

**Globalized Election
Weekly Report
May 20, 2010 to May 25, 2010**

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Week # 120

The Government is elected on a five-year basis. The most recent general elections took place on May 5th 2010 in all the 20 mainland constituencies, as well as the constituency covering the island of Rodrigues. Historically, elections have tended to be a contest between two major coalitions of parties. In international affairs, Mauritius is part of the Indian Ocean Commission, the Southern African Development Community and the Commonwealth of Nations and La Francophonie (French speaking countries), amongst others.

MAURITIUS

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Mauritius

Capital	Port Louis
Official language(s)	English
Vernacular	Mauritian Creole, French, English,
Demonym	Mauritian
Government	Parliamentary republic
- President	Sir Anerood Jugnauth
- Prime Minister	Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam
Independence	from the United Kingdom
- Date	12 March 1968
- Republic	12 March 1992
Area	
- Total	2,040 km ² 787 sq mi
- Water (%)	0.05
Population	
- 2008 estimate	1,288,000
- 2000 census	1,179,137
- Density	631.4/km ² 1,636.5/sq mi
GDP (PPP)	2009 estimate
- Total	\$16.050 billion
- Per capita	\$12,526

GDP (nominal)	2009 estimate
- Total	\$8.761 billion
- Per capita	\$6,838

1. Introduction

Mauritius officially the **Republic of Mauritius** is an island nation off the coast of the African continent in the southwest Indian Ocean, about 900 kilometres (560 mi) east of Madagascar. In addition to the island of Mauritius, the Republic includes the islands of Cargados Carajos, Rodrigues and the Agalega Islands. Mauritius is part of the Mascarene Islands, with the French island of Réunion 200 km (120 mi) to the southwest and the island of Rodrigues 570 km (350 mi) to the northeast.

Uninhabited until the 17th century, the island was ruled first by the Dutch and then the French after the Dutch had abandoned it. The British took control during the Napoleonic Wars and Mauritius became independent from the UK in 1968. Mauritius is a parliamentary republic and is member of the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa the African Union and the Commonwealth of Nations.

The main languages spoken in Mauritius are Mauritian Creole, French and English. English is the only official language but the lingua franca is Creole and the newspapers and television programmes are usually in French. Ethnically, the majority of the population is Indian, but there are also many people of African descent on the island. There are also European and Chinese minorities. It is the only African nation where the largest religion is Hinduism although Christianity and Islam also have significant populations.

The island of Mauritius is renowned for having been the only known home of the dodo. First sighted by Europeans around 1600 on Mauritius, the dodo became

extinct less than eighty years later. Mauritius has an upper-middle income economy.

History

Mauritius was uninhabited until being permanently settled by European explorers in the 1600s. The island was known to Arab and Austronesian sailors as early as the 10th century and was originally named Dina Harobi by the Arabs. The Portuguese sailors first visited it in 1507 and established a visiting base leaving the island uninhabited. Five ships of the Dutch Second Fleet were blown off course during a cyclone while on their way to the Spice Islands and landed on the island in 1598, naming it in honour of Prince Maurice of Nassau, the Stadtholder of the Netherlands.

In 1638, the Dutch established the first permanent settlement. Because of tough climatic conditions including cyclones and the deterioration of the settlement, the Dutch abandoned the island after nearly a century in 1710. France, which already controlled the neighbouring Île Bourbon (now Réunion) took control of Mauritius in 1715 and later renamed it *Île de France* (Isle of France). Under French rule, the island developed a prosperous economy based on sugar production.

In the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815) the British set out to gain control of the island. Despite winning the Battle of Grand Port, Napoleon's only naval victory over the British, the French surrendered to a British invasion at Cap Malheureux three months later. They formally surrendered on 3 December 1810, on terms allowing settlers to keep their land and property and to use the French language and law of France in criminal and civil matters. Under British rule, the island's name reverted to the original one. Mauritius then went on to become independent in 1968.

Politics

Politics of Mauritius takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic, in which the President is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government who is assisted by a council of Ministers . Mauritius has a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly. The absolute power is split between two positions, the President and the Prime Minister.

Overview

Mauritian politics is vibrant and characterised by coalition and alliance building. All parties are centrist and reflect a national consensus that supports democratic politics and a relatively open economy with a strong private sector.

