

The Macrotheme Review

A multidisciplinary journal of global macro trends

How political will can bring economic success: The case of Mauritius

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Abstract

For any country to prosper, be it socially, environmentally, politically or economically, there must be the will of the government to make reforms in the best interest of the country. The Mauritian experience is an illustration of how political will can help a country to boost. Mauritius being an island faces many capacity constraints, for instance it is far away from the major international markets, is prone to natural calamities and does not have much inland resources. However, despite all these drawbacks, the island is today recognized by various international organizations as a high performing country and is ranked first in the African region in several economic reports and surveys. The reason behind this Mauritian success story is the political will of the various political parties governing the country to make it prosper. The Mauritian experience can be used as an example by other small islands developing states facing the same capacity constraints but who wishes to prosper.

Keywords: political will, economic success, Mauritius

1. Introduction

Article 1.1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development 1986 defines the right to development as “... *an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized*”. The term development has unfortunately not been defined in the above mentioned declaration. In order to get the definition of the term development one has to turn to the academics or practitioners working in the field of development studies.

Sumner and Tribe (2008) identified three components that can be used to define the term development. The first component relates to the fact that development includes the element of change. Change can be political, social, cultural or economic changes that can take place in a country. The second element relates to fact that development can be used as an indicator to see whether a set of goals have been achieved in the short or medium term. Finally, development is viewed as a ‘social construct’ that only exist through discourses and does not have any objective meaning.

Development, as a concept involving structural changes in a society, can be described as the backbone of the socio-economic and political improvement of many countries. As mentioned by

Sumner and Tribe, development involves an element of change. In order for this change to happen, there must be the willingness of a person or a group of persons to metamorphose a particular situation.

For instance, countries after having received their independence, faced a moment in their history where they lacked resources, be it financial or agricultural resources, to sustain. One such example is the case of Mauritius where, after its independence the country faced major socio-economic difficulties. With government intervention on a local as well as international level, changes were brought to improve the socio-economic situation of the island.

Mauritius is a small island state found in the Indian Ocean. Prior to its independence in 1968, Nobel Prize Winner in economics, Professor J.E. Meade, made a dark prediction for the economic future of the country.

In his report, Professor Meade underlined the various socio-economic hurdles that the country would face (Meade, 1961). First, he highlighted the fact that the economy of the country depended on only one resource, which was sugar cane. This dependence on sugar was seen as a drawback since the island was prone to natural threats like cyclones which would damage the sugar cane fields. Secondly, price instability of sugar on the international market would not benefit the island on the long run. He also pointed out that the ethnic diversity of the island would lead to the country's downfall. Professor Meade saw Mauritius' ethnic diversity as a threat to its overall economic development as each ethnic group would work for their own selfish interest and not for the prosperity of the country.

However, when Mauritius got its independence in 1968, all the predictions made by Professor Meade were proven to be wrong. The various governments that were at the head of the country were able to work for its economic success and development. Today, Mauritius is ranked 28 among 189 countries on the World Bank list on Ease of Doing Business countries and first in the African continent concerning its level of governance according to the Mo Ibrahim Index.

The determining factor which led to the economic development success of Mauritius is linked to the fact that, no matter what political party was at the head of the country, they all had the will to promote the economic development of Mauritius.

The aim of this paper will be to analyse the concept of political will and how it contributes to the economic development of a country. Political will, as explained by Brinkerhoff (2000), refers to the intention and commitment of any society's actors to take the necessary measures in order to reach a set of objectives. The paper will illustrate how the various political parties which were at the head of the island had the intention and commitment to promote the economic growth of the country.

This paper will analyse the concept of political will and its various characteristics and implications. Moreover, an overview of the evolution of the Mauritian economy will be undertaken to see how the country moved from a monoculture economy-based system to becoming one of the most diversified economy in the Indian Ocean region. Political will will be analysed as the key element to the economic success of Mauritius. Emphasis will be placed on

the legal as well as governance frameworks developed to regulate the various sectors of the country's economy.

2. The concept of political will

In psychology, will, also known as volition, refers to the process by which individuals take the decision to act in a particular situation, chooses what action is to be performed and when this action should be performed (Haggard 2008). On an individual based level, decision making process involves several steps. First the decision maker will realise that a decision has to be taken because of the situation he or she is in. Secondly, the person will determine the objectives or goals to be achieved in order to solve the problem and will devise alternatives or solutions accordingly. Finally the person will evaluate these solutions in order to choose the one which is more appropriate to solve the problem (Halpern, 1997).

