

KEVIN RUDD RISING FROM THE ASHES WILL NOT SAVE LABOR

Abalinx 27 June 2013 - A voice from the pavement

Kevin Rudd returning to the top job will not stem the tide of voter backlash against Labor. What Kevin Rudd's return means is that Labor Caucus had finally recognised that its executive had neglected its responsibilities and values of what the Labor party stood for. The Labor executive should have used its powers to be the critic rather than being a mere bystander and allowing the Labor leader to control Labor policies.

Politics is a fickle matter and as such one needs to have nerves of steel and the will to view a political career for what it is. Julia Gillard and Kevin Rudd are reminiscent of two Roman Caesars vying for the top job. Both marshalling their forces, both manoeuvring to be best placed to be in the spotlight, both publicly saying that their methods are best for the Australian people and yet both have turned the Australian people against Labor and their policies.

Despite all of the glitter and glamour of the past 24 hours, it is too little and too late. The Australian people have a long memory and have suffered long enough under a Gillard Labor government. Rising living costs, a carbon tax we did not need, a mining tax that does not work and has not produced anything tangible to bringing the budget into surplus. The Craig Thompson scandal, the Peter Slipper scandal. The leadership battles being played out in public and uncertainty which it caused. Billions in debt, with no respite in the near future are but some of the issues that have dogged the Labor party during its time in office.

Kevin Rudd and his return to the role of Prime Minister is an interesting one, but will the Labor "Roman Caesar" change its spots and did he learn while he was in exile and away from the spotlight. Labor will use fear tactics such as a return to Work choices, a fear of losing jobs under future austerity measures, a fear that under a Liberal government the Australian people will suffer. History will be a judge of his performance and that of Labor and the next 80 days will be an eye opener.

Will the popularity of Kevin Rudd be enough to stem the tide against Labor or sufficient to win the next election, methinks not. A voice from the pavement.



The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis is a (not for profit) Journalist/Commentator. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538

The Rudd resurrection as Julia Gillard to leave politics and her backers to exit .

SID MAHER, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT The Australian June 27, 2013



Kevin Rudd acknowledges Julia Gillard's achievements



Has Kevin Rudd left it too late?

Chris Kenny and Nick Cater ask if Kevin Rudd has left himself with too much to do as Prime Minister.



Labor voted for survival

Political editor Dennis Shanahan on the results of the Labor leadership ballot.



Abbott says Australians deserve better

Oppn Leader Tony Abbott has condemned Labor's leadership change, saying the Australian people deserve better



Kevin Rudd and Anthony Albanese hold a press conference last night as the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in waiting. Picture: Gary Ramage Source: The Australian

The Rudd resurrection as Julia Gillard to leave politics and her backers to exit frontbench.

New Prime Minister Kevin Rudd speaks to the media about the negativity in politics, and the hard job Julia Gillard had leading a minority government. KEVIN Rudd's return as Labor leader has triggered the prospect of an August election, a wholesale clean-out of the cabinet and a dramatic rewrite of key policies, including the Gonski school reforms, the crackdown on 457 visas and the fixed carbon price.

After a dramatic day of political brinkmanship, Mr Rudd won back the leadership almost exactly three years after he was toppled as prime minister, securing 57 votes in the Labor caucus to Julia Gillard's 45. Ms Gillard called the spill about 4.10pm (AEST) amid reports Labor MPs were circulating a petition seeking a special party meeting to discuss a leadership ballot. Ms Gillard, who in 2010 made history by becoming the nation's first female prime minister, will now retire at the election after setting as a condition of the ballot that the loser leave politics. Mr Rudd reversed his long-held pledge not to challenge, declaring Labor was "on course for a catastrophic defeat unless there is a change".

Mr Rudd, who vowed to unite the party and avoid retribution against his enemies inside the party, last night looked certain to be able to secure a commission from the Governor-General to become prime

minister after being able to count on five crossbench MPs for confidence in the minority parliament. Independent MPs Tony Windsor and Rob Oakeshott, who early yesterday announced their resignations from parliament at the next election, had signalled they would not necessarily support Labor if there was a change of party leadership.

But the Greens indicated they would back Labor ahead of Tony Abbott, with Queensland independent Bob Katter also pledging confidence. Former Labor MP Craig Thomson will also back the party, with fellow Queenslander Peter Slipper tipped by both sides of politics to support Mr Rudd. Last night Tasmanian independent Andrew Wilkie wrote to Mr Rudd saying he would support him for confidence motions.

Mr Rudd's victory immediately triggered a major shake-out of Labor's frontbench. Treasurer Wayne Swan quit as deputy prime minister and communications minister Stephen Conroy stood down as Labor's Senate leader. Trade minister Craig Emerson, a close supporter of Ms Gillard, announced he would leave parliament at the next election, along with school education minister Peter Garrett. Climate change minister Greg Combet and agriculture minister Joe Ludwig resigned from the frontbench. Finance Minister Penny Wong was last night appointed Labor Senate leader and Anthony Albanese beat Simon Crean in a race for the party's deputy leadership by 61 votes to 38.

