



Forgotten by families

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## CHAPTER 2

# Governance

## Articles 12-13

### KEY POINTS

- With an SGDI score of 29% for governance, Mauritius lags behind most other SADC countries, ranking 13.
- Citizens scored the country better at 59% according to the CSC, which is 30 percentage points more than the SGDI score.
- Women's representation in parliament is low at 19%.
- Mauritius is amongst the worst performers out of the 15 SADC countries, in terms of women representation in local government at 6%. It is anticipated that the adopted legislated quota for local elections following the passing of the new 2011 Local Government Act and Constitution amendment that requires at least 30% quota for candidates of either sex to be on each party list which will increase women's representation.
- Mauritius next local government elections are scheduled for later in 2012.
- It is imperative to train women potential candidates across all political parties in order to utilise the allocated quota on all party lists.



Training women to take up leadership positions is key. Satyam Chummun attending a women in politics workshop - Triolet, March 2012.  
Photo: Loga Virahsawmy

Table 2.1: SGDI and CSC score for governance

	SGDI	CSC
Scores	29%	59%
Ranks	13	7

Governance is the only area where Mauritius received a score below 50% on the SGDI. With a score of 29%, the country ranks as low as 13th. This is because women's representation

in parliament is only 19%. At local government level, the figure is even lower at only 6%.

However, citizens gave a more generous score of 59%, ranking the country seventh out of the 14 SADC countries (excluding Angola) where citizen scorecards were collected. Their higher scores could have been influenced by parliament's adoption of the Constitutional amendment allowing for 30% legislated quota of candidates of either sex to be on each party list for local elections.



The SADC Protocol provides that member states should endeavour to ensure that women including through the use of affirmative action measures hold 50% of decision-making positions in all public and private sectors.

### Gender and political parties

Women are under-represented at the highest level of decision-making structures of political parties. Table 2.2 shows the breakdown of women and men in the top six positions in the two main political parties in Mauritius.

**Table 2.2: Representation of women and men in key party structures**

Party	Head		Treasurer		Secretary general		Fourth top position		Fifth top position		Sixth top position		% F	% M
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Ruling party BDP	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		0%	100%
BMD The main opposition	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		0%	100%

Source: Year 2011 - Secretary General of the Labour Party.

Table 2.2 shows that no woman has a key position neither in the ruling party nor the main opposition party.

According to the Labour Party, functionaries are aware of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development but because Mauritius has not signed, no tangible plans have been put in place to achieve the targets. However, the Labour Party has a quota of at least 30% women at the executive level but not for electoral candidates. According to the Secretary General, the Labour Party designates women candidates in a democratic manner and they participate in political activities in the same way as their male counterparts.

The main opposition party, the MMM, has 30% at executive level since March 2011 and 20% quota for women electoral candidates.

### Selection of women for primaries

The Secretary General of the Labour party ensures that of the three members who are elected at constitutional level, one must be a woman.

### Women's wing

In the Labour Party, a chairperson presides over the women's wing which is composed of all women members of the executive committee, totalling some 200 women; ten delegates from each constituency. A national committee meets regularly with the party's secretary general always present. They discuss national issues, as well as gender issues such as women's rights, gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment as well as women's participation in politics. Occasionally the leader of the party attends these meetings.



Mrs Paulette Lagaieté, councillor of Le Hochet Village is one of the few women in local government in Mauritius - September 2012.  
Photo: Ghirish Singh Abdhoosee

### Measurable impact of women in the party

Labour party: Women's inclusion in decision-making structures such as Parliament provides them with an opportunity to influence policy-making. Since 2006, the national budgetary allocations are becoming more gender sensitive. The leader gives the opportunity to all women representatives at the executive committee level to voice their concerns and to contribute to the government programme. The 30% representative at constituency level in the Labour Party has encouraged more women to participate at local authorities and central government levels. There are more women mayors now than in the past.

Women take strong positions against unwarranted attacks towards women in the party. According to the Labour Party, women condemn derogatory attitudes and language of elected Members of Parliament and have had a wide impact: For example;

- Women take a stand on national issues.
- They mount campaigns in the media and in other forums to enhance their participation in politics.
- Women inform regional and international organisations, such as SADC, UN, Socialiste Internationale on women's status in Mauritius.

- They have supported the setting up of 15 women centres across the country whereby women benefit from training programmes and awareness on various issues related to women.
- They have set up two women empowerment development centres geared towards women entrepreneurship development.