Moreover, it should be noted that there are several factors that can influence the decision making process. These factors are the personal and/or the environmental variables affecting the decision maker (Sanz de Acedo Lizárraga *et al*, 2007). According to Sanz de Acedo Lizárraga *et al*, people sometimes take different decisions if they feel that they are being observed or something is expected from them. Decisions are also taken based on the information that individual have about a particular situation. Finally, personal motivations also push people to take the decision to act or not, in a particular circumstance.

This study, of the decision making process based on an individual based level, can be applied to the broader context of governmental decision making. Just like individuals will make decisions based on some personal or environmental factors affecting them, for example the motivation or will that they have to change a particular situation, the expectations that people have on them or the information that they have about a particular situation, governments also face the same environmental factors which push them to take decisions.

When a government is facing some challenges, be it economic, social, political or environmental, it has to take some form of action in order to face and solve the problem. The simple fact that the government will take the decision to act, chooses what action is to be performed and when this action should be performed in response to the challenge, it is according to the present author's opinion, a clear illustration of political will.

It has to be noted that there is no universal definition of the concept of political will. However, various theorists and practitioners have written much on this concept in order to provide for some of the key elements that make up political will. In this paper, two features of political will will be examined, namely the intention and commitment of political actors.

In his article entitled *Assessing political will for anti-corruption efforts: an analytic framewrok*, Derick Brinkerhoff (2000) defines political will in relation to anti-corruption. Brinkerhoff defines political will as "...the intent of societal actors to attack the manifestations and causes of corruption in an effort to reduce or eliminate them. It is defined as the commitment of actors to undertake actions to achieve a set of objectives - in this case, anti-corruption policies and programmes - and to sustain the costs of those actions overtime."

What is important to underline in the definition of political will provided by Brinkerhoff is the presence of two fundamental elements for the existence of this will. These elements are first, the intention of the actors to take some form of action to tackle a particular problem and secondly, their commitment undertaken to solve the problem.

In 2008, the United Nations Development Program made a report where it defined political will as “[T]he demonstrated and credible intent of political actors to attack perceived causes or effects of corruption at a systemic level” (UNDP 2008, 230). Here also, emphasis is laid on the intention of the societal actors or political leaders to take decision in order to bring changes.

Furthermore, in studying political will, Malena (2009) identified “three mutually reinforcing elements” which make up political will. These elements are: political want, political can and political must (Malena 2009, 19).

Political want is associated with the willingness of politicians to make changes happen in a given country. Malena takes the example of participatory governance where she states that political want in such a situation involves the ‘genuine’ support and understanding of government in involving various stakeholders to participate in decision making and governance processes of a country.

Political want therefore means a government’s desire or *want* to undertake some changes rather than being *forced* to do so (Malena 2009, 20). It has to be noted that the sources of political want are usually the political or personal interests of the politicians or government actors. Sometimes, politicians want changes to happen for a variety of reasons which range from economic benefits for themselves and/or the country to opposing a political opponent.

Political can is the confidence and capabilities of the government to undertake socio-economic or political changes. Political can is at the heart of political will since with capabilities, motivation and resources available, governments may have the confidence and will to embark on various reforms for the benefits of their country.

An important feature of political can is the fact that governments should not only have confidence in their own ability to bring structural changes in society. They should also be able to build this confidence with other state actors such as the citizens, investors and so forth. By doing this, governments will gain the support of their various stakeholders so as to make the reforms successful.

Political must occurs when there is a form of pressure that is exercised on the government for some actions or reforms to take place. This is evidenced by the situation where a particular country is facing financial difficulties or any other form of challenge and the government has to take remedial actions to solve the problem. One example to illustrate political must is the Greek financial crisis. The Greek government received much pressure from international institutions like the European Union and the International Monetary Fund to impose austerity measures in the country (Kentikelenis and Papanicolas, 2011).

In order to analyse political will, one has to take into consideration various factors which constitute this concept. At the heart of political will, lies the intention or political want of the political actors to bring changes in their country. In addition to this, lie the commitment or political can and must that must be exercised in order to materialize the intention.

