



MINISTRY OF HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND TRANSPORT

SEYCHELLES PLANNING AUTHORITY

Policies and Guidelines Library

CREMATORIUM POLICY

Category: Physical Development

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Reference:

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1.0 SUMMARY

Seychelles local tradition for disposal of human remains The fragile ecosystem, sensitive nature and to a large extent, the aggressive topographical physical characteristics of the islands of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue and fascination of their inhabitants creates a conducive environment for special consideration to be given to activities and physical development anticipated to take place on hillsides and relatively high grounds. . Agreeably, the beauty and charm of the islands does not only act as the catalyst to our main 'gagne pain' but our islands are considered as 'the magnet' that attracts very many tourists and visitors to the Seychelles. Peace, tranquility and the slow pace of life characterize here and equally make us famous on the international hospitality arena.

It is therefore paramount that physical developments on land and the manner these are allowed on high grounds should not only be sustainable, but explicitly preserve the rich cultural identity and value of the beautiful scenery offered to be enjoyed by mankind. The more we preserve our islands the more visitors will aspire to enjoy them.

2.0 PURPOSE

The basis for this policy is to promote an environmentally sustainable development on the populated islands of Seychelles.

2.1 DEFINITON

A crematorium is a facility that houses a cremator having a cremation chamber or retort. In this chamber, the body of a deceased is incinerated and hence, reduced to

skeletal remains and bone fragments. Cremation may serve as a funeral or post-funeral rite as an alternative to the interment of an intact dead body in a coffin, casket or shroud.

3.0 STATEMENT

This documents sets out a policy that amongst other things, takes care of the growing practices locally for cremation facilities as an alternative to the traditional burial as practice in other parts of the world.

4.0 BACKGROUND

Mahe, Praslin and La Digue represent the first, second and third most populated and developed islands in Seychelles as well as the first, second and third largest tourism destinations respectively after. Given their size, topography and limited flat land, those islands have one of the most fragile of eco-systems.

The basis for this policy takes into consideration the disadvantage of open air cremation, limited land constraints for cemetery expansions or in having new cemeteries as well as the growing personal preference of cremation in lieu of burial, as it is happening in other parts of the world. Government is prepared to consider private sector involvement in providing for crematorium facilities. Additionally health and environmental regulations and guidelines are already in place to ensure control of the installation and operation of crematoriums:

- (i) The Public Health (cemeteries, crematoria and funeral parlors) Regulations make provision for the control of management, operational procedures and standards of crematoriums
- (ii) Environmental guidelines as directed by the Department of Environment provide for control of air emissions and the disposal of waste materials.

5.0 APPLICABILITY & SCOPE

The Seychelles Planning Authority and all other responsible arms of Government. These are applicable to all developments defined in the Physical Development legislation.

6.0 GUIDELINES/POLICY

The existing regulatory mechanisms all offer elements of worldwide best practices and international trends where legislations are often in the form of a Cremation Act. These are set to regulate the installation and operation of crematoria, their location, operational standards, disposal of cremated remains and so for. In particular it is noted that these legislations make it necessary for cremations to take place in defined controlled crematoria and prohibit practices that cannot conform to legal requirements. Open-air

cremation or 'open pyre' cremation is thus implicitly or explicitly prohibited under these legislations.

Apart from some areas where the practice of open pyres or partially 'enclosed' cremation is permitted, followers of certain beliefs in many parts of the world use the existing crematorium facilities or in certain cases, especially among conformist believers, bodies are shipped to their country of origin for open cremation.

Locally, in Seychelles open-air cremation has been permitted but with public amenities and environmental considerations. However in consideration of the international best practices and more so:

(a) Given the current aspirations of Seychelles in becoming a modern state with high moral and public decency standards

(b) Given the prevailing socio-cultural traditions of Seychelles and

(c) In view of the increasing difficulty of finding appropriate location for open-air cremation sites, it is in the best interest of the country to prohibit the practice, which had been permitted so far, of open cremation and allow for cremations to be performed in purpose-built modern crematoriums subject to the existing health and environmental regulations and guidelines.

Contact Information

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Related Information

Town and Country Planning Act CAP 237

Public Health legislation

Environment legislation

Other Documents:

[Related External Document Link](#)