While Ms Gillard's 15-year political career will end on the night of the election, Mr Rudd becomes only the fourth person to become prime minister of Australia more than once and the first since Robert Menzies's second period in office started in 1949.

Mr Rudd last night paid tribute to Ms Gillard and Mr Swan as he "resumed" the role of prime minister with "humility, with honour and with an important sense of energy and purpose". He described Ms Gillard as "a woman of extraordinary intelligence, of great strength and energy", and noted Mr Swan's role as treasurer during the global financial crisis.

Promising a better relationship with the business community and appealing to younger voters, Mr Rudd said the negative and destructive nature of federal politics had failed the nation and must stop. "I simply do not have it in my nature to stand idly by and allow an Abbott government to come to power in this country by default," he said. "I recognise that Mr Abbott is a man steeped in the power of negative politics and he is formidable at negative politics. But I see no evidence of a real positive plan for our country's future."

Ms Gillard last night congratulated Mr Rudd on his victory but noted division within the party, saying it had "not been an easy environment to work in". "Don't lack the guts, don't lack the fortitude, don't lack the resilience to go out there with our Labor agenda and to win this election," she said. "I know that it can be done."

Referring to the so-called gender wars, Ms Gillard said "the reaction to being the first female prime minister does not explain everything about my prime ministership nor does it explain nothing about my prime ministership". She said it was up to the nation "to think in a sophisticated way about those shades of grey" but believed it would be easier in the future for women who followed her path.

Ms Gillard nominated health reform, the carbon price, the DisabilityCare insurance scheme, the Gonski school reforms and the royal commission into child sex abuse among her proudest achievements. As Mr Gillard last night travelled to Government House to hand in her commission, Mr Rudd and Mr Albanese received the first of several briefings from department heads. The briefings, including one on the state of the federal budget, will continue in coming days.

Mr Rudd's return paves the way for potential changes to key policies and a different election date. Speculation centred on Mr Rudd calling an August election, with Mr Abbott last night urging Labor to go to the people and end "this low and dishonourable parliament". Key Rudd supporters have criticised as racist rhetoric the proposed crackdown on 457 visas, and there has been speculation that Mr Rudd could change some aspects of the Gonski education policy, including extending the June 30 deadline for the states and school bodies to sign up.

Before the leadership spill in February last year, Mr Rudd also raised the prospect of ending the fixed carbon price and moving to a floating emissions trading scheme sooner than scheduled under Labor's existing policy. Mr Rudd is also expected to call for internal ALP reform, including handing back to caucus the power to choose the frontbench and take on the power of the unions.

Polling in recent weeks had confirmed that Labor was heading for a heavy defeat at the election, losing as many as 40 of its 71 seats and facing a wipeout in regions including western Sydney and Queensland. As Ms Gillard yesterday declared a ballot for the party leadership, Mr Rudd announced he had changed his position of not challenging because he had been approached by tens of thousands of ordinary voters "who have been asking me to do this for a very long time".

Minutes before the ballot, influential frontbencher Bill Shorten announced he had switched his allegiance to Mr Rudd - the man he famously helped politically knife in June 2010 - declaring Mr Rudd offered Labor the best chance of winning the election. Mr Shorten, who has spent the past fortnight declaring support for Ms Gillard, said he had informed her of his decision and declared he would step down from the frontbench if she won the ballot.

Mr Rudd now faces the task of uniting the Labor caucus, which has been paralysed by leadership speculation and open division. He inherits a demoralised party, which is facing a primary vote of 29 per cent in the latest Newspoll. Mr Rudd's supporters had pitched his return on the basis of his public popularity and polling suggesting he would prevent the electoral wipeout facing the party.

In standing for the leadership, Mr Rudd declared "every effort I have in my being will be dedicated to uniting the Australian Labor Party". "No retributions, no paybacks, none of that stuff. It's pointless, it's old politics," he said. "The values which drive our movement are those things which should unite us." In declaring his candidacy, Mr Rudd, said Australians were "genuinely fearful" of what Mr Abbott could do if he were elected with a massive majority and control of the Senate, "which he is currently on track to do".

"I believe that all Australians, whatever their politics, want a real choice at this election . . . At present, if you talk to them long and hard, they don't feel as if they've got one." Mr Abbott said only a vote for the Coalition would deliver "real change". "In 2007 you voted for Kevin and got Julia," he said. "In 2010 you voted for Julia and got Kevin. If you vote for the Labor Party in 2013 who knows who you will end up with."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/in-depth/the-rudd-resurrection-as-julia-gillard-to-leave-politics-and-her-backers-to-exit-frontbench/story-fnhqeu0x-1226670514458>

RELATED STORIES

[IN-DEPTH SECTION: Labor in Crisis](#)

[INSIDE STORY: Phantom petition's fatal effect](#)

[PAUL KELLY: Rudd must keep Labor ship afloat](#)

DENNIS SHANAHAN: Problems far bigger than personalities

PETER VAN ONSELEN: From off a cliff to falling over a balcony

NIKI SAVVA: From saboteur to saviour

INDEPENDENTS: Kingmakers willing to crown Rudd

TIMELINE: A history of rivalry

GALLERY: The return of Rudd

VIDEO: Labor voted for survival