

Opportunism in Politics

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Political life in Mexico is changing, and so are politicians. Before the 1st of July, the campaigns, speeches, positions adopted by individuals, groups and parties, as well as electoral preferences, were made and put forward, at times calmly, and at others forcefully and with the passion implicit in the ambition to win at all costs.

Many participants did not care about provoking or offending others who did not share their ideas or candidates. Others found it convenient to position themselves on the margins, to avoid compromising themselves openly, but the great majority decided to gamble on changing the party in power, with their candidate, without listening to the slander and lies being peddled by the rest.

Human nature is strange. Once the election results and Andrés Manuel López Obrador's resounding victory were made public, some commentators' attitudes started to change; they went from sworn enemies to newly tolerant of the impending change, and even started to recognise and in some cases fervently endorse the need for Mexico to become a more democratic, progressive society, allowing the mistakes of the past to be corrected, until it grows to be a place of greater fairness and social justice, and the tendency towards poverty and inequality is turned on its head.

Over the last five weeks, the faces and expressions of frustration and incredulity were gradually diluted and transformed, until they were no longer refusing change or stubbornly defending the maintenance of the cosy status quo of exploitation, abuse of power, influence trafficking and manifest arrogance. The transformation was so dramatic in fact that even the most intractable enemies became sympathizers, supporters and even friends of the new government, which will take up administration this coming 1st December, but which is already, with unexpected speed, transforming the nation's hopes and destiny.

In the political history of social movements and changes opportunists always emerge, from the upper echelons of economic power to those politicians who built their careers on getting to the top through bureaucracy, sycophancy, personal and group ambition, and right up to those shameless types who find and cling on to a position within the structures of power with no scruples, ideology or passion for public service, but the desire to serve themselves and sit tight with the same cynicism that got them there, without a thought towards their



commitments to the nation and its people. To put it another way, all they want to do is to take advantage of a new set of circumstances with no regard for dignity or personal decency, neither or which they have ever possessed.

It seems that López Obrador's doors are open to such reformed characters, but they will not necessarily be given a position or invited to take a leading role in the process of changing and transforming the nation's economy and politics. The president elect has mentioned reconciliation as a strategy for solving ongoing disputes and for welcoming the contributions of those who are prepared to make efforts to enrich society and bring about the wellbeing of the majority, under the nation's new rules and objectives.

In the coming months and years we will see who is truly prepared to transform the country in the spirit of justice and respect for others, without demanding any privileges or special favours. As this journey is undertaken, the same old opportunists will be revealed, alongside those who bring and contribute new ideas, proposals, plans and programmes for achieving what Andrés Manuel himself has called the Fourth Historic Transformation of Mexico.

Those of us who genuinely believe that this new model is what the country needs will offer the best of our experience, capacity and knowledge to improve the reality and make economic and social prosperity of the population possible, along with ensuring growth and development targets are reached fairly. We will always be on the side of the people, the working classes and those groups and individuals ready to consolidate the nation's future on the basis of genuine respect and love for Mexico, and Mexicans.