Alone or in coalition, the Mauritian Labor Party (MLP) ruled from 1947 through 1982. The Mauritian Militant Movement/Militant Socialist Movement (MMM/MSM) alliance won the 1982 election, taking all 60 seats in Mauritius. In 1983, defectors from the MMM joined with the PSM to form the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) and formed a majority in coalition with the MLP.

In July 1990, the MSM realigned with the MMM and in September 1991 national elections won 57 of the 62 directly elected seats in parliament. In December 1995, the MLP returned to power, this time in coalition with the MMM. The MLP's Navinchandra Ramgoolam, son of the country's first prime minister, became prime minister himself. Ramgoolam dismissed his MMM coalition partners in mid-1997, leaving Labour in power only with several small parties allied with it.

The MMM and MSM rejoined in a coalition that won the 2000 elections and, although a handful of MPs defected from the MSM in early 2005, both parties went together to the next election in July 2005, competing against the Alliance

Sociale, a MLP-led coalition. The Alliance Sociale won the elections with an overwhelming majority.

Until 1992, Mauritius was a constitutional monarchy with Queen Elizabeth II as head of state, but on March 12 of that year, the country became a republic within the Commonwealth. The last Governor-General, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, became President under a transitional arrangement, before stepping down three months later in favour of Cassam Uteem, a former government minister. Under the amended constitution, the country's unicameral parliament, the Legislative Assembly, was renamed the National Assembly.

Communal voting

Communal voting is very often the sole way of voting. Since independence, almost all the prime ministers elected by the population have been Hindus of the Vaish caste. The only non-Hindu PM was Paul Raymond Bérenger who spent 22 months in office from 2003 to 2005 thanks to an understanding between his party, the MMM, and Sir Aneerood Jugnauth's party, the MSM, prior to the 2000 elections. Sir Aneerood Jugnauth thus assumed the office of PM for the first 3 years and, in 2003, Bérenger became PM while Jugnauth became President^[1]. Currently, President Jugnauth, Vice President Chettiar and Prime Minister Ramgoolam are the highest ranked persons in the government, and all three are Hindus.

More than 45 out of 70 members of Parliament are Hindus. The Ministries are also allocated on a communal basis. Hindus hold 16 ministries out of 22; 3 ministries are allocated to Muslims and 3 ministries are allocated to Christians.

Executive branch

Main office holders

Office	Name	Party Since
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President Anerood Jugnauth 7 October 2003
Vice President Angidi Chettiar 2007
Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam MLP 5 July 2005

The president and vice president are elected by the National Assembly for five-year terms. The prime minister is appointed by the president and is responsible to the National Assembly. Council of Ministers appointed by the president on the recommendation of the prime minister. The Council of Ministers (cabinet), responsible for the direction and control of the government, consists of the prime minister (head of government), the leader of the majority party in the legislature, and about 20 ministries.

Power share

In Mauritius, both the President and the Prime Minister enjoy power. The President earns higher and has more benefits and perks such as more bodyguards and police escorts and reside in a Chateau laid on 220 hectares of land. Nevertheless, the Prime Minister is the executive. He is responsible for any bill sent to the President from the assembly. He preside over all cabinet ministers and is the first adviser of the President. He is the head of government and it is on his advice that the President shall appoint any person in the government.

Legislative branch

The National Assembly has 70 members, 62 elected for a five year term from three member constituencies and 8 additional members appointed by the election commission from the losing political parties to give representation to various ethnic minorities.

Political parties and elections

Summary of the 3 July 2005 National Assembly of Mauritius election results

Parties and alliances	Votes	%	Seats	Additional seats	total seats
<p>Alliance Sociale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauritian Labour Party (Parti Travailleiste) • Mauritian Party of Xavier-Luc Duval (Parti Mauricien Xavier-Luc Duval) • The Greens (Les Verts) • Republican Movement • Mauritian Militant Socialist Movement (Mouvement Militant Socialiste Mauricien) 	948,766	48.8	38	4	42
<p>Alliance MSM-MMM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauritian Militant Movement (Mouvement Militant Mauricien) • Militant Socialist Movement (Mouvement 	829,460	42.6	22	2	24

Socialiste Mauricien) • Mauritian Social Democrat Party (Parti Mauricien Social-Démocrate)					
Rodrigues People's Organisation (Organisation du Peuple Rodriguais)	10,184	0.8	2	2	4
All others	156,538	8.0			
Total (Turnout 81.5 %)	1,944,948	100.0	62	8	70
Source: Adam Carr					

Every voter has three votes. The total number of votes cast divided by three (648,316) is lower than the actual number people voting (666,178), because not all of them cast three votes. Constituencies 1 to 20 are physically in the island of Mauritius and each has three elected members. Constituency 21 is the island of Rodrigues which has two elected members. The voters based in the island of Agalega and other islets are registered in constituency 1.