According to the Labour Party, the appointment of Her Excellency Mrs Ohsan Bellepeau as Vice President of the Republic of Mauritius demonstrates commitment towards women's empowerment. The Prime Minister Dr N. Ramgoolam appointed three women ministers.

**Table 2.3: Gender in political party manifestos**

PARTY	QUOTA AND NATURE/NO.	WOMEN SPECIFIC PROJECTS	GENDER MAINSTREAMED IN MANIFESTOS
<b>The Alliance of the Future</b>	No quota as women candidates but a quota of 30% women in decision making at party level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support in each Ministry to put in place a Sectoral Gender Policy</li> <li>• Research Centre on Gender Issues</li> <li>• Clusters for women entrepreneur in different fields</li> <li>• Family Theme Park</li> <li>• Regional Creativity Centre</li> <li>• Consolidated Children Bill</li> <li>• Kindergarten for children as from three months old to allow mothers to work</li> <li>• Home based Care</li> <li>• Creation of a Ministry of Social Integration</li> <li>• Empowerment of poor people</li> <li>• Food Security</li> <li>• The elderly</li> <li>• Sensitization campaigns to prevent GBV</li> <li>• Infrastructure so that women can be economically independent</li> <li>• Institute for the health and well being of women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratisation of the economy</li> <li>• A nation of entrepreneurs</li> <li>• Empowerment of citizens to fight against poverty</li> <li>• Food Security</li> <li>• Decent work country programme</li> <li>• Security of citizens</li> <li>• Victims Rights Act</li> <li>• Independent Police Complaints Bureau</li> <li>• Break the chains of poverty</li> <li>• Training of people with disabilities</li> <li>• Home based care</li> <li>• Access of all children to school</li> <li>• Schools must be closer to students</li> <li>• Regional poles for access to tertiary education</li> </ul>
<b>The Alliance of the Heart</b>	At least 20% women must be fielded as candidates 30% women occupy decision making positions at party level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eradicate discrimination against women</li> <li>• Legislation to have one seat for a woman in each constituency for the National Assembly and one third of seats for localities</li> <li>• Electoral reform including PR</li> <li>• An independent commission to look at all laws and implementation of laws that discriminate women</li> <li>• An aggressive action to combat domestic violence</li> <li>• Half way home for women</li> <li>• Special unit at the police to listen to women</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Women's health</li> <li>• Equal salary for equal pay</li> <li>• Feminine Entrepreneurship</li> <li>• High Level Monitoring Committee for Gender Policy</li> <li>• Promoting women's health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of consumers</li> <li>• Food security</li> <li>• Small Scale Industries</li> <li>• Cooperatives and handicrafts</li> <li>• Fight against poverty</li> <li>• Social protection</li> <li>• Education and the protection of children</li> <li>• Public health</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Sports for all</li> <li>• Democratisation of culture (Both women and men have the same access to cultural activities)</li> </ul>

Source: Year May 2010 - Manifestos of the Alliance of the Future and the Alliance of the Heart - May 2010.

## Gender in electoral processes

Mauritius uses the First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system both at local and national level. Only Rodrigues use a mixed system in their regional assembly elections whereby they elect 12 members FPTP and six others by proportional representation (PR).

The Sachs report (2001) and the report of the Select Committee of the National Assembly presided by a Mauritian lawyer both recommended to change the FPTP system because of the distortions between the percentage of votes obtained by a political party and the number of seats it receives in parliament. Gender featured prominently in these two reports, particularly in the Sachs report, which said Mauritius has a democratic deficit as far as women in politics is concerned.

### Mauritius: New Act provides for a legislated quota



Honourable Herve Aime who is Minister of Local Government of Mauritius, made history by leading the process of providing a gender neutral legislated quota for local government through the 2011 Local Government Act which led to a Constitutional amendment. *Photo: Marie Jose Coopan*

In 2011, following intense lobbying by the Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance in Mauritius such as Gender Links, Media Watch Organisation (MWO) and Women in Networking (WIN) Mauritius amended its Local Government Law ahead of elections scheduled for 2012 towards the end of the year.

The Act requires that political parties field a minimum of one-third of candidates of either sex for the general municipal and village council elections. Articles 12 - 13 of the Southern African Development (SADC) Community Gender Protocol aim to achieve equal representation and participation by women and men in all areas of decision-making including the use of affirmative action measures as provided for in Article Five.

