

THE RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (AMENDMENT) BILL
(No. XXIX of 2016)

Explanatory Memorandum

The main object of this Bill is to reform the electoral system in Rodrigues by providing for –

- (a) a minimum number of candidates for election to the Regional Assembly to be of particular sex; and
- (b) a more equitable representation of parties in the Regional Assembly.

2. The Bill accordingly amends the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act and lays down that –

- (a) the Regional Assembly shall consist of –
 - (i) 12 local region members (2 for each of the 6 regions) elected on the first past the post basis;
 - (ii) 5 Island region members, instead of 6, elected under the current Proportional Representation (PR) system; and
 - (iii) additional seats, where needed, to ensure an overall majority of 3 seats to the party which has won 7 or more local region seats;
- (b) each registered party presenting more than 2 candidates at an ordinary election shall ensure that not more than two thirds of the total number of candidates of that party in the 6 local regions are of the same sex; and
- (c) a registered party may file a Party List which shall –
 - (i) contain the names of not more than 12 persons;
 - (ii) not include the name of a person –
 - (A) whose name is included on any other list submitted by a registered party for election as a member for the Island region;

- (B) who is a registered party candidate for election as a member for a local region;
- (iii) not comprise more than two thirds of persons of the same sex; and
- (iv) indicate the order of precedence of each of the candidates appearing on the list, provided that not more than 2 consecutive candidates on the list shall be of the same sex.

Sir ANEROOD JUGNAUTH, G.C.S.K., K.C.M.G., Q.C.
Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit

02 December 2016

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ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Short title | 6. Section 8 of principal Act amended |
| 2. Interpretation | 7. Section 9 of principal Act amended |
| 3. Section 3 of principal Act amended | 8. Section 11 of principal Act amended |
| 4. Section 4 of principal Act amended | 9. Commencement |
| 5. Section 7 of principal Act amended | |

A BILL

To amend the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act

ENACTED by the Parliament of Mauritius, as follows –

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Amendment) Act 2016.

2. Interpretation

In this Act –

“principal Act” means the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act.

3. Section 3 of principal Act amended

Section 3 of the principal Act is amended, in subsection (3), by deleting the words “18 members” and “other 6” and replacing them by the words “at least 17 members” and “other 5”, respectively.

4. Section 4 of principal Act amended

Section 4 of the principal Act is amended, in subsection (1) –

- (a) in paragraph (a), by deleting the words “local region” and replacing them by the words “of the 6 local regions”;
- (b) in paragraph (b), by deleting the figure “6” and replacing it by the figure “5”.

5. Section 7 of principal Act amended

Section 7 of the principal Act is amended, in subsection (1), by deleting the words “the first” and replacing them by the word “an”.

6. Section 8 of principal Act amended

Section 8 of the principal Act is amended by adding the following new subsection –

(8) (a) Each registered party presenting more than 2 candidates at an ordinary election shall ensure that not more than two thirds of the total number of candidates of that party in the 6 local regions are of the same sex.

(b) Where a registered party forms part of an alliance, it shall be sufficient for the alliance to comply with paragraph (a) without each party forming part of the alliance necessarily complying with that paragraph.

7. Section 9 of principal Act amended

Section 9 of the principal Act is amended –

- (a) by repealing subsection (3) and replacing it by the following subsection –

(3) The list shall –

- (a) contain the names of not more than 12 persons;
- (b) not include the name of a person –
 - (i) whose name is included on any other list submitted by a registered party for election as a member for the Island region;
 - (ii) who is an individual or a registered party candidate for election as a member for a local region;
- (c) not comprise more than two thirds of persons of the same sex; and
- (d) indicate the order of precedence of each of the candidates appearing on the list, provided that not more than 2 consecutive candidates on the list shall be of the same sex.

- (b) by repealing subsection (4).

8. Section 11 of principal Act amended

Section 11 of the principal Act is amended by repealing subsection (10) and replacing it by the following subsection –

(10) Where, following the return of the Island region members in accordance with subsections (1) to (9), a registered party having obtained 7 or more of the 12 local region seats, finally finds itself with a total of less than 10 of the 17 seats, there shall be allocated to that party such number of additional seats as may be necessary to ensure that it disposes in the Regional Assembly of an overall majority of 3 seats.

9. Commencement

(1) Subject to subsection (2), this Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

(2) Different dates may be fixed for the coming into operation of different sections of this Act.