In case one of these elements is missing, be it the intention or the commitment to take action, it can be said that political will is missing. If the government of a country lacks the intention to fight a particular issue, for instance corruption (Brinkerhoff 2000) or is not committed to prevent or solve conflicts (Jentelson 2000), then it is said that political will is lacking.

The drawback linked with a lack of political will can be said to be that the *status quo* will last. For instance, until very recently, due to a lack of political will between the United States and Cuba to change their diplomatic relations, an embargo lasted for more than 40 years between these two countries. Today, with a change in intention and commitments, the embargo was removed between the two countries.

The advantages of political will are that positive changes can take place in a country. By having the intention and taking the commitment to work for the development of a country, its government will take decisions that will work in the best interest of the country and its citizens.

The case of Mauritius will be studied to show how the political will of the various governments which were at the head of the country helped in making Mauritius one of the most prosperous countries in the African as well as Indian Ocean region.

3. The case of Mauritius.

Mauritius is a small island found in the Indian Ocean which is approximately 800 km to the east coast of Madagascar. First discovered by the Arabs in the 15th century, the island has been the host of many seamen and explorers throughout its history (Selvon 2012). In 1598, the Dutch settled in the country and introduced sugar cane. In 1710, the French occupied the island and brought slaves mainly from Madagascar and Mozambique to work in the sugar cane fields. Mauritius was a French colony from 1710 to 1810. In 1810, the British took possession of the island and in 1835, slavery was abolished. After the abolition of slavery and in order to continue the main economic activity of the island, which is the growth of sugar cane, indentured labourers were brought from India to work in the sugar cane fields. In 1968, Mauritius got its independence from the British and in 1992 the country became a Republic.

Prior to its independence and even after, many economists have written about the socio-economic future of Mauritius. In 1961, Nobel Prize Winner Professor J.E Meade made a report whereby he predicted a disastrous future for Mauritius (Meade 1961). He analysed a series of hurdles for the economic development of the island ranging from: the country's vulnerability to climatic conditions, a monocrop economy with no alternate viable economic sectors and the country's ethnic diversity was seen as a drawback. In 1973, novelist V.S. Naipaul wrote an essay about Mauritius where he described the island as "The overcrowded barracoon" and stated that Mauritius was "*[A]n agricultural economy, created by empire in an empty island and always meant to be a part of something larger, now given a thing called independence and set adrift, an abandoned imperial barracoon, incapable of economic or cultural autonomy*".

However, time has shown that these prophecies were wrong. Today Mauritius is categorized as an upper middle income country as per the World Bank and is ranked 28 among 189 countries on the World Bank list on Ease of Doing Business countries. Also, in 2007 was created the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) which analyses the level of governance in every African States. Since the creation of this Index, Mauritius has always been in the first position.

One of the key factors behind the success of Mauritius is the political will and commitment of the various governments which were at the head of the country. As will be shown later, the various political parties that were ruling over the island placed the economic development of the country at the center of their priorities during their mandate. An analysis of the major pillars of the Mauritian economy will be done to examine the economic success of the country.

1. The Sugar Industry in Mauritius.

The relation that Mauritius has with sugar cane dates back to the Dutch presence in the island. Sugar was first introduced in Mauritius by the Dutch during the period in which they occupied the country. The main reason why the Dutch introduced sugar was to produce rum. When the French colonized the country, they started the development of the sugar sector. Sugar cane was processed in Mauritius and then exported to France and other European countries. Furthermore, when the island became a British colony, the British continued with the growth and exploitation of sugar cane. Sugar was the pillar of the Mauritian economy during the post independence era. When Mauritius got its independence in 1968, the country was still heavily dependent on sugar and there was an urge to develop other sectors of the economy. Therefore a series of steps were undertaken to strengthen the sugar sector in order to make it the backbone of further economic development.

The sugar sector during the years 1960's and 1970's was the pillar of the Mauritian economy as it was the major sector bringing in income and generating employment. By late 1960's, sugar export amounted to 90% of the country's overall export and 30% of the workforce were employed in the sugar cane industry. (Sowkut *et al* 2009).