The legislation not only advances Articles 12-13 of the SADC Protocol - which calls on member states to ensure 50% women's representation in decision-making positions by 2015 - it also ensures other benefits for the region.

It is a creative model that may help clear the way for Mauritius to sign the SADC Protocol. Until now Mauritian lawmakers had rejected the regional document because the country's constitution does not allow for affirmative action in the form of legislated quotas.

Mauritius had reservations about signing the Protocol because its Constitution did not allow for affirmative action or positive discrimination. The Constitution had to be amended for the country to adopt the local quota. This opens the door to the signing of the Protocol. The changes in Mauritius are being used to step up pressure in Botswana, the other country that has not yet signed the Protocol. The Botswana Alliance Network, which is led by the Botswana Council of NGOs (BOCONGO) gender sector has drawn up a strategy for getting the SADC Gender Protocol signed.

Mauritius has positioned itself as a model of democracy in the SADC region. But a true democracy cannot exist when 51.8% of its population, its women, are not adequately represented in political decision-making processes, both at national and local levels. Women currently account for only 6.4% of representatives at the local government level and 18.8% at parliamentary level; a blemish for a country that is otherwise showing progress against other gender indicators.

In a meeting with Virahsawmy in January, the Prime Minister intimated that Mauritius - one of two countries that have not signed the Protocol - is not far off from doing so.

Soon after the bill was approved, the prime minister announced the creation of further major electoral reforms before the general elections in 2015. He noted this would radically change the electoral system. This is proof that the long struggle to break barriers to women's participation in politics is starting to yield results.

With enabling legislation now in place, the challenge is to get at least 30% women candidates. This will involve encouraging women to join politics and helping them overcome those barriers that prevent them from taking part in the political sphere.

The training aims to provide women political aspirants with the tools and skills to engage with the media. Training helps women prepare for radio and television interviews and also provides them with campaigning

skills such as developing political manifestoes. Some women have financial and family constraints so it has been important to schedule training in the evening.

In March 2012, during his keynote address at the GL Local Government Gender Justice Summit, Local Government Minister Herve Aime Aime said: "The Republic of Mauritius has a lot to be proud of as a nation. It consistently does well in international surveys in various fields, usually coming out top in Africa. It is one of the world's oldest democracies, having an elected Parliament for over 100 years and a local government of one form or another for over 250 years. Yet a domain in which Mauritius has always fared poorly is the representation of women in politics, notwithstanding that education and employment opportunities are equitably available to both sexes."

Though no similar provision yet exists at the national level, the forthcoming local government elections will likely see a three-fold increase in women candidates in urban areas, and more than a five-fold increase in rural areas. The total number of women candidates will increase from less than 500 nationally to more than 2000.

However, the new legislation only guarantees candidate numbers - which women win seats will be up to the voters. Mauritius also needs to sign the SADC Gender Protocol. This will go a long way toward demonstrating commitment to gender equality by 2015.



Loga Virahsawmy, Director of the Mauritius and Francophone Office, shows Minister of Local Government Louis Herve Aime the Mauritian Mauritius Gender, Media and Elections report. *Photo: Gender Links*

### **Males make up the staff component of the electoral commission office**

The directorate/policy-making and management level of the Electoral Commissioner's Office are all males. The positions include:

- The Electoral Commissioner
- The Chief Electoral Officer
- The Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
- Two Principal Electoral Officers
- Two Senior Electoral Officers

However the tables turn at middle-management level where there are nine electoral officers, and of these seven (78%) are women. There is one officer who has been officially designated to deal with gender issues.

### **Conduct of polls**

The law and regulations relating to the organisation and conduct of elections do not allow for gender discrimination. For the first time in 2010, the electoral commissioner gave sex-disaggregated figures for voters. Although only 21.6% of women were fielded as candidates, there were 51% women voters compared to 49% male voters.

### **There are more women voters compared to men voters**

The Principal Electoral Officer of the Electoral Commissioner's Office explained that as the law did not require it in the past, their office did not collect gender-disaggregated information about the electorate. However, following a house-to-house enquiry held in January and February 2011 they have effected some changes. After compilation of the 2011 final registers of electors between July and August, this information will be available in their database.

### **Women's league is used to woo women voters**

All political parties, led by the women's leagues, target women voters, including through door-to-door meetings and press conferences. In the 2010 general elections show that there were more women voters at 51% than male voters at 49%.