Judicial branch

Mauritian law is an amalgam of French and British legal traditions. The Supreme Court—a chief justice and five other judges—is the highest local judicial authority. There is an additional higher right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Members of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have been located in Mauritius since the end of 2008, as part of a plan to lower the costs of appeal.

Administrative divisions

Local government has nine administrative divisions, with municipal and town councils in urban areas and district and village councils in rural areas. The island of Rodrigues forms the country's 10th administrative division. Other dependencies are Agalega Islands and Cargados Carajos Shoals. The divisions are Black River, Flacq, Grand Port, Moka, Pamplemousses, Plaines Wilhems, Port Louis, Riviere du Rempart, and Savanne.

International organization participation

ACCT, ACP, AfDB, AOSIS, C, CCC, ECA, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT, ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Inmarsat, InOC, Intelsat, Interpol, IOC, ISO, ITU, NAM, OAU, OPCW, PCA, SADC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WToO, WTO

The Government is elected on a five-year basis. The most recent general elections took place on May 5th 2010 in all the 20 mainland constituencies, as well as the constituency covering the island of Rodrigues. Historically, elections have tended to be a contest between two major coalitions of parties. In international affairs, Mauritius is part of the Indian Ocean Commission, the Southern African Development Community and the Commonwealth of Nations and La Francophonie (French speaking countries), amongst others. In 2006, Mauritius asked to be an observing member of Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) in order to become closer to those countries.

According to the 2009 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, which measures governance using a number of different variables, Mauritius' government earned the highest rank among African nations for "participation and human rights" and "sustainable economic opportunity", as well as earning the highest score in the index overall. Mauritius came second in "rule of law", and fourth in terms of "human development".

Office Held

Office Holder

Incumbency

President
 Head of state **The Rt.Hon Sir** 7 October
 Commander in **Anerood Jugnauth,** 2003
 chief **QC, KCMG, PC, GCSK**

Vice President **Angidi Chettiar** 2 November
 2007

Prime Minister **The Hon. Dr**
 Minister of **Navinchandra**
 Defence & **Ramgoolam GCSK** 5 July 2005
 Home Affairs **,MP**

Deputy Prime **Dr. Rashid**
 Minister **Beebeejaun,** 7 July 2005
GCSK,MP

Vice Prime
 Minister
 Minister of **Hon. Xavier Luc Duval** 7 July 2005
 Social **GCSK ACCA, MP**
 Integration

Vice Prime
 Minister **The Hon.Pravind** 11 May 2010
 Finance Minister **Jugnauth, MP**
 Of Mauritius

Senior Minister **The Hon. Mrs**
 National Social **Sheilabai Bappoo** 7 July 2005
 Security Minister **GOSK, MP**

Leader of the **The Hon. Paul**
 Opposition **Raymond Bérenger** 7 July 2005
GCSK, MP

Districts and dependencies

The island of Mauritius itself is divided into nine districts:

1. Black River (Capital: Bambous)
2. Flacq (Capital: Centre de Flacq)
3. Grand Port (Capital: Mahébourg)
4. Moka (Capital: Quartier Militaire)
5. Pamplemousses (Capital: Triolet)
6. Plaines Wilhems (Capital: Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, Phoenix)
7. Port Louis (Capital of Mauritius)
8. Rivière du Rempart (Capital: Mapou)
9. Savanne (Capital: Souillac)

Dependencies

- Rodrigues, an island 560 kilometres (350 mi) north-east of Mauritius, which attained limited autonomy in October 2002. It had the status of the 10th administrative district of Mauritius before autonomy was attained.
- Agalega, two small islands about 933 kilometres (580 mi) north of Mauritius, famous for supplying chickens.
- Cargados Carajos, also known as the Saint Brandon islands, about 402 kilometres (250 mi) north of Mauritius.

