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Election 2024 The Race is On

According to some observers the MSM is riding on the crest of the wave having its performance on the balance sheet of its achievements examined by the nation. Pravind Jugnauth MSM believes that his party is going to the nation with a favourable bilan having created a prosperous Mauritius during the last mandate. This is endorsed by the new partner in the Alliance du Peuple, Xavier Duval who argues that the outgoing government under Jugnauth has created a country where "c'est un plaisir . . . de vivre". (Duval is more or less repeating the moto which was introduced when he was Tourism Minister in a previous government: L'île Maurice, c'est un plaisir.

On the other hand, Labour leader Navin Ramgoolam contending for the prime ministership is hitting as hard as he can to bring down the reputation of his adversary, PM Jugnauth, as an achiever. When he made his debut in politics some three decades ago, Navin Ramgoolam was the darling of the Constituency No 5 of Triolet. Yet, He



Dr Vasant Bunwaree (sitting behind the flowers) founder of the Mouvement Travayist Militant has now joined Linion Pep Morisien of Bodha and Valayden

marked by the excesses of a copious living.

The outsiders

Others are in the wing queuing up to be the next Prime Minister of Mauritius. Rishi Badhain of the Reform Party, after having left pollical partner Bruneau Laurette by the wayside has now joined forces with the Linion Moris of Bodha and Valayden on the understanding he will share the

prime-ministership with Bodha at the expense of Valayden. Valayden who looks rather sickly to certain observers is reported to have agreed to the power-sharing agreement giving weight to his public declaration that his main concern is not power but the interests of Mauritius. People join the political arena cherishing the idea of become party leader with a dream for the top job. A question that may be asked in why has Reform Party leader Roshi Bhadain agreed to a power-sharing arrangement with Nando Bodha when he refused such an arrangement with Bruneau Laurette. Bruneau Laurette who thinks very highly of his candidature has created his own party known as Le Mouvmman Bruneau Laurette.

So, the race is on. The number of candidates who will stand for election will only be known on Nomination Day on 22 October after withdrawals. It is, however, known thst 73 political parties have registered to field candidates in the 20 constituencies of Mauritius each returning 3 MPs, and one constituency of Rodrigues returning two MPs.



Bruneau Laurette (centre) has created his own party bearing his name

was later rejected by the Triolet constituency in 2014. He went try his luck in Consituency No 10 at Bel Air in 2014. There too he was rejected. So, he is now back to Triolet where he is now doing the door-to-door canvassing telling the electorate by way of an apology that only a fool commits the same mistake twice. In a way he is acknowledging his past mistake.

So, this 2024 General Election is a struggle to-the-finish between to two leaders, Jugnauth and Ramgoolam who are not "spent" yet - an analogy from Shakespeare's Macbeth. Both leaders are still full of life though one of them appears to have been



Francisco François, behind the laptop, leader of the OPR (Organisation du Peuple Rodriguais) addressing his members