### **No formal voters' education**

There is no formal voters' education in Mauritius. But Gender Links through its training on "Leadership Skills for Women in Politics" advise women on how to effectively conduct their campaigns and how to educate their voters on gender issues.

## Candidates fielded

**Table 2.4: Candidates fielded at national level**

PARTY	LAST TWO ELECTIONS (2005)				MOST RECENT ELECTIONS (2010)			
	M	F	Total	%W	M	F	Total	%W
Ruling	50	10	60	17%	47	13	60	22%
Main opposition	54	6	60	10%	52	8	60	13%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>18%</b>

Source: Year Electoral Commissioner's Office Website.

Table 2.4 shows that out of 120 candidates for both the ruling and the main opposition parties for the general elections of 2010, only 21 (18%) were women. This is a marginal increase of only five (five percentage points)

more women candidates and way below the 50% target in the AU Protocol on Women's Rights and SADC Declaration on Gender and Development that Mauritius is party to.

**Table 2.5: Candidates fielded at local level**

PARTY	LAST TWO ELECTIONS (2005)				MOST RECENT ELECTIONS (2010)			
	M	F	Total	%W	M	F	Total	%W
Ruling	223	29	252	11.5	110	16	126	12.7
Main opposition	207	20	227	8.8	106	20	126	15.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>14.3</b>

Source: Government Gazette, September and October 1996, September 2001 and September 2005.

Table 2.5 shows that the number of female candidates fielded at local level was even lower although women should have more chances at local level. Women tend to be more in touch with their communities. Out of a total of 252 candidates, only 36 (14.3%) were women candidates from both the ruling and the main opposition parties. Again this is a far cry from the 50% target.

Mauritius appointed its first woman Vice President in November 2010 after nearly four decades of independent and two decades of being a Republic.

Talking to the media soon after her nomination, the first woman Vice President Monique Oh San Bellepeau said, "The Prime Minister believes in the capacity of women and wants women to go forward." While Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam said, "I believe in gender equality and I am showing it."

### Presidential elections

There are no presidential elections in Mauritius. The National Assembly elects both the President and the Vice President of the Republic for a five-year term.

### Mauritius' appointment of first woman Vice President a victory for all women



Monique Oh San Bellepeau, Mauritius' first female Vice President. Photo: Empoweredwomen.blogspot.com

Monique Oh San Bellepeau as the first woman in the history of Mauritius to be nominated as Vice-president of the Republic.

After nearly four decades of independence and two decades of being a republic, Mauritius is beginning to place women in five key positions.

Some argue that the post of Vice President is a rubber stamp; others say that there is no need for a vice-president in a small country like Mauritius. A few squabbles on the salary and fringe benefits of the post have arisen.

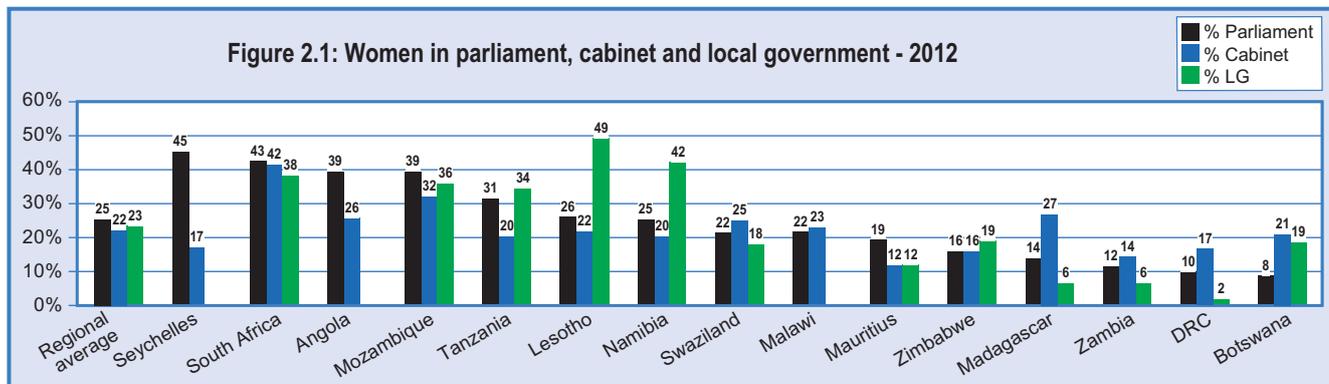
But Oh San Bellepeau's nomination is not only a strong symbol that gender equality is high on the agenda of the present government but is also a victory for gender activists, Mauritian

women and for women in the SADC region. In the absence of the President travels, she stands in his place to lead the country.