Elections in Mauritius

Mauritius elects on national level a legislature. The **National Assembly** has 66 members, 62 elected for a four year term in 21 multi-member constituencies and 8 additional "best loser" members appointed by the Supreme Court. The president is elected for a five year term by the parliament. Mauritius has a multi-party system, with two or three strong parties and a third party that is electorally successful.

2005 General Election

The total number of votes is higher than the population because Mauritians get to cast up to 3 votes in a single election.

Summary of the 3 July 2005 National Assembly of Mauritius election results

Parties and alliances	Votes	%	Seats	Additional seats	total seats
Alliance Sociale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauritian Labour Party (Parti Travailleiste) • Mauritian Party of Xavier-Luc Duval (Parti Mauricien Xavier-Luc Duval) • The Greens (Les Verts) • Republican Movement • Mauritian Militant Socialist Movement (Mouvement Militant Socialiste Mauricien) 	948,766	48.8	38	4	42
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Total (Turnout 81.5 %)	1,944,948	100.0	62	8	70
Source: Adam Carr					

ELECTIONS 2010

A **general election** was held in Mauritius on 5 May 2010. The coalition composed of the Mauritius Labour Party under Navin Ramgoolam, the Militant Socialist Movement under Pravind Jugnauth and the Mauritian Social Democrat Party under Xavier Duval, won a majority with 41 seats in the parliament. The Mauritian Militant Movement-led coalition under Paul Berenger finished second with 18 seats. The Mauritian Solidarity Front won one seat and the Rodrigues Movement won the two remaining seats. The elections were the ninth to be held since independence from the United Kingdom in 1968.

The Mauritius Labour Party, the Mauritian Social Democrat Party (PMSD) and the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) joined together into an alliance called Alliance de L'avenir (English: *Alliance of the Future*) for this election. Ramgoolam, the alliance leader, allotted 35 seats to his own party to compete for the 60 seats on the island, whereas the MSM was given 18 and the PMSD 7. Before the election, it appeared that Berenger might gain back the PM's post that he held from 2003 to 2005; he was the first prime minister since independence that was not of South Asian origin. Berenger led his own alliance of parties, known as the Alliance du Coeur (English: *Alliance of the Heart*), a reference to the official logo of the Mauritian Militant Movement, by far the biggest party in that alliance. Parties based in Rodrigues compete for the 2 other seats, with the Rodrigues People's Organisation and the Rodrigues Movement being the main parties there.

During the election, 62 seats in the National Assembly of Mauritius were contested with a further 8 seats to be designated by the electoral commission under a complex formula designed to keep a balance of ethnic groups in the parliament. The candidates must declare which ethnic group (Hindu, Muslim, Chinese or "general population") they belong to in order to run for a seat. In 2010, 104 of the candidates refused to do so, resulting in them being disqualified, leaving 529 candidates for the seats. Around 130 foreign observers, including some from the African Union and the Southern African Development Community, were present to monitor the voting process.

Around 900,000 people were eligible to vote in the election. The counting of votes began on 6 May with results expected by that afternoon. With 30% of votes counted the Alliance de l'Avenir was ahead in 40 of the seats and the Alliance du Coeur in 19. Turnout was estimated at 78%, down from 81.5% in 2005's election and the lowest turnout since 1976. The electoral commission said that the voting process went well and there were no formal complaints.

This election was marked by an accusation from Paul Berenger of abuse of the state-owned television station, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, by the incumbent government to influence voters. He also accused his political opponents of using communalism to swing votes, given that he forms part of the Franco-Mauritian minority. The main issues debated were economic and constitutional reform, fraud, corruption, drug trafficking and ethnicity.

The Alliance de l'Avenir obtained 49.31% of the total votes with 41 seats whereas the Alliance du Coeur seized 42.36% of votes with 18 seats. The remaining parties and independent candidates obtained 8.14% of the votes. Out of the 62 seats, only ten women were elected.

After the Alliance de L'Avenir was declared winner of the poll, its leader, Navin Ramgoolam, mentioned that he would govern in the interest of every Mauritian so as no one is left behind. He added that the priorities of his government are to be the improvement of road infrastructures, the security of the people, education, health and youth development. Paul Berenger, who conceded defeat after the election, said that members of his party will continue their fight for a better Mauritius. He claimed that this election was not free and fair, attributing the defeat of his alliance to numerous factors including bias coverage of the election by the state-owned television station, more financial resources by his political opponents, communalism and the electoral system. However, he is prepared to work with the government for an electoral reform, especially due to the fact that his alliance had obtained only 18 of the 62 seats despite seizing 43% of popular votes.

