

PRESS RELEASE
OPPOSITION LEADERS CALL FOR CONSULTATIONS TO SET SEYCHELLES
BACK ON DEMOCRATISATION PATH

The leaders of the opposition alliance for a boycott of the National Assembly elections, namely Mr. Ralph Volcere of the New Democratic Party, Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan of the Seychelles National Party and independent candidate Phillipe Boullé, have called for meaningful consultations among all stakeholder parties to modernise electoral laws, conditions and practices.

The three leaders have said that the result of the National Assembly elections held on October 1, 2011, have categorically shown that a majority of the people of Seychelles have backed their call for electoral reform to create a system that ensures equitable, fair and credible conditions for participation.

Analysis of the results show that 25.69% of eligible voters did not vote in the elections and 32% of those who voted cast a spoilt ballot. The Parti Lepep have obtained a total monopoly of seats in the National Assembly with the support of only 44.79% of the eligible voters, making the National Assembly not credible. These figures are unequivocal support for the position taken by the leaders in calling for a boycott of the elections in order to press for electoral reforms.

The results represent a new opportunity to set Seychelles back on the path of democratisation which all parties have declared to be their goal. The leaders call on President Michel to put in place the mechanism for genuine consultations that will consider all the relevant issues to advance this goal.

Ralph Volcere
New Democratic Party

Wavel Ramkalawan
Seychelles National Party

Phillipe Boullé
Independent Presidential Candidate

October 2, 2011