Oh San Bellepeau has a long history of social activism and a good grasp of the media, having worked at the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation during the 1960s. She was also a Junior Minister at the Ministry of Rural and Urban Development from 1995 to 2000. In 2009 she achieved the distinction of Grand Officer of the

Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (G.O.S.K) for services in social and political fields.

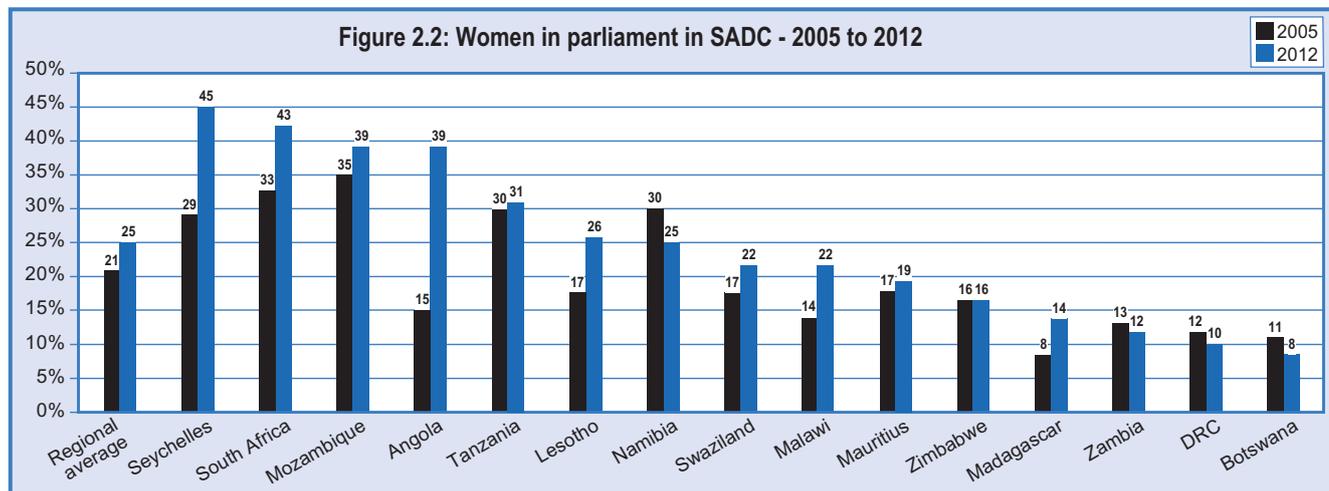
The nomination of Oh San Bellepeau is in line with Section 16 of the Constitution of Mauritius, which guarantees gender equality, as well as Articles 12-13 of the SADC Protocol on Gender Development, which stipulates that, "State Parties shall endeavour that, by 2015, at least 50% of decision-making positions in the public and private sectors are held by women".



Source: 2012 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer, Gender Links.

Figure 2.1 shows that Mauritius continues to perform poorly in political decision-making compared to other sectors. The country ranks 10th out of the 15 SADC countries with women's representation in parliament

at 19%. Women fare even worse at local government, with women's representation only 6%, among the worst performers along with Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Madagascar and DRC.



Source: Gender Links 2012, SADC Gender Protocol Country Reports 2012, IPU accessed 30 June 2012.

Figure 2.2 shows that women's representation in Mauritius has increased by 2% in the last six years, but is still low at 19%.

Although at least ten countries in the region are yet to reach a 30% representation, there has been a steady

overall increase in women's representation in parliaments in the region from 21% to 25% in 2012. At 45% Seychelles ranks highest in the region and fourth in the world with regard to women's representation in parliament.

