

ALBANIA

Date of Elections: 1 February 1987

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Albania, the People's Assembly, is composed of 250 members elected for 4 years.

Electoral System

All Albanian citizens who are at least 18 years of age have the right to vote, with the exception of persons deprived of this right by court decision and the insane.

Electoral registers are drawn up by the executive committees of the local people's councils and made public at least 20 days prior to the election date. Voting is not compulsory.

Every qualified elector may be a candidate for Parliament. The parliamentary mandate is considered to be compatible with other offices.

All candidates must be members of the country's Democratic Front of Albania. The right to make nominations belongs to mass organizations such as the Party of Labour of Albania, trade unions, organizations of youth and women, and others.

Candidates to Parliament are declared elected in each of the 250 single-member constituencies if they obtain an absolute majority of the valid votes cast within their electoral constituency. A second ballot is held, within 15 days, in any constituency where no candidate has obtained the absolute majority of votes cast or when these votes constitute less than half the number of registered voters.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary seats which become vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The polling date was announced in early January 1987.

Since the previous (November 1982) general elections, Mr. Enver Hoxha, the long-time First Secretary of the Central Committee of the country's dominant political group, the communist Party of Labour of Albania (PLA), died and was succeeded by Mr. Ramiz Alia,

also Head of State. In the 1987 elections, the latter stood as candidate in Mr. Hoxha's former constituency.

Voting results gave overwhelming support to the 250 candidates of the PLA-led Democratic Front of Albania and there was reportedly only one invalid ballot out of the more than 1.8 million cast.

At its first session on 19 February, the new Assembly re-elected Mr. Alia as Head of State. The following day, a reshuffled Council of Ministers was approved.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly

Voters	1,830,653
Blank or void ballot papers	1
Valid votes	1,830,652
<i>Votes for candidates of the Democratic Front of Albania</i>	1,830,652

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
Democratic Front of Albania	250	250

2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category

Workers	79
Members of agricultural co-operatives	75
Engineers	32
Lawyers and teachers	19
Economists	18
Doctors	15
Military	12
	<u>250</u>

3. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex

Men	177
Women	73
	<u>250</u>

4. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Age Group

18-30 years	12
31-40 »	108
41-60 »	107
Over 60	<u>23</u>
	250