

RODRIGUES GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
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R.G.E.A proposals:

Rodrigues Regional Assembly Amendments for more power and democracy

The Rodrigues Government Employees Association (R.G.E.A) believes that a number of amendments are necessary in order to consolidate and strengthen the Rodrigues autonomy democracy .The existing R.R.A Act has shown many limitations since its application in 2002 through a constitutional amendment. Even by any stretch of the imagination, one cannot seriously consider the existing R.R.A Act to be an offer of maximum autonomy.

The amendments we propose needs to be seen in its historical perspective.

Areas of responsibility to be exercised by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly

In order to give the Rodrigues Autonomy its true meaning more responsibility should be assigned to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly , we have in mind education, marine services, custom and excise ,social services, prison and reform institution amongst others and Mauritius may credibly retained sovereignty, foreign affairs and defense with some degree of legitimacy. The reality today is that the elected members of the R.R.A are given administrative powers: clerical - secretarial - bookkeeping and commissioned to administer the day to day affairs of Rodrigues on behalf of Mauritius.

Powers of the President

The unelected Mauritian president of the Republic is now empowered to dissolve the elected Rodrigues Regional Assembly at any time. This situation is not in line with the spirit of democracy and autonomy and there is need to bring amendments accordingly.

Political structure

The Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act was supposed to give far reaching devolution to Port-Mathurin from the rigidities of Port-Louis. Amendments should be brought to the R.R.A Act to give Rodrigues the appropriate structure and power to serve the Rodriguan population and to look after its own destiny.

Economic and social issues

To develop ecologically sustainable economic policies, to avoid action which might risk long-term or irreversible damage to the environment and to safeguard Rodrigues' ecological resources on behalf of future generations provisions should be made in the Act for absolute power to the R.R.A to decide on its own, economics and social policies in line with the specificities of the Island.

Qualifications of members

Section 6 (1) (d) which read as follows *"is able to speak and, unless incapacitated by blindness or other physical Cause, to read the English and French languages with a degree of proficiency sufficient to enable him to take an active part in the proceedings of the Assembly"* should be amended to include the creole language as it is a colonial prejudice to consider that people who cannot speak French or English cannot contribute in the administration of the island.

Section 6 (2) should be amended to provide for each citizen, including government employees, to take part in active politics, and that it be declared illegal for any company or employer to prevent its employees from taking part in politics.

Party lists for the Island region

Section 9 of the R.R.A Act should be amended to make provision for the 6 persons who shall be the registered political party's candidates for election as members for the Island region be endorsed by the island region vote as it is not in line with the electoral democracy to have members of the R.R.A and the Executive Council who have not presented themselves before the voters.

R.G.E.A

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