

BLOG: Enda Kenny - Only a week

Contributed by Enda Kenny

It's just a week to what looks like being the election of a lifetime. Make sure you're part of it. Use your vote, have your say. Ghandi asked people to be the difference they wanted to see in the world. I'm asking you to be the difference you want to see in this country. Vote for change, vote for the future, vote for better. Because, with everybody working harder than ever, better is what Ireland deserves.

It says a lot about the cynicism of the outgoing government that they would effectively disenfranchise thousands of students by holding the election on a Thursday. I'm asking you to make every effort to vote. Think about how in new democracies, old men and women, fathers and mothers with small children walked for days, queued for hours, so they could exercise their precious right to vote. Your vote is the most powerful thing you possess as a democrat, so please, do what you can to use it.

It's been a hectic week. Though, at times, entertaining. In their panic, Fianna Fail have come over all macho, the Horsemen of the Apocalypse chancing their arm with fear on the economy: 'our government gave you all this and the new government will take it all away'. Who are they kidding?! The hardworking people built this economy, not any one government. We will grow and protect it acting immediately to tackle the nosedive in our competitiveness. Companies are really feeling the pain of rising costs. As for the PDs? The Minister for Justice proves he knows as much about the habitat of the budgee as he does about the life cycle of the wasp.

On the campaign tour it was a case of different towns, same message. Yes, we have money and we have jobs, but PLEASE can you get the services working. When we're paying our taxes, why are the services not there, why does everything have to be so hard, whether it's finding a school place for a young child, getting a hospital bed for a parent, getting the teaching you need for a child with autism, getting a Garda when you need one, the chance to put a roof over your head?

This week, too, we were concentrating on Mental Health. Our new government will make the nation's mental health as important as its physical health. We will face up to the epidemic of suicide

sweeping this country and put emotional and mental wellbeing at the top of the new government's agenda.

Next Thursday you can always vote against the government. But negative politics does nothing for this country. I prefer to ask you to vote for something. To vote for a government it is better and will do better. That's Fine Gael and Labour.