisation.

“I urge you all to look into the past, as well as ponder on the future. These reflections are key to improvements for the coming years.”

Speaking on behalf of the President,



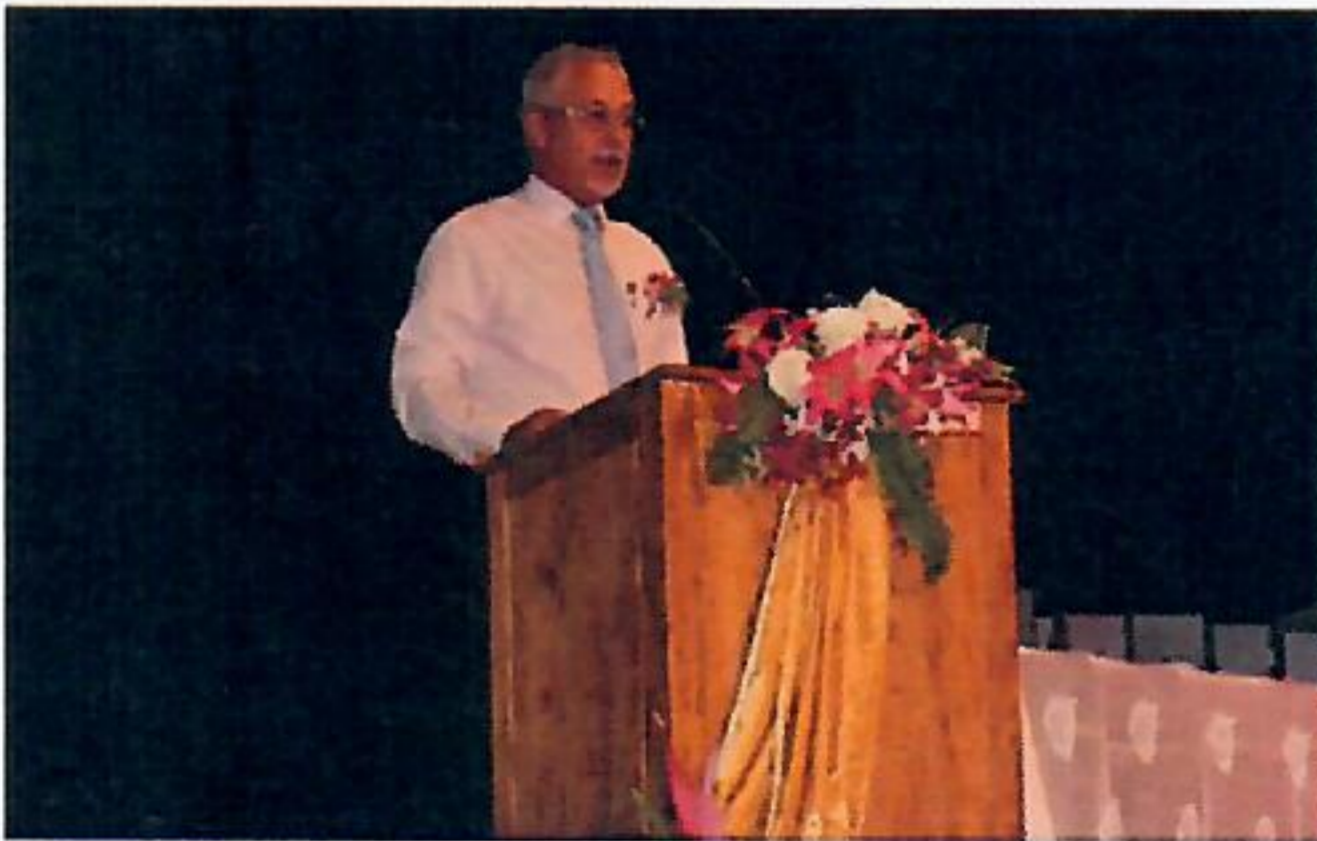
The CEO of the ASP, Brenda Morin

quick in providing it. She added that even after ten years, the workers showcase just as much passion and heart as they had on their very first day.

She concluded by confirming that the government, as well as her ministry’s and her own personal support for the department “is forever guaranteed.” Along with the aforementioned guests, the Chairman of the Board of the ASP, Georges Tirant, also took centre stage to present the staff with their certificates and prizes.

Two batches of employees were awarded for their years of service, with one group being rewarded for ten or so years of work.

Other than Mr. Mathiot’s MCing, the ceremony was made even livelier by a series of musical recitals, performed by the National Choir. The event ended on a simultaneously energetic, as well as sentimental note. Following a live performance by the Youth Band, who had everyone on their feet, the ASP themselves curtailed the event by cutting two cakes.



