VOTER EDUCATION FOR INFORMED
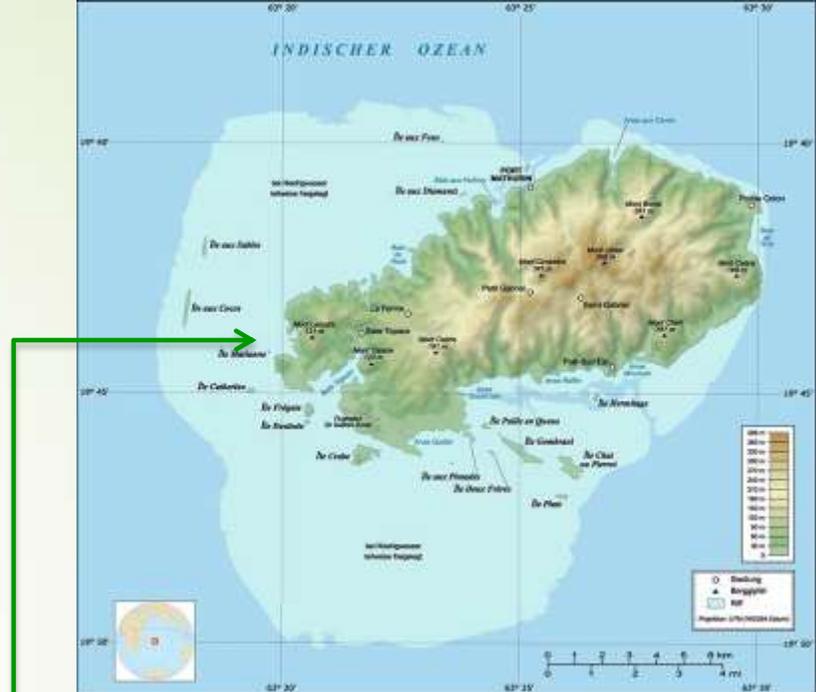
AND

ETHICAL VOTING

THE MAURITIAN EXPERIENCE

M.I. Abdool Rahman

Electoral Commissioner

Mauritius & Rodrigues are located on the South West of India

Mauritius is divided into 20 constituencies - The island of Rodrigues is the 21st Constituency