On May 7 2010, the Electoral Supervisory Commission made their decision on the non-elected candidates to occupy the 8 additional seats in the National Assembly based on the religious and ethnic declarations of the candidates not elected, a system referred to as the 'Best Loser system'. Exceptionally, instead of 8, only 7 candidates were designated. Per the normal procedure, 4 best loser seats are allotted to candidates not elected but having obtained the highest

percentage of votes as a member of a political party. However, they had to be of an appropriate religion or ethnic to maintain a balance in the parliament. 4 other seats are to be allotted so as not to change the result of the election. The Alliance de L'Avenir was allotted 4 additional seats whereas the Alliance du Coeur obtained 2 additional seats. Whereas the Electoral Supervisory Commission had no problem in attributing one seat to one candidate of the Rodrigues People's Organisation, they had difficulty in choosing a candidate for the 8th seat, which normally has to be a Sino-Mauritian of one of the two other successful parties in this election. But given neither the Mauritian Solidarity Front nor the Rodrigues Movement had candidates of this community during this election, no candidate was named for the 8th additional seat.

Observers from the African Union for this election declared that the Best Loser system is problematic for the national unity of the country though it can reinforce social cohesion. They also considered the 2010 Mauritian general elections to have been 'free and transparent'.

Results

Summary of the 5 May 2010 National Assembly of Mauritius election results

Parties and alliances	Votes	%	Seats	Additional seats	Total seats
Alliance of the Future <i>(Alliance de L'Avenir)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauritian Labour Party <i>(Parti Travailleurs)</i> • Mauritian Social 	1,001,903	49.69	41	4	45

<p>Democrat Party (<i>Parti Mauricien Social-Démocrate</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Militant Socialist Movement (<i>Mouvement Socialiste Mauricien</i>) 					
<p>Alliance of the Heart (<i>Alliance du Coeur</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mauritian Militant Movement (<i>Mouvement Militant Mauricien</i>) National Union (<i>Union Nationale</i>) Mauritian Socialist Democrat Movement (<i>Mouvement Mauricien Socialiste Démocrate</i>) 	847,095	42.01	18	2	20
<p>Mauritian Solidarity Front (<i>Front Solidarité Mauricienne</i>)</p>	51,161	2.54	1	—	1
<p>Rodrigues Movement (<i>Mouvement Rodriguais</i>)</p>	20,933	1.04	2	—	2

Rodrigues People's Organisation (<i>Organisation du Peuple Rodriguais</i>)	18,815	0.93	—	1	1
National Democratic Movement (<i>Mouvement Democratique National</i>)	13,957	0.69	—	—	—
Clever Party (<i>Party Malin</i>)	6,874	0.34	—	—	—
Free Citizens' Forum (<i>Forum des Citoyens Libres</i>)	4,167	0.21	—	—	—
The Fraternal Greens (<i>Les Verts Fraternal</i>)	2,722	0.13	—	—	—
Liberal Action Party (<i>Parti Action Liberal</i>)	2,704	0.13	—	—	—
Mauritian Authentic Movement (<i>Mouvement Authentique Mauricien</i>)	2,369	0.12	—	—	—
Party of the Mauritian People (<i>Parti du Peuple Mauricien</i>)	2,072	0.10	—	—	—
Mauritian Workers' Movement (<i>Mouvement Travailleurs Mauricien</i>)	1,862	0.09	—	—	—
Mauritian Democratic Movement (<i>Mouvement Democratique Mauricien</i>)	1,703	0.08	—	—	—
Disabled Shooters Party	1,549	0.08	—	—	—