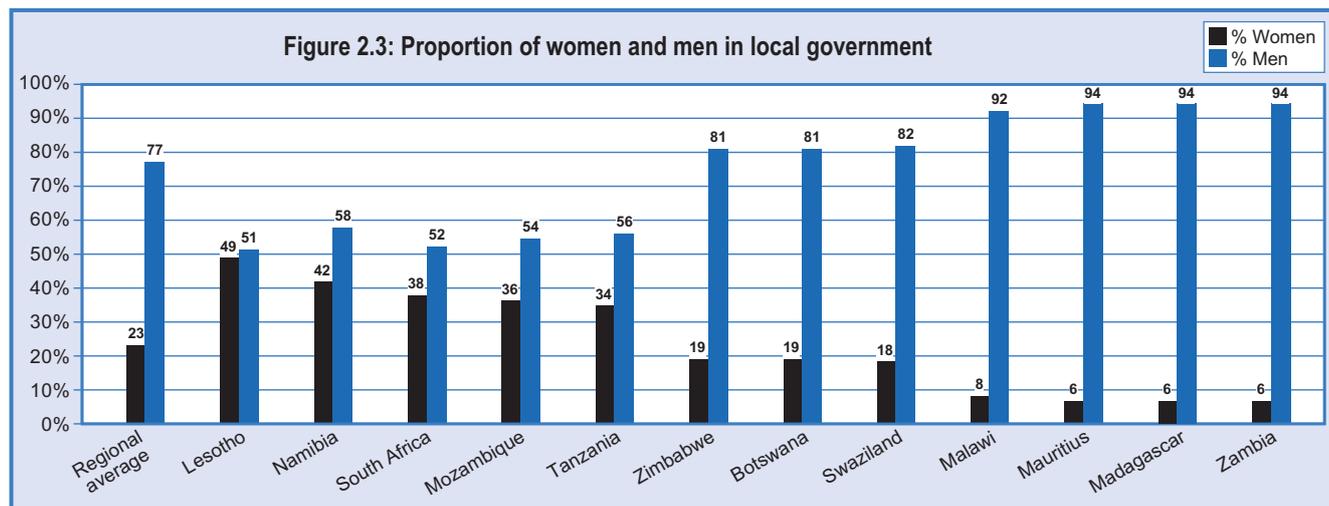
**Table 2.6: Global comparison of women in parliament**

Region	2010 (%)			2011 (%)			2012 (%)		
	Lower house	Upper house	Both houses	Lower house	Upper house	Both houses	Lower house	Upper house	Both houses
Nordic countries	42		40.8	42.1	-	40.8	42.0	-	42
<b>SADC</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>24</b>
Americas	22.7	23.7	22.9	22.3	23.3	22.5	22.8	23.2	23
Europe excluding Nordic countries	20.1	19.7	20.0	20.3	19.9	20.2	21.7	21.1	22
Sub-Saharan Africa (including SADC)	18.3	20.4	18.6	19.5	19.3	19.4	19.8	19.0	20
Asia	18.6	16.4	18.4	18.2	15.2	17.9	18.5	14.0	18
Arab States	9.2	7.6	8.8	11.4	7.3	10.7	14.7	6.4	13
Pacific	13.2	32.6	15.3	12.4	32.6	14.7	14.5	34.8	17
<b>Global average</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>20.0</b>

Source: www.ipu.org, 30 June 2012.

Table 2.6 shows that SADC compares favourably to other regions in the world coming second at 24,6% after the Nordic countries.

**Figure 2.3: Proportion of women and men in local government**



Source: 2012 SADC Gender Protocol barometer.

**Women representation in local government in Mauritius is very low at 6%.** Figure 2.3 shows that Mauritius is along with Malawi, Zambia and Madagascar who all score below 10%.

