

stage boycotts. In two other constituencies (42 and 66), ethnic Albanian candidates who were rejected by the nominating committee are running as independents. Nazmi Maliqi, an incumbent PDP parliamentarian, has a strong following in district 66 and many of his supporters are disappointed that the coalition chose a PDPA/NDP candidate. The fact that all the ethnic Albanian candidates have already been chosen may lead to voter apathy and discourage voter turnout. If this happens, ethnic Albanian parties may fail to win the eight proportional seats they are anticipating.

#### **D. LDP-DPM: For a Better Life**

LDP was created out of the merger of the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party that was formed in 1996 for the local elections. The two individual parties, now led by Petar Goshev, have always advocated a centrist balance and attention to economic issues. If anything, the two parties were more different in style than in substance. The new coalition partner, DPM, (*Demokratska Partija na Makedonija* or Democratic Party of Macedonia) is, however, an oddity. It is essentially a one-man band led by Tomislav "Bombaj" Stojanovski and brings the coalition only one parliamentary seat and considerable political baggage in return. LDP may have felt that it was perceived as being too accommodating towards ethnic Albanians, hence the addition of a well-recognised ethnic Macedonian nationalist.

The LDP strategy is to avoid criticising the current government but optimistically predict its team of leaders, Goshev, Andov, Penov and Bombaj, will cut unemployment by half. The current LDP mayor of Skopje, Risto Penov, has transformed a jaded electorate's expectation of what one politician can accomplish by revamping the Macedonian capital. Building upon the success and popularity of the Skopje mayor, the coalition promises to turn the country into one large construction site.

LDP could potentially participate in either a VMRO-DPMNE or an SDSM-led government. LDP has been an effective opposition party but its leadership appears to miss the limelight. The party was last in government in 1996, leaving the ruling coalition after falling out with SDSM over privatisation and monetary policy. The Liberals accused their former partner of corruption and claimed that SDSM was trying to concentrate all power in its hands. They were, in turn, accused of profiting from the sale of the country's most lucrative public enterprises.

#### **E. Movement for Cultural Tolerance and Civic Co-operation**

SPM (*Socijalisticka Partija na Makedonija* or Socialist Party of Macedonia) forms the backbone of the only multi-ethnic coalition.