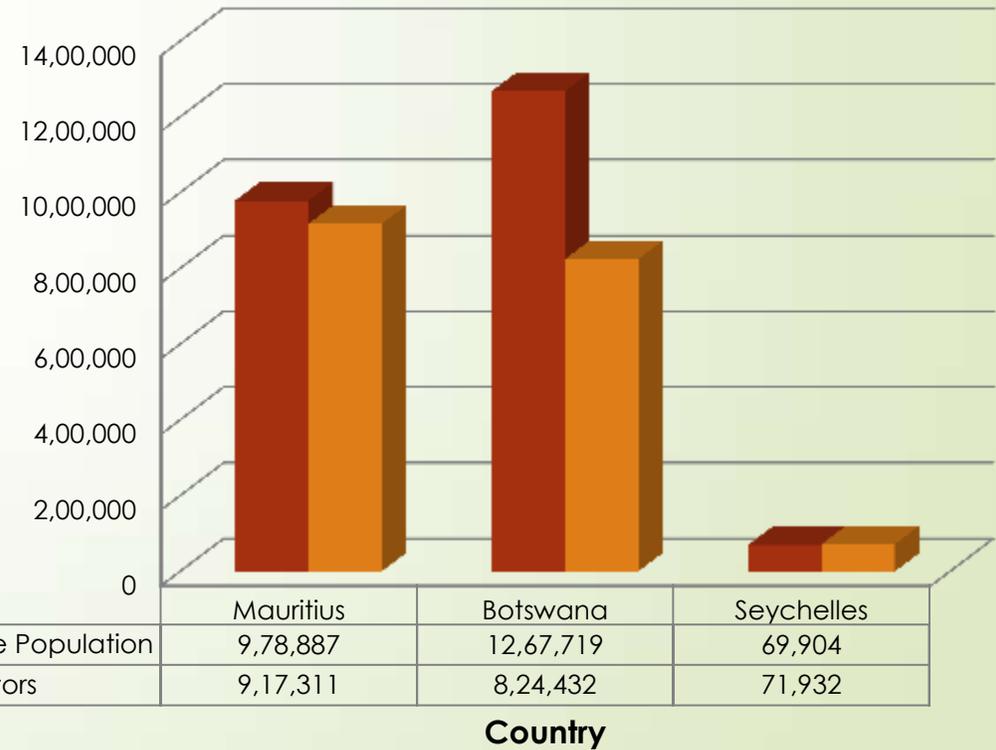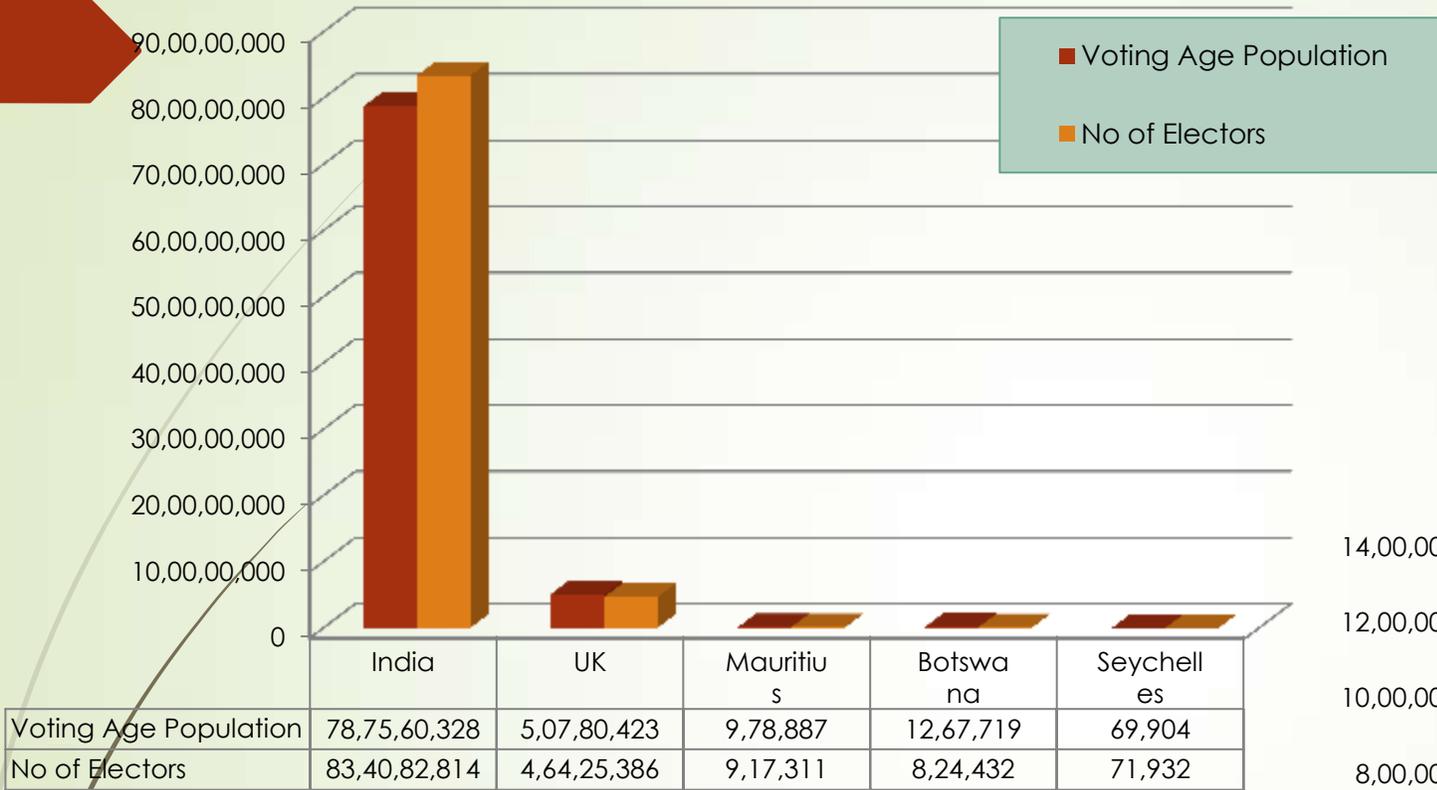| **Mauritius**		**Rodrigues**
Surface area - 2,040 km^2	-	108 km^2
Population – 1,265 m	-	41,700
Hindu, Muslim, Chinese & Creole		
No of Registered electors - 888,514	-	28,797