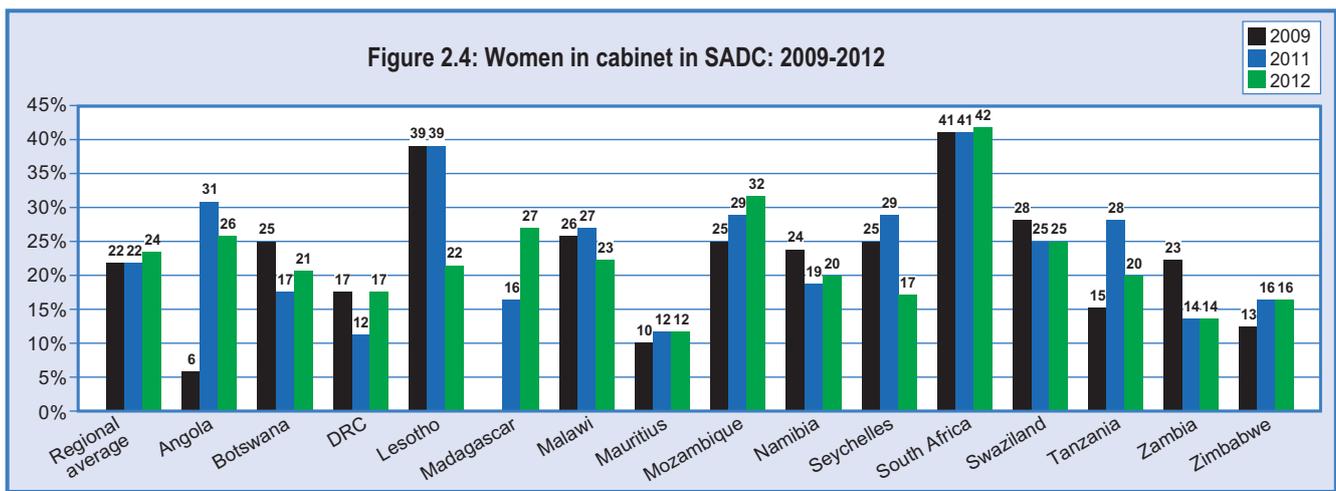
### Cabinet

Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam increased his cabinet from 21 to 25. Nearly half of the Ministers are performing ministerial duties for the first time. Out of the 25 ministers, three were women, compared to two women before the general elections. However, the two political parties formed a coalition during the 2010 General Elections separated in 2011 with the result that the cabinet lost the Minister of Health, a woman.

That was the first time in history that there had been a woman as Minister of Health. The remaining women in cabinet are heading Ministries traditionally given to women, namely Social Security and Gender Equality.

Government renamed the Ministry of Women's Rights to Ministry of Gender Equality and there is a new portfolio of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment; with eradication of poverty together with women's empowerment now on the agenda of the government.

Prior to the May 2010 general elections only one (13%) woman out of a total of eight served as a Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS). This number has increased to three (30%) out of a total of 10 after the general elections.



Source: 2012 SADC Gender Protocol Barometer.

Cabinet is the one sphere of decision-making in which it is theoretically relatively easy to “ring up the changes” since leaders have the leeway to appoint the ministers. But Figure 2.4 shows that in Mauritius the proportion

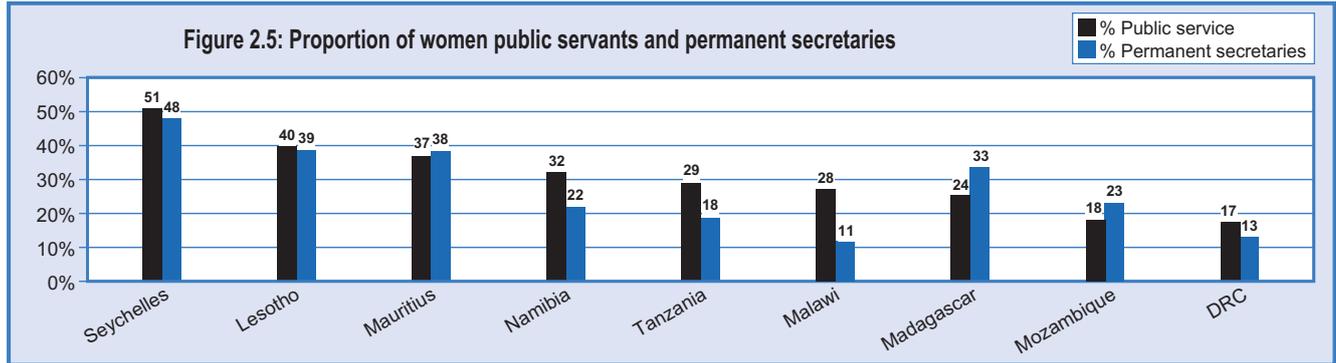
of women in cabinet has risen by a mere 2% from 10% in 2009, ranking the country as low as seventh in the region. The regional average representation of women in cabinet has only jumped two percentage points from 22% in 2009 to 24% in 2012.

**The Public Service**

Grade	No of women	No of men	Total	% women	% men
Permanent secretaries/Chief Executive	8	13	21	38%	62%
Senior managers/Principal Assistant Secretaries	22	42	64	34%	66%
Directors/Managers	119	201	320	37%	63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>63%</b>

Source: Year 2011, Minister of Civil Service Affairs.

Table 2.7 highlights that the proportion of women in senior management positions at 37% in the public service in Mauritius is relatively high when compared with women in politics at 18.8%.



Source: SADC Gender Barometer 2012.

Figure 2.5 shows wide regional variations with regard to women's representation in the public service. Mauritius, ranks third with women representation at 37% of public servants and 38% of the permanent secretaries.

