

ALGERIA

Date of Elections: 5 March 1982

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the expiry of its prescribed term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Algeria, the National People's Assembly, is composed of 282 Deputies elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Algerian citizens of at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote if they are in full possession of their civil and political rights.

Electoral registers are compiled on the level of the municipality; they are deemed permanent and are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory. Proxy voting is permitted for certain categories of electors, such as those residing abroad or confined due to illness, and members of the armed forces.

All qualified electors who are at least 28 years old* are eligible to be elected to the National People's Assembly. Ineligible-while they hold office and for one year thereafter-are certain party officials, certain public officials at the *wilaya* (department) and *daira* (constituency) level, judges, and members of the armed and police forces. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with certain public posts held in the same constituency in which the Deputy is elected, membership of the armed or police forces, as well as with membership of another popular assembly.

All candidates are nominated by the country's National Liberation Front (FLN). Three times as many candidates as there are seats to be filled are designated in all electoral constituencies.

The 282 Deputies are elected in 160 constituencies by the party-list simple majority system. Each constituency (*daira*) having less than 80,000 inhabitants is represented by one Deputy; in the others, every 80,000 gives the right to one Deputy and every fraction above 20,000 to one supplementary seat. The Front proposes three times as many candidates as there are seats to be filled and electors thus express their preferences among these by crossing out one or more names.

*See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments A1* (1980-1981), p. 6.

In the event of parliamentary vacancies between general elections, by-elections are resorted to within six months, except in the last year prior to the end of the legislature's term.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

For the newly-enlarged Assembly's 282 seats, the National Liberation Front (FLN), the country's sole political party, nominated thrice the number of candidates (846), as required by the Electoral Law. Forty-two of these were women.

The turnout on polling day exceeded 70%. A total of 69 of the 136 incumbents who ran for re-election were successful. The new Assembly was characterized by its youth (average age of approximately 42 years); as in the preceding legislature, more than half of those elected were civil servants and teachers.

On 13 March, Mr. Rabah Bitat was re-appointed to his post as President of the National Assembly at its inaugural session.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors	8,990,820
Voters	6,054,740 (67.34%)

Political Group	Number of Seats
National Liberation Front (FLN)	282

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	278
Women	4
	282

3. Average Age of Deputies: 42 years