Mauritius. Indian Ocean

The official languages are English and French but

Bhojpuri is spoken mainly in the rural areas

Comparative Figures – Population and Electors

	India	UK	Mauritius	Botswana	Seychelles
Voting Age Population	78,75,60,328	5,07,80,423	9,78,887	12,67,719	69,904
No of Electors	83,40,82,814	4,64,25,386	9,17,311	8,24,432	71,932

	Mauritius	Botswana	Seychelles
Voting Age Population	9,78,887	12,67,719	69,904
No of Electors	9,17,311	8,24,432	71,932

Country

Information and communication devices in Mauritius

➢ Radio and Television

➢ Mobile phones

➢ Computer based devices

➢ The internet

ICT in Mauritius

❖ 1976 – free education in Mauritius

❖ literacy in Mauritius   –   90 %

❖ ICT literacy   –   83%

❖ Access to telephone and radio – 92 %

Election year	Main Parties/Alliances	Winning party/Alliance	Change in Govt.
1967	Independence Party (39) PMSD (21)	Independence Party (39)	
1976	MMM (30) Independence Party (25) PMSD (7)	Independence party (25) & PMSD (7)	No
1982	1. Alliance MMM-PSM (60) 2. Parti de L'Alliance National (PAN) (0)	Alliance MMM-PSM (60)	YES
1983	MMM (19) MSM/PTR (37) PMSD (4)	MSM/PTR (37)	YES
1987	L'Union MMM-MTD-FTS (21) Alliance MSM-Mauritius Labour Party (35) PMSD (4)	Alliance MSM-Mauritius Labour Party (35)	NO
1991	Alliance MSM-MMM (57) Alliance PTR/PMSD (3)	Alliance MSM-MMM (57)	YES
1995	Alliance PTR-MMM (60) Alliance MSM-RMM (0)	Alliance PTR-MMM (60)	YES
2000	Alliance MSM-MMM (54) Alliance PTR-PMXD (6)	Alliance MSM-MMM (54)	YES
2005	Alliance MSM/MMM (22) Alliance Sociale (38)	Alliance Sociale (38)	YES
2010	Alliance MMM-UN-MMSD (18) Alliance PTR-PMSD-MSM (41)	Alliance PTR-PMSD-MSM (41)	NO
2014	L'Alliance Lepep (47) Alliance PTR/MMM (41)	L'Alliance Lepep (47)	YES

➢ As soon as the writs of election are issued by the President of the Republic our EMB engages in a series of interaction with political parties and candidates at each and every step of the election process

ELECTION CALENDAR IN A NUTSHELL

➢ Writs of election issued by the President of the Republic for the 21 constituencies

  Largest constituency – 62,260 registered electors

  Smallest constituency – 21,763 registered electors

➢ Notice of election at Nomination Centres

➢ Application for registration of Political Parties and Party alliances

  [71 registered political parties and 3 party alliances]

➢ Approval of symbols of identification allocated to political parties and candidates

➢ Printing of ballot papers at the Government Printing Office

➢ Election Day

➢ Counting

Mauritius is divided into 20 Constituencies, Rodrigues being the 21st Constituency

National Assembly Elections –   vote for 3 candidates per constituency

Municipal Council Elections –   vote for 4 candidates per Ward

Village Council Elections   -   Vote for 9 candidates per village

Rodrigues Regional Assembly Election - vote for 2 candidates per Local Region
(6 Local Regions + PR System)

One (1) Municipal City Council   (8 wards)

Four (4) Municipal Town Councils   (22 wards)

Seven (7) District Councils (130 Village Councils)

