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LDS REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL UNITY AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

LDS is fully committed to National Unity. We are the main political force in Seychelles today because parties striving for democracy, justice and protection of the rights of all Seychellois have come together in unity. This is not only in the formation of LDS but goes back all the way to the return of multi-party democracy in our country.

In its first statement on the Covid emergency, LDS called for an inclusive high level body to forge a unified national response to the challenges. This was taken up again recently with the motion brought before the National Assembly by MNA Bernard Georges calling for a process of national consultation, which was backed by all LDS members and approved by the whole Assembly. These efforts embody the spirit of National Unity but unfortunately were ignored by President Danny Faure.

As a candidate in the forthcoming Presidential election, Mr. Faure has proposed the formation of a Government of National Unity. It is a proposal he is fully entitled to make, but this should be done in a forum within his electoral campaign, not in an address as Head of State on Constitution Day.

LDS will make a unified national response to the present crisis, to ensure health and safety with economic recovery, the urgent priority of its Government. But it will also remain committed to the democratic process, stability, effective government without corruption and misuse of state resources. LDS believes our present system of Government provides the means to achieve national unity in dealing with a crisis while preserving the checks and balances that are essential to democratic Government.

Our Constitution does not provide a basis for the system of Government of National Unity which has been used in other countries. It states that the President must be elected and he is elected together with the Vice-President. He becomes the Head of State, the Head of Government and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. He cannot share any of these functions. He has the power to appoint Ministers as he chooses subject to the approval of the National Assembly but he can dismiss them as he wishes. There is no Constitutional basis for a power sharing agreement. It would be ill-advised for us to adopt a system of Government not grounded in the Constitution.

All parties and candidates need to make clear their policies and programs for Government during the election campaign we are entering in. The LDS candidates, Wavel Ramkalawan and Ahmed Afif, will put the proposals of our party before the electorate. In line with this, we call once again for a public debate among all candidates to explain their respective positions.

The future of Seychelles is up to its people to decide. The first decision is the choice of leadership for our country through free and fair elections. We ask that the people be allowed to make the decision in well-informed consideration of the record of each party or candidate and the policies that they stand for. We put our faith in the people of Seychelles.

Roger Mancienne
Party Leader

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