In line with the government's programme 2010-2015, the Gender Unit extends technical support and advice to 19 Ministries to formulate gender sectorial policies and programmes.

## Participation



*The Protocol provides that State Parties shall ensure the equal participation of women and men in decision-making by putting in place policies, strategies and programmes.*

**Table 2.8: Enhancing participation by women in public life**

Measure of participation	Country rating on a scale of 1-10 (1 very low and 10 very high)	Explanation
Leadership, gender sensitivity training or mentorship.	8	NGOs carry out training on leadership skills and mentorship but more needs to be done.
Support structures for women in decision-making.	8	NGOs have given training to women's leagues of the Labour Party and the Mouvement Socialiste Mauricien (MSM).
Establishment and strengthening of structures to enhance gender mainstreaming.	5	Although some Ministries have gender desks, they do not fully implement their mandates and some are not aware of the existence of gender desks.
Changing discriminatory attitudes and norms of structures and procedures.	5	Laws exist but there is a lack of implementation. The Equal Opportunity Act still needs to be promulgated. The Sexual Offences Bill has been shelved.
Inclusion of men in gender related activities including community mobilisation	5	Gender Links through its Centres of Excellence; The Ministry of Gender Equality through its Men as Partners and Women in Networking through its Men against Violence are mobilising the community to include men in gender-related activities.

Source: Year 2011 - Participants at the reference group meeting.

In an interview with Gender Links, Hon. Kalyanee Juggoo, Private Parliamentary Secretary (PPS) highlighted that many gender-related laws exist but are not being implemented properly. "All those concerned including ministries and NGOs must work together to educate the nation and change mind sets. Laws must be implemented and must be enforced."

According to PPS Kalyanee Juggoo, the Prime Minister is committed to increasing the number of women in decision-making positions and has recently talked about a quota system. "We must find ways and means of not only putting more women in decision-making but we must educate the voters so that women are elected. Male parliamentarians must also be trained as very often they point their fingers at people who are in Parliament through the best loser system saying that these people have not been elected. If women are in Parliament through a quota system we must make sure that fingers are not pointed at them."

### Costing

#### *Campaign funding*

According to the Labour Party finances are not a barrier for women's participation in politics. The party argues that candidature does not depend on the economic status of the woman but rather on their efficiency, capabilities and commitment to the party among various considerations. The party says it stands by all its women candidates for all strategic support including finances and logistics for campaigning .

**“Political campaigns cost almost Rs5million (about US\$185 000) for each candidate to run for a general election.,,”**

Political campaigns cost almost Rs5million (about US\$185 000) for each candidate to run for a general election. It costs much less for municipal and village elections, from R100,000 (about US\$3,700) to Rs15,000 (about US\$500) respectively.

Political parties also receive funding from private companies for general elections but candidates must source their own funding for municipal and village elections.

#### *Access to funding*

For general elections, most of the funding flows directly to the political head and leaders. The latter then distributes it accordingly to candidates depending on the needs of the constituencies. Candidates for a larger region receive more support than those from smaller ones. Sometimes candidates have their own sponsor.

According to information gathered from the last general elections the MMM women candidates each obtained Rs200,000 (about US\$7,400) from the party for electoral expenses. Generally, the elected members contribute a percentage of their income to the party, which in turn finances the activities of the women's wing among other commitments.

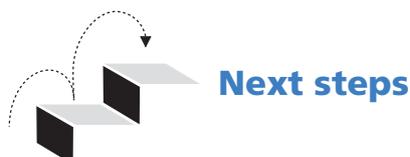
#### *Costing*

The Public Service uses a performance management system. The budget for parliamentary affairs is Rs333,169,000 (about US\$12,339,592); this does not

include the salaries of 25 ministers, met by each respective ministry.

#### *Financing local government*

There is no specific amount mentioned. However there are some municipalities or district council that have organised seminars on gender issues, domestic violence or women rights out of their specific Welfare Budget. But in the national budget, there is no specific amount allocated, not even in the municipal budget. Sometimes, it comes from the mayor's fund or welfare fund as activities.



- Mauritius needs to now push for 50/50 political representation at all levels.
- Due to women's poor representation in all levels of government; advocacy should centre on at least extending the quota system to parliamentary level.
- Pressure should be stepped up for a change in the electoral system. Proportional Representation (PR), and especially the closed-list PR system applied in South Africa, Mozambique, Angola and Namibia, is more favourable for ensuring women's entry into politics.