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LDS MAINTAINS OBJECTION TO POLITICAL PARTY NAME SIMILAR TO ITS OWN

Linyon Demokratik Seselwa (LDS) expresses its continued objection to the registration of a political party under the name Lafors Sosyal Demokratik, with the acronym LSD.

LDS maintains that this name has been chosen with malicious intent to mislead the general public in regards to statements and actions by its officers which would be confused with those of LDS. The confusion will also extend to news reporting and public discourse generally but also in the electoral process if the party takes part in elections under that name.

LDS believes that the Court of Appeal was wrong in its decision to overturn rulings in the Supreme Court prohibiting the use of the name. It failed to take into account the reality of politics and the intent of the persons registering the political party.

LDS has always based its position on a clear provision in the Political Parties (Registration and Regulation) Act which states in Article 7 (b) that the Electoral Commission may refuse to register a political party if its name ***'so nearly resembles the name of a political party whose application precedes the present application as to be likely to deceive the members of the party or the public.'***

This article clearly envisages that registration of the name of a political party may be used with intent to confuse and mislead. In its judgement, the Court of Appeal failed to give any consideration to this article, which applies so obviously to the situation regarding LDS.

The intent of the persons in using the name and its acronym LSD is evident when we consider that they first attempted to register their party under the name 'Linyon Sanzman' when this name had been in common use by the parties which later formed LDS. They changed the name to Lafors Sosyal Demokratik (LSD) after LDS was registered.

The Court of Appeal also made much of the point that the acronyms should not be taken into consideration because the law referred specifically to the full name not the acronym, while the Supreme Court ruling had referred to the acronym. It is the reality that the acronym is an integral part of the name and is what is most frequently used in the political context.

LDS will assess the present implications of the renewed registration and will decide on what course it will take on this issue.

Roger Mancienne
Party Leader.

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