- Canvass 2014 - Registration of electors for a fortnight in January

- How to vote

❖ Proof of identity –

- ✓ Production of proof during NAE 2014
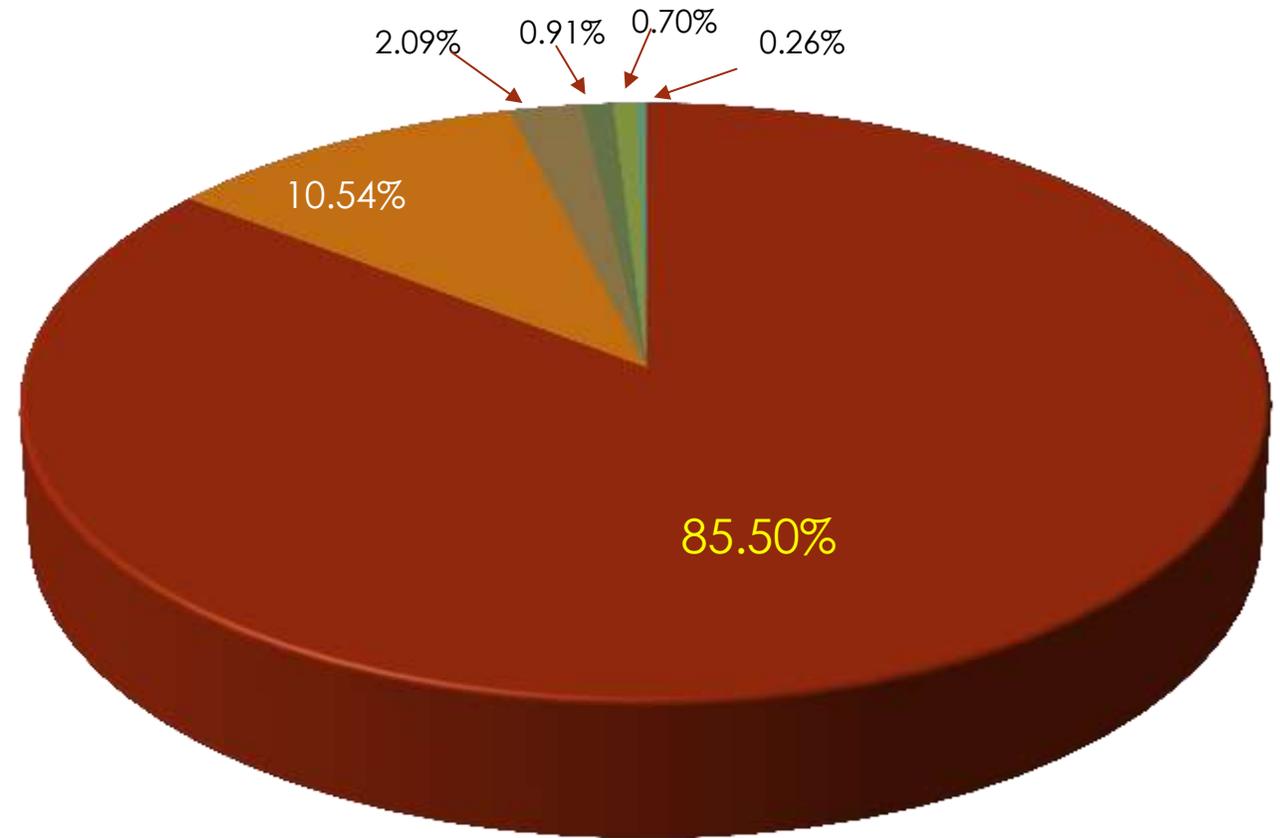
- ✓ New ID Card   - 85.5 %

- ✓ Old ID Card   - 10.54 %

- ✓ Bus Pass   - 2.09%

- ✓ Driving Licence   - 0.91 %

- ✓ Passport   - 0.7 %

- ✓ No proof   - 0.26 %

2.09% 0.91% 0.70% 0.26%

10.54%

85.50%

❖ SNVR
❖ Hours of Poll

Percentage of voters during last NAE

Year – National Assembly Elections	% of voters	% of invalid votes
2000	81.1	1.08
2005	80.4	0.89
2010	78.2	0.84
2014	74.1	1.13

❖ There is no one interaction that is a magic wand for voter turnout, as there are many factors that can influence voter turnouts

❖ Technology will not change human behaviour but it is believed that it is a powerful tool to facilitate human behaviour in any process.