

## Vox populi, vox Dei!

(The voice of the people is the voice of God!)



**People have decided finally!**

**Now, knowing that in the days to come, the political landscape in the Republic of Mauritius will be re-shaped and the contours of state power will be re-defined, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) looks up to the new government to ensure that the three dimensions of sustainability, namely Economy, Environment and Society are well balanced and that the sanctity of its space and freedom be well preserved and guaranteed under the constitution.**

The voters of the Republic of Mauritius have made a bold statement on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024 (date of the general election) by voting massively for change, against the outgoing government. L'Alliance du Changement, comprising of the Labour Party (LP), Movement Militant Mauricien (MMM), Nouveaux Démocrates, and Rezistans ek Alternativ (REA), led by Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, the leader of the change coalition, has won a landslide victory, as per poll results confirmed on 11/11/2024 by the Electoral Commission.

Dr. N. Ramgoolam, leader of the LP, thus becomes the 9<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius. It will be recalled that the former Prime Ministers since independence on 12 March 1968 to now have been: Sir S. Ramgoolam (1968-1982), Sir A. Jugnauth (1982-1995), Dr. N. Ramoolam (1995-2000), Sir A. Jugnauth (2000-2003), Mr.P.R.Béranger (2003-2005), Dr. N. Ramoolam (2005-2014), Sir A. Jugnauth (2014-2017), and Mr. P.K. Jugnauth (2017-2024). As his coalition get victorious following poll results in 2024, Dr. N. Ramgoolam and his government take the destiny of the country in his hands.

Mr. Paul Raymond Bérenger GCSK, the founder and historic leader of the MMM, has been the Prime Minister between 2003-2005. Both Dr.N.Ramgoolam and Mr.P.R.Béranger are respected mature senior politicians, political leaders and parliamentarians, having also assumed the post of the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Ashok Subron, leader of Rezistans ek Alternativ is also part of the L'Alliance du Changement and he will now be making his debut (baptême du feu) as Member of Parliament (MP).

For several decades, Mr. A. Subron has been a seasoned trade union leader and a social activist and ecologist. He has been the negotiator for the trade unions representing the workers of the sugar industry, port, transport and the private sector in general. Also, is in the winning coalition, Mr. Richard Duval, leader of Nouveaux Démocrates, politician and former Private Parliamentary Secretary (PPS) of Mauritius.

As argued by political analysts and others, it is against the backdrop of the unprecedented proliferation of illicit drugs and trafficking in the country, loss of purchasing power of the ordinary citizen, absence of meritocracy, nepotism, failing institutions, corruption, privacy and security issues, and other such issues of national interest, the population decided for a change in the political regime in place. Now, the population has lots of expectations from the new government. It is hoped that the list above be addressed as a legacy mark of the senior leaders.

The larger expectations of the population are that Mauritius shall be governed by a stable government where national unity shall prevail, that the government shall be accountable, and that the government shall deliver on its promises as spelt in its political manifesto (programme 2024). Anyhow, confirmation will only come with regard to the demeanour and the direction in which, government actions will be geared, when His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Mauritius will read the new Government Programme literally in a few days after Cabinet is formed and government is established.

As one may recall it, Parliament was dissolved on 4/10/2024. And the population got back its power, temporarily, (between 4/10/2024 to 11/11/2024 – less than a month time during the short campaign period) to elect its new representatives to form the government. For a population of around 1.3M Mauritians, slightly more than 1M votes were registered and around 80% of voters turned out to vote. It's a reasonably good percentage, though in 2000 and 2005, +80% mark was also crossed.

Knowing that in the days to come, the political landscape in the Republic of Mauritius will be re-shaped and contours of state power will be re-defined, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) look up to the new government to ensure that the three dimensions of sustainability, namely Economy, Environment and Society are well balanced and that the sanctity of its space and freedom be well preserved and guaranteed under the constitution.

**Suraj Ray FCG**  
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