Minister Ferrari giving his address

as well as himself, Minister Ferrari thanked the ASP for their hard work.

“Seychelles recognizes your important service to our nation and especially to our citizens most in need.” He went on to add that the organisation’s ten-year anniversary is a momentous occasion, which symbolises the ushering of a new age in the Seychelles. The Minister has ambitions for this new era to be one that “brings energy, a real sense of purpose and care back to our society.”

In her own words, Ms. Morin and

by extension the ASP as a whole, have been given the task of spearheading change that will bring what he refers to as three key values – “justice, order and efficiency.”

The Minister for Employment and Social Affairs, Patricia Francourt, who had been a constant figure of authority at the ten-year celebrations this past week, was also in attendance. During her address, she spoke highly on the expertise of the staff, candidly telling those present that whenever she should phone the ASP asking for additional information, they were always



Minister Francourt addressing the audience



The cutting of the ASP cake



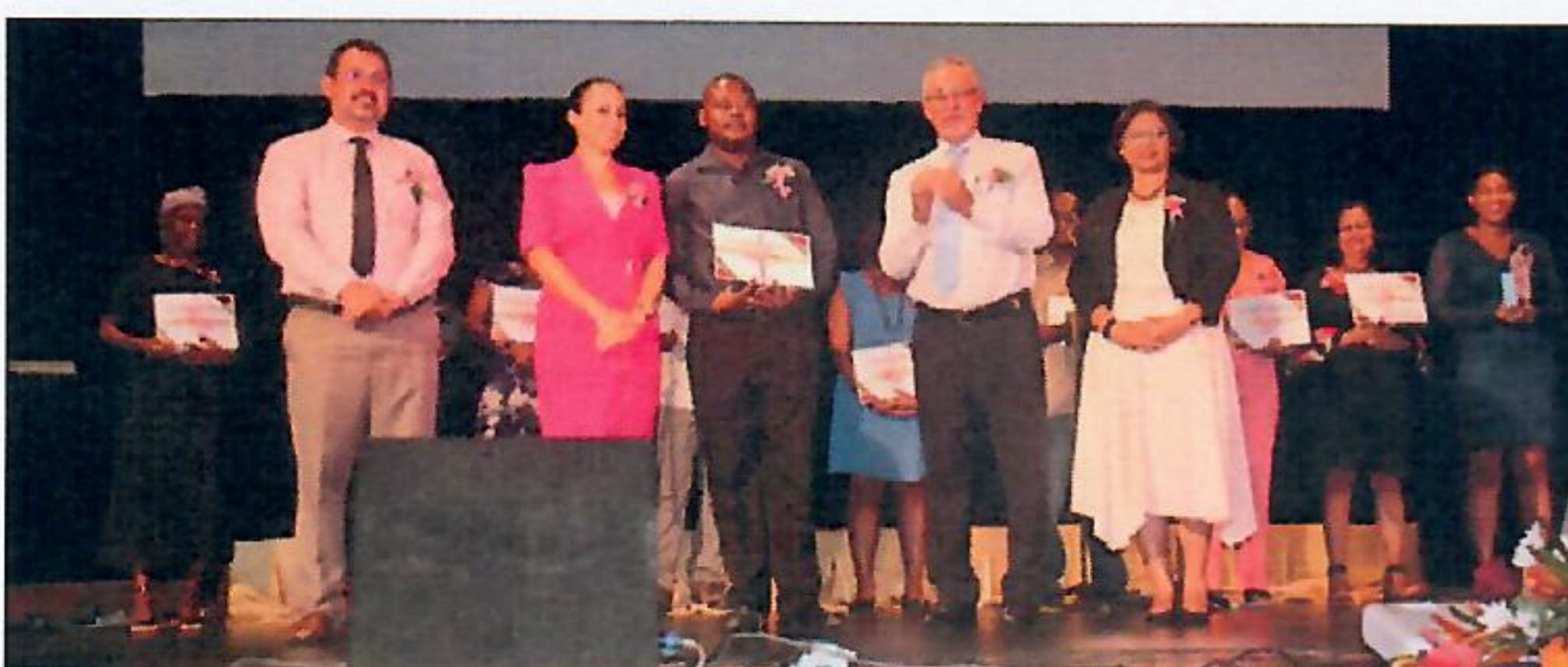
The Youth Band were the last performers of the afternoon



The National Choir performed three memorable musical performances



Applause for the staff of the ASP



One of the staff, Mr. Mathiot being awarded for ten years of service



Staff who were awarded for ten years of service