In 1975 an agreement was signed in Lomé, Togo, whereby the European Economic Community (EEC) agreed to buy fixed quantities of cane sugar from countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region. This agreement is commonly known as the Sugar Protocol. Under this convention, the price at which the EEC agreed to buy sugar from the ACP countries was three times higher than the world market price for sugar. This had the advantage of increasing export revenue for sugar for the ACP countries.

Mauritius signed the Lomé Convention and the country was allocated the largest sugar quota share under the Sugar Protocol, which was 507,000 tons of sugar. With this advantage, Mauritius was able to conduct major economic developments which lead to the economic success of the country. Mauritius used the revenue generated from the export of sugar to the Europe as the backbone of its economic activities.

The revenue obtained from the sugar protocol, which amounted to approximately \$3.5 billion from 1975 to 2000, was used to create other sectors of the Mauritian economy namely: the textile sector, the tourism sector and the financial services sector (Sowkut *et al* 2009). However, in 2009 the Sugar Protocol was phased out and Mauritius lost a significant market for its sugar in Europe.

2. The textile sector in Mauritius

The second pillar of the Mauritian economy is the textile and clothing sector. Professor Meade in his report in 1961 suggested that if Mauritius wanted to move from a monocrop economy, it had to diversify its economic activities. Therefore, was set up during the year 1970s and 1980s the textile and clothing sector (Joomun 2006).

The textile and clothing sector contributed to the economic success of Mauritius as it created employment, generated income and allowed for capacity building for Mauritian entrepreneurs. Joomun (2006) identified three factors which contributed to the success of the textile and clothing sector in Mauritius. They are: conducive environment for investment, exogenous factors and preferential trade agreement.

Under the conducive environment for investment, the government devised laws as well as business opportunities to attract investors and enhance the development of the textile and clothing sector. For instance in 1970, the Mauritian government enacted the Export Processing Zones Act which encouraged the setting up of manufacturing companies and export oriented activities. Moreover, in 1990 the Export Processing Zones Development Authority Act was enacted which provided for the creation of the Export Processing Zones Development Authority. As per section 4 of the Act, the main duties of the Authority are, *inter alia*, to analyse the problems faced by the sector and provide for recommendations and to carry out research and development in the textile and clothing sector. The creation of laws as well as regulatory bodies for the textile and clothing created confidence in investors since they knew that they are granted legal protection as soon as they set up a company in Mauritius. This was one conducive element for investment in the island.

Some exogenous factors which contributed to the expansion of the textile and clothing sector are firstly, the signature of the Multi-Fibre Agreement in 1982. Under this agreement, Mauritius received a quota from the EU to sell textile products there. Also, in 1990, because of a certain level of political uncertainty in Hong-Kong many investors left the country and came to set up textile companies in Mauritius.

The third factor which led to the success of the textile and clothing sector in Mauritius is the signature of some preferential trade agreements. The major preferential trade agreement that Mauritius has signed for the textile sector is the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) 2000. Under the AGOA, Mauritius can export its textile products to the United States on a reduce export tariff. By signing the AGOA, Mauritius has been able to gain a market for its textile product in the US and this helped to generate significant revenue for this trade agreement. In 2014, it was estimated that Mauritius gained \$227 millions from its export of textile and apparel products to the US (Williams 2015).

Despite the presence of many conducive elements to foster the expansion of the textile and clothing sector in Mauritius, this sector is being threatened by many external elements. With the abolition of the Multi-Fiber Agreement, Mauritius has to face fierce competition with other textile and clothing producing countries in order sell its product to the EU. Also, many investors are now opting to shift their production activities from Mauritius to Madagascar as the latter country offers more advantages than Mauritius. For instance, labour is cheaper in Madagascar than in Mauritius and raw materials are easily accessible there.

However, even if Mauritius is facing some challenges with its sugar and textile sector, it is able to find alternate activities to maintain its economic sustainability.

3. *The Tourism sector in Mauritius*

Sugar production and the textile industry are the two main pillars of the Mauritian economy. The third main economic activity of the country is tourism. For years, tourism has played a key role in the economic development of Mauritius. The tourism sector is a secure source of revenue for the

country in terms of tourists spending or investment from international hotel chains (Jaufeerally 2000). A study conducted by the Ministry of Tourism and External Communication stated that the gross tourism receipts for Mauritius in the year 2000 were \$508.3 million and contributed to about 11 % of the Mauritian GDP (<http://tourism.govmu.org/English/Pages/Overview-of-Tourism-Sector-in-Mauritius.aspx>).