(<i>Parti Tireurs Disables</i>)						
Mauritian Citizens' Movement (<i>Mouvement Citoyen Mauricien</i>)	1,290	0.06	—	—	—	—
Democratic Union of Rodrigues (<i>Union Démocratique de Rodrigues</i>)	1,059	0.05	—	—	—	—
Socialist Front (<i>Front Socialiste</i>)	840	0.04	—	—	—	—
Ilois Mauritian Patriots Union (<i>Union Patriots Ilois Mauricien</i>)	752	0.04	—	—	—	—
Mauritian Liberator Party (<i>Parti Libérateur Mauricien</i>)	559	0.03	—	—	—	—
Unite to Build (<i>Unir pour Bâtir</i>)	355	0.02	—	—	—	—
Mauritian Democracy (<i>Democracie Mauricienne</i>)	290	0.01	—	—	—	—
Socialist Labour Party	271	0.01	—	—	—	—
Mauritian Socialist Rally (<i>Rassemblement Socialiste Mauricien</i>)	267	0.01	—	—	—	—
Mauritian Rodrigues Agalega Workers' Solidarity Movement (<i>Mouvement Solidarité</i>)	259	0.01	—	—	—	—

<i>Travailleur Mauricien</i> <i>Rodrigues Agalega)</i>					
Mauritian Socialist Party <i>(Parti Socialiste Mauricien)</i>	185	0.01	—	—	—
Group of Five (<i>Groupe de Cinq</i>)	172	0.01	—	—	—
Rodrigues People's Progressive Front <i>(Front Progressiste du Peuple Rodriguais)</i>	168	0.01	—	—	—
Rodrigues Workers' Democrat Party <i>(Parti Rodriguais Travailleur Democrate)</i>	129	0.01	—	—	—
Regional Autonomy Movement	124	0.01	—	—	—
Young Socialist Democrats Group <i>(Regroupement Jeunes Socialiste Democrates)</i>	111	0.01	—	—	—
Socialist Party Plus (<i>Party Socialiste Plus</i>)	94	0.00	—	—	—
Workers' Socialist Movement <i>(Mouvement Travailleuse Socialiste)</i>	64	0.00	—	—	—
Mauritius Party Rights	61	0.00	—	—	—
Independent	29,491	1.46	—	—	—

Total (Turnout ~78%)	2,016,427	100.00	62	7	69
Source: gov.mu, gov.mu					

Elections Analysis

Mauritius held a general election for its 69-seat National Assembly on May 5. Mauritius is a very interesting country, and considered one of Africa's success stories due to its strong democratic tradition and an economy – which, somewhat uniquely for an island country, is not based on one crop. Mauritius gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1968 and became a republic in 1992, but the island, which was French between 1715 and 1810, maintains a strong French linguistic tradition, the result of an 1810 deal which allowed settlers to keep the French language and criminal law. However, a majority of Mauritians are of Indian origin, the result of massive immigration to the island under British rule to work in sugar cane plantations. Only a minority are Creole, Franco-Mauritian or Sino-Mauritian. The result of this ethnic makeup has been a strong penchant towards communalism, exemplified by the racial divisions of parties but also businesses, employment and so forth. Despite this, ethnic relations have always been peaceful, thereby helping the emergence of Mauritius as a developed, diversified modern economy and major economic and political hub of the southern Indian Ocean – something also helped by stable politics and a democratic tradition inherited from the British.

Stable politics doesn't mean stable coalitions, however. Elections in Mauritius are often won by coalitions, and these coalitions are dominated by the island's three main parties. Two of them fight for working-class Indian votes, and one is more multi-communal though it does tend to draw its support from non-Indians. The Mauritian Labour Party (PTr) was founded in 1936 on the model of its British counterpart, and sought independence for the island and various labour rights for

Indians then employed in sugar plantations. It is dominated by the Ramgoolam family, of which the nation's first Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and current Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam are the most famous standard-bearers. The PTr's ally in 2010, but rival in 2005, is the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM), founded in 1983. The MSM, of which incumbent President Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, the 'father of the Republic', is the historical leader, is also a rural-based Indian-dominated party. In opposition to the PTr-MSM alliance this year was the 2005 ally of the MSM, the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM), founded in 1969 which is a more urban and multi-communal party. Its leader since 1976 has been Paul Bérenger, a Franco-Mauritian, and Bérenger was Prime Minister between 2003 and 2005 at the head of a MMM-MSM coalition, which fell apart this year. This year, the PTr was allied with the MMM and the smaller Mauritian Social Democrat Party (PMSD), the party of the Duval clan (a Creole family), which opposed independence in 1967 (the 1967 elections were won by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam) and traditionally represents the wealthiest of voters, most of them being old Franco-Mauritian plantation owners. The PMSD's current leader is Xavier-Luc Duval, Vice Prime Minister. This alliance, branded *Alliance de l'avenir*, was opposed by the MMM-led *Alliance du cœur*, but also the Muslim (16% of the population) based Mauritian Solidarity Front (FSM), the former Hizbullah (no relation to the Hezbollah). The island of Rodrigues, the largest and most important of the three island dependencies of the main island, has its own political parties. Rodrigues is largely Catholic, white or Creole, which explains its political differences.

