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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Minister for Education signs MOU with University of Seychelles**

The Minister for Education, Gilbert Licudi QC, is this week visiting Seychelles for discussions related to the establishment of the University of Gibraltar. Seychelles is a small jurisdiction which recently established their own university. Their programmes are run mostly in conjunction with major educational institutions such as the University of London.

Mr Licudi has held discussions with the senior management team of the University of Seychelles and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pro-Chancellor of the University, the Minister for the Environment Professor Rolph Payet. The MOU envisages co-operation between Seychelles and Gibraltar in matters related to the two universities and possible exchanges of students between the universities.

During his visit to Seychelles, Mr Licudi, who is accompanied by Dr Darren Fa, paid a call on the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr James Michel and met with the Minister for External Affairs, Jean-Paul Adam. Mr Licudi discussed with Mr Adam matters of common interest including issues related to financial services. Mr Licudi also met with the British High Commissioner, Lindsay Skoll.

The visit to Seychelles has attracted media attention with a feature on local news including an interview with Mr Licudi.

Mr Licudi described the visit to Seychelles as invaluable. He said: "We have learnt how the University of Seychelles was established five years ago and how it has progressed during this short time. We have also had discussions on the lessons they have learnt during this process. I have been most impressed by the facilities of the University and what Seychelles has been able to create. I am even more excited now about our own university project having seen for myself how it can be done successfully in a small state.

I am enormously grateful to the Government of Seychelles for the welcome they have given us and to the University of Seychelles for the generous way in which they have shared their experience with us. We very much expect to continue to cooperate with the University of

Seychelles and have already discussed student exchanges and the creation of a joint university programme which could be carried out in both jurisdictions.”