However, in the recent years, there has been a decline in the number of tourists' arrival in Mauritius. There are multiple reasons to this. First, because of the 2008 financial crisis, the number of tourists' arrival, especially from Europe, declined drastically. In addition to this, Mauritius is facing fierce competition from other islands of the Indian Ocean, more specifically from the Seychelles.

Just like the other two sectors, the tourism industry in Mauritius was not exempted from challenges. In order to bounce back and to strengthen the tourism sector, the government of the country is now looking for new markets to attract tourists to the country. Major advertising campaigns about Mauritius are done in several countries in order to boost the tourism sector.

4. Other services sector

With the sugar, textile and clothing and tourism sectors facing major challenges, the government of Mauritius further diversified the economic activities of the country by introducing new services sectors. These sectors are: Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), the financial services sector and the information and telecommunication industry. With the creation of these sectors, more than 100,000 jobs were created in these sectors. Their contribution to the Mauritian economy for the year 2014 amounted to \$185 million (<http://www.investmauritius.com/investment-opportunities/ict.aspx>). Concerning the legislative side regulating the financial services sector, a panoply of regulations have been set up in order to regulate the financial activities of the country. This has acted as an incentive for investment in the financial sector of the country.

Along with those inland services, another new sector is being developed to continue the economic expansion of Mauritius. This sector is the ocean economy. In 2013, the former Prime Minister of the island launched the roadmap for the ocean economy. Investment in this new sector, which can be considered as the fifth pillar of the Mauritian economy, has been estimated to be around MUR 45 billion for the period 2016 to 2020 (The Ocean Economy A roadmap for Mauritius 2013).

5. Political will and the Mauritian experience

The Mauritian experience described above can be used as an example for many small islands developing states as well as the international community as a whole. Being about 2,040km² in size and away from the major international markets like the United States or the European Union, Mauritius has been able to make a remarkable economic experience and has even been described as the “Tiger Cub” of the Indian Ocean (Cardoza '96 & Pun Sin '97 1996).

There are several reasons behind the economic success of Mauritius. The first reason can be described as the dynamism of the government to constantly look for new business opportunities. As stated by Zafar, Mauritius has been able to “... adapt to the future rather than wait for and respond to the shock.” (Zafar 2011, p101). For instance when the European Union announced its

initiative to phase out the Sugar Protocol in 2005, the government did not wait until 2009 when the protocol was completely abolished to take actions and find an alternative for this sector. Meanwhile, the government enhances the development of other sectors like the offshore and financial services sector. Moreover, since the island still sustain hectares of sugar cane fields, a new niche has been developed in the sugar sector. The sugar industry is being changed into the cane industry whereby the stem of the sugar cane is being used to produce electricity and other agricultural product.

Another reason for the economic success of Mauritius is linked to the long-lasting partnership between the private and the public sector. One interesting feature of the Mauritian way of doing business relates to the fact that it is the government which initiates discuss on the international level and signs protocols or agreements and it is the private sector which turns those agreements into reality. The benefit of this system is that the power to develop a particular sector does not lie in the hands of one single body, namely the government or the public sector, but is shared with the private sector. Hence, this system does not allow for abuses to happen as there is a level of transparency among the various actors. Moreover, the country provides for a conducive environment to attract investors. Various legislations are enacted to allow for the smooth running of business activities in the country and to protect the rights of investors as well as their various stakeholders. Furthermore, institutional as well as infrastructural facilities are granted to investors to enhance the development of new business activities. For example, the port of Mauritius is being restructured in order to accommodate bunkers so as to make Mauritius become the bunkering hub for the Indian Ocean.

It has to be noted that all of the reasons mentioned above, which are linked to economic success of Mauritius, would not have been possible without the political will of the government.

In Mauritius, there are four major political parties. They are: The Labour Party (LP), the Movement Militant Mauricien (MMM), the Movement Socialiste Mauricien (MSM) and the Parti Mauricien Social Democrate (PMSD). Since the independence of the country, it has only been members of these four political parties that formed either the government or the opposition. Table 1 below shows the political parties and the years in which they formed the government.

