

Mauritius

Rice

Mauritius has been a parliamentary democracy since its independence from Great Britain in 1968. Mauritius's first prime minister, Seewoosagur Ramgoolam of the Parti Travailiste¹ (PTR; also Mauritius Labour Party MLP), ruled until 1982; following the first elections after independence on 20 December 1976, Ramgoolam ruled in coalition with the Mauritian Social Democraic Party (Parti Mauricien Social-Democrate-PMSD) (Muller et al 2011, 920). Minor SOLS change in 1976.² This coalition was in power until the 1982 elections, when it lost to a coalition made up of the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) and the Mauritian Socialist Party (PSM). Anerood Jugnauth, the leader of MMM, became the Prime Minister. This is a SOLS change.

March 1983 saw a crisis in which several ministers resigned and Jugnauth broke with his MMM. Hereafter Jugnauth left the MMM and created the Mouvement Socialiste Mauricien MSM. Subsequently, the PSM merged into the MSM (Muller 2011, Europa World Yearbook). Jugnauth allied with the PTR and the PMSD then won the elections on August 21 1983. This is a minor SOLS change.

In February 1984, the PTR split over the decision to withdraw from the coalition; parts of the PTR remained in the coalition (first as the Mauritanian Workers Movement – MWM and later as the Mauritanian Labour Rally – RTM), which is a minor SOLS change (Muller, 2011). Following a crisis as a result of a drug scandal, the PTR decided to rejoin the coalition in August 8, 1986 (Muller 2011, Europa World Yearbook). This is also a minor SOLS change.

Following the August 30 1987 elections, the coalition continued largely unchanged; the RTM merged into the MSM and the Rodriguan People's Organisation (OPR) joined Jugnauth's coalition of MSM/PTR/PMSD/OPR (Muller 2011, Europa World Yearbook). This is a minor SOLS change. The PMSD withdrew from the coalition in August 1988 (Muller, 2011). This is a minor SOLS change.

In July 1990, Jugnauth and the MMM agreed to jointly contest the elections. Thereafter in August, the PTR almost fully withdrew from the government, leaving only a single PTR minister in government (Europa World Yearbook), after which the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) supported (August 20th) and later joined the Mauritian Socialist Movement (MSM) minority coalition. Therefore, we code a minor SOLS change on August 20, 1990 (Muller 2011, Europa World Yearbook). The MSM/MMM alliance won the subsequent 1991 elections on 15 September and formed a coalition with the small Democratic Labour Party (Mouvement des Travailleurs Démocrates – MTD) (Europa World Yearbook, 2854).

A crisis within the MMM culminated in the split of the MMM and a government reshuffle in November 1993 (minor SOLS). In August 1994, the pro-coalition MMM faction renamed itself into the Mauritanian Millitant Renaissance (RMM - Europa World Yearbook).³ Moreover, the PMDS joined the

¹ Note that Muller (2011) has Ramgoolam first as head of the Independence Party (IP) and only later as head of the PTR, which is a wing of the IP according to Muller. Though I did not find evidence of this, I suspect that the IP was an umbrella coalition of groups striving for independence from the UK. Many of the countries that we have coded that experience regime change start out with a broad coalition of groups that oppose the former regime. As the Europa World Yearbook has Ramgoolam heading the PTR from 1958, well before independence, I think we may simply code Ramgoolam as head of the PTR

² There is some indication (e.g. Europa World Yearbook and wiki) that Ramgoolam headed more than one coalition and therefore likely headed a different coalition in the post independence period.

³ We code the RMM already in 1993 in order to indicate that is when the split of the MMM occurred.

MSM/MTD/OPR/RMM coalition on February 13 1995, which is another minor SOLS change (Muller, 2011).

In 1995, the PTR, in coalition with MMM, formed a government led by PTR's leader, Navinchandra Ramgoolam. This is a SOLS change. On 20 June 1997, Ramgoolam dismissed his coalition partners from government and on July 2 Ramgoolam formed a new cabinet consisting of the PTR, one ex-MMM, and one member of the OPR, which is a minor SOLS change (Muller, 2011; Europa World Yearbook, Encyclopædia Britannica). In the 2000 elections, the MSM and MMM once again formed a coalition government led by Jugnauth. This is a SOLS change. This time, however, it was agreed that Jugnauth would step down mid-term to allow the leader of MMM to take over as Prime Minister. This happened in 2003, when Paul Raymond Berenger became Prime Minister. Because the alliance agreement was open and known before the elections it seems to be more than just an informal agreement (Piano et al 2006, 466; Europa World Yearbook 2004 2856; Muller 2011, E). Thus, we code it as a rotational agreement and not a SOLS change.

In 2005, elections were held that were won by Navin Ramgoolam of the PTR heading an electoral coalition called the social alliance, consisting of "the Mauritian Labour Party (PTR), the Parti Mauricien Xavier Duval (PMXD), the Mouvement Militant Socialiste Mauricien (MMSM), the Mouvement Republicain, and Les Verts" (Yoon and Bunwaree 2008, 16). From September 2006 the PMSD supported the government, but did not enter the cabinet.

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Coded by Meera Krishnan 9/10/2010
Revised by Eelco van der Maat 01/23/2012
Revised by Bryan Rooney 10/14/2012
Edited by Andrew Wood (Rice) 05/23/2014
Edited by Naoko Matsumura (Rice) 7/2/2014