

Name: Nuwan Bopage

Political Alliance: People's Struggle Alliance (PSA)

Symbol: Umbrella

Profession: Attorney-at-Law, Human Rights Activist

Key Background: Nuwan Bopage is a prominent lawyer and activist who gained significant attention as a key figure in the 2022 Sri Lankan citizens' movement, often referred to as the "Aragalaya." He has been actively involved in defending the rights of protestors, including former leaders of the Inter University Students' Federation (IUSF), and played a major role in legal actions related to the protests against the government.

Bopage was involved in defending several individuals charged under Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and represented activists in court cases, including his involvement in entering the Presidential House during the 2022 protests

Political Party:

Nuwan Bopage is running as the candidate of the People's Struggle Alliance (PSA), a coalition that emerged from the "Aragalaya" movement. The PSA advocates for direct democracy and seeks systemic change in the country. The PSA opposes neoliberal economic policies and IMF interventions, emphasizing protection of the environment, equality, and addressing ethnic issues through constitutional reform

Campaign Promises and Ideology:

- **Opposition to IMF Policies:** PSA's platform includes rejecting the current IMF agreement, advocating instead for more people-centered economic policies.
- **Focus on Systemic Change:** Bopage and his alliance emphasize the need for a system that ensures equality and justice, moving beyond the traditional neoliberal market-driven models that other parties follow.
- **Direct Democracy:** Bopage promotes a political system that directly involves citizens in decision-making, a key tenet of the "Aragalaya" movement.
- **Human Rights and Justice:** As a lawyer, Bopage's platform includes the protection of civil liberties, especially those of marginalized groups, while also reforming repressive legal frameworks like the PTA

Symbol:

Bopage's election symbol is the **Umbrella**, symbolizing protection and shelter, which aligns with his advocacy for safeguarding human rights and providing security for all citizens.

Conclusion:

Nuwan Bopage's candidacy represents a fresh challenge to the traditional political structures in Sri Lanka, coming from a grassroots movement that seeks transformative change. His platform focuses on rejecting neoliberalism, promoting direct democracy, and defending human rights, making him a significant candidate for those aligned with leftist and progressive ideologies.