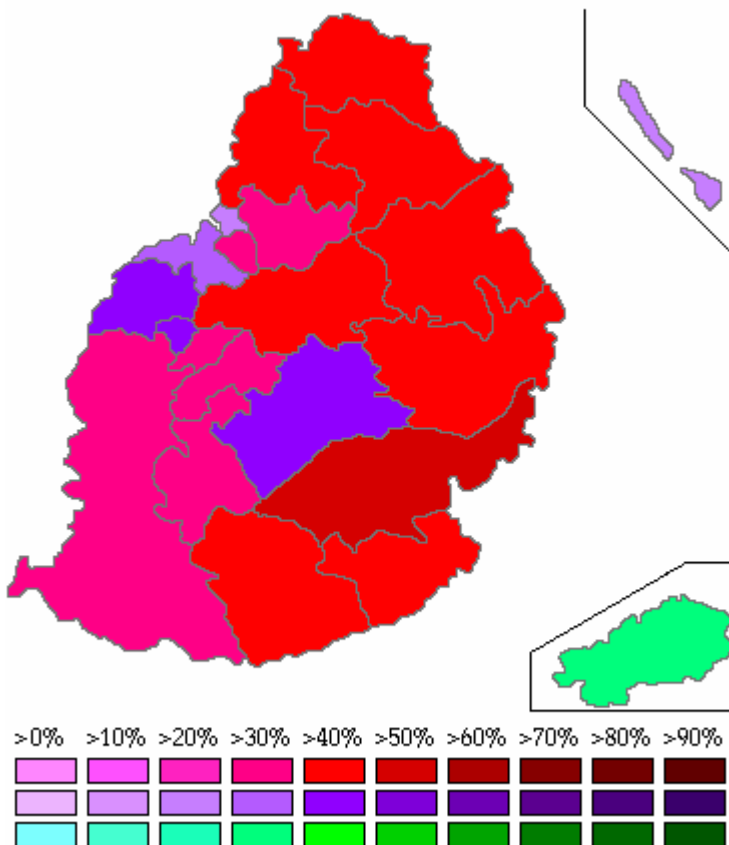
The National Assembly has 62 seats elected in 21 multi-member constituency, all of which have 3 seats except a four-seater (Grand River North West and Port Louis West) and a two-seat Rodrigues constituency. The island of Agalega is attached to the 3rd constituency. In addition, in a clear example of the communalist structure of politics, 8 additional seats are distributed (really, appointed by the Supreme Court) to ethnic groups and losing candidates. It is known as the 'best loser system'. Only 7 of these 8 seats were distributed this

time, apparently since neither of the two parties eligible for the eight seat – the FSM and the Rodrigues Movement had a Sino-Mauritian candidate, and the eight seat is given to a Sino-Mauritian.

Here are the results:

Alliance de l'avenir	49.69%	winning	45	seats	(41+4)
Alliance du cœur	42.01%	winning	20	seats	(18+2)
Mauritian Solidarity Front	2.54%	winning	1	seat	(1+0)
Rodrigues Movement	1.04%	winning	2	seats	(2+0)
Rodrigues People's Organisation	0.93%	winning	1	seats	(0+1)

Mauritius 2010



The map above shows the percentage vote polled by each party overall, because results are reported by candidates, each voter having three votes. The pattern is quite clear and fits in with the history of each party. The PTr-MSM alliance dominated in rural areas, where a lot of Indians live and historically worked in old sugar plantations, or, since more recently, in small manufacturing industries. The MMM alliance dominated in two areas; the urbanized area around the capital, Port-Louis, and around Beau Bassin. The FSM elected its sole MP in Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East, and Muslim candidates did well in Port-Louis. The PTr-MSM accused the MMM of going after Muslim votes, which perhaps explains the MMM's strong performance in Port-Louis. The MMM also won inland around Curepipe and Midlands, which seem to be well-off largely non-Indian areas.

