



Mauritius – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 27 May 2013

Information on Parti Travailleiste (Labour Party) in Mauritius.

A page on the Flags of the World website, in a section titled “About the party”, describes the Mauritius Labour Party as follows:

“The Mauritius Labour Party (MLP; in French, Parti travailliste mauricien) was founded on 23 February 1936 in Port Louis, on the model of the British Labour Party. After the party had won the elections in 1948 and 1953, his leader, Guy Rozemont (1915-1956), made a request for the Secretary of State for the Colonies to receive a Mauritian delegation so as to discuss constitutional reforms. The First and Second Constitutional Conferences were held in London in February 1955 and July 1957, respectively. A main demand of the MLP was a the right for all, including the workers, to vote.

In 1959, the MLP, allied with the Comité d’Action Musulman (Moslem Action Committee), won the elections again. In July 1961, during the Third Constitutional Conference, the Mauritian delegates demanded absolute autonomy and independence to be proclaimed in 1964. In 1963, the MLP won the elections again, and the independence was discussed during the Fourth Constitutional Conference held in September 1965. The MLP, allied with the Comité d’Action Musulman and the Independent Forward Block in the coalition called Independence Party, won the elections in 1967. The independence of Mauritius was proclaimed on 12 March 1968 in Port Louis.

The MLP is member of the Socialist International. Its most famous leader is Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (1900-1985), who succeeded Maurice Curé (1886-1977) as the party's leader in 1941 and obtained the independence of Mauritius. Known as the Father of the Nation, Ramgoolam was Prime Minister from the independence until 1982 and Governor-General from 1983 to his death. His son Navinchandra Ramgoolam (b. 1947) was Prime Minister in 1995-2000, led the opposition from 2000 until 2005, and has been Prime Minister since the 2005 general elections won by his coalition, the Social Alliance (in French, Alliance Sociale).” *Flags of the World* (6 July 2008)
Mauritius Labour Party (Mauritius)

A BBC News country profile of Mauritius states:

“Former Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam of the Social Alliance returned to power after defeating Paul Berenger of the Mauritian Militant Movement in elections in July 2005. The ruling alliance, which included Mr Ramgoolam's Labour Party and the Militant Socialist Movement, was re-elected in a closely fought vote in 2010, defeating the Mauritian Militant Movement led by Mr Berenger. Both main blocs campaigned on a promise of strengthening the welfare state and social justice. Born in 1947, Mr Ramgoolam served as

prime minister between 1995 and 2000. He is a doctor and lawyer.” (BBC News (2 April 2013) *Mauritius profile*)

A Reuters report on the 2010 elections states:

“The ruling Labour Party won a parliamentary election in the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius when the opposition leader accepted defeat on Thursday. Government supporters took to the streets waving flags and honking car horns after opposition leader Paul Berenger conceded to an alliance led by the Labour Party headed by Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam. The Labour Party has been in power since 2005.” (Reuters (6 May 2010) *Mauritius ruling party wins landslide election*)

See also Global Insight report which states:

“An official declaration is still outstanding, but Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam's Labour Party looks to have swept to victory in the Mauritian legislative poll. Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam looks set for a second consecutive term as head of government, his third altogether. Provisional results announced by the Electoral Commission yesterday (6 May) show Ramgoolam's L'Alliance de L'Avenir (Alliance of the Future) winning 41 out of the 62 National Assembly seats under contestation.” (Global Insight (7 May 2010) *Election 2010: Ruling Labour Alliance Emerges Triumphant in Mauritius*)

An August 2011 Reuters report on developments within the ruling coalition states:

“The parliamentary majority held by Mauritius's ruling coalition shrank after one party pulled out of government on Sunday, a day after a cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Former finance minister and Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) leader Pravind Jugnauth said his party was now in opposition. It had formed an alliance with the ruling Labour Party and the Parti Mauricien Social Democrate (PMSD) to win power during last year's election in the Indian Ocean island. ‘The MSM has constantly been under attack since the coalition won the last parliamentary elections. There was no team spirit at all and we have been pushed out of the coalition. From now on we are in the opposition,’ Jugnauth said. The Labour Party now depends on the PMSD to stay in power. (Reuters (7 August 2011) *Mauritius govt majority shrinks as partner pulls out*)

A Business Monitor Online report on the current status of the Mauritian Labour Party, in a paragraph headed “Fragile Alliances”, states:

“Since the withdrawal in August 2011 of the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) party from the ruling coalition, the complexion of Mauritius's political landscape has taken on a far less stable appearance, with the government's parliamentary majority trimmed from a comfortable twenty-five seats to just five. This has left the governing Mauritian Labour Party (MLP) in a precarious position, dependent on the support of the small Mauritian Social Democrat Party (PMSD).” (Business Monitor Online (1 March 2013) *Government to Muddle Through In 2013*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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