Table 1: Political Parties in Mauritius and years in government

Political Party	Years in Government
1968-1976	Labour Party
1976-1982	Labour Party-PMSD
1982-1983	MMM
1983-1987	LP-MSM-PMSD
1987-1992	LP-MSM-PMSD
1992-1995	MSM-PMSD
1995-2000	MMM-LP
2000-2005	MMM-MSM
2005-2010	LP-PMSD
2010-2014	LP-PMSD
2014-2019	MSM-PMSD-ML (ML means the Movman Liberater which is a new political party created in 2014).

Whatever political party was at the head of the country, they all worked for the economic development of Mauritius. In 1975, the Lomé convention, including the sugar protocol, was signed by Mauritius under the mandate of the Labour Party. In 1983, the government consisting of the LP, the MSM and the PMSD, came to power. This new government wanted to give a boost to the Mauritian economy and therefore created the Mauritius Export Processing Zone which catered for the textile and clothing sector and strengthened the tourism sector. During the years 1990's and early 2000, these three sectors faced some threats from the international community.

Notwithstanding the political party at the head of the country during these years, they all tried to find alternatives for the threatened sectors. Hence was created the offshore sector consisting of the business process outsourcing, information and telecommunication and financial services sectors. However, in the past few years, these sectors were also threatened by various international factors. For instance, concerning the financial sector of Mauritius, the European Commission named Mauritius as a tax haven and blacklisted the country. (http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5211_en.htm).

With the problems faced by the offshore sector, in 2013 the idea to launch the ocean economy was devised by the Labour Party and the PMSD. When the government consisting of MSM-PMSD and ML came to power in 2014, they embraced the ocean economy concept and devised a special ministry to cater for this sector.

The above statements provide for an illustration as to how the various governments of Mauritius had the will to develop the economy of the country. The three aspects of political will proposed by Malena (2009) can be applied and tested in the Mauritian case.

Concerning political want, which relates to the willingness of politicians to make changes happen in a particular country, in the case of Mauritius, it can be illustrated through the adoption of the various economic pillars of the Mauritian economy. The political parties governing the country since its independence have always wanted to improve the economic situation of Mauritius. As Zafar (2011) highlighted, the various governments have always taken a step ahead of any drawback, for example the abolition of international trade preferences given to Mauritius, and adapted to the future rather than responding to shocks. Here political want is illustrated as the various governments were not forced to take those reforms decision but took them out of their willingness to improve the economy of the country.

With regards to political can, which relates to the capacity and confidence of governments to make socio-economic changes, in the Mauritian case this is illustrated through the private and public sector partnership. The government of Mauritius was able to undertake economic changes smoothly because they could rely on the active participation of the private sector in the economic activities of the country. This boosted the confidence of the Mauritian government to undertake those reforms as they would get the support of the private sector. Capacity to make changes in the Mauritian context can be associated with the labour available. The various Mauritian governments were capable of creating new economic sectors because they had labour available to develop those sectors. For instance, when the textile and clothing sector was set up in the year 1980's, women were given incentives to go and work in the textile factories. In late 1990's and beginning of 2000 where the offshore sector was starting, school and university leavers were given job opportunity to work in this sector. Hence with the support of the private sector and availability of labour, political can was achieved in Mauritius.

Finally, for political must it can be said that pressure was exercised on Mauritius to make economic reforms when Pr Meade (1961) made his report on the economic future of Mauritius. Prior to independence, Pr Meade prophesied the future of the country in a dark manner stating that if alternative economic sectors were not created, the island would face severe socio-economic and political challenges. Hence, it can be stated that when Mauritius gained its independence it seized every opportunity, for instance signing bilateral or multilateral agreements, in order to get the opportunity to enhance and diversify its economic activities.

6. Conclusion

For any country to prosper, be it socially, environmentally, politically or economically, there must be the will of the government to make reforms in the best interest of the country. The Mauritian experience is an illustration of how political will can help a country to boost. Mauritius being an island faces many capacity constraints, for instance it is far away from the major international markets, is prone to natural calamities and does not have much inland resources.

However, despite all these drawbacks, the island is today recognized by various international organizations as a high performing country and is ranked first in the African region in several economic reports and surveys. The reason behind this Mauritian success story is the political will of the various political parties governing the country to make it prosper. The Mauritian experience can be used as an example by other small islands developing states facing the same capacity constraints but who wishes to prosper.

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