

ANGOLA

Date of Elections: 9 December 1986

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament for the first time since November 1980. Polling had been postponed since 1983.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Angola, the People's Assembly, is composed of 289 members elected for 5 years*. In addition, there are 29 substitute members.

Electoral System

All Angolan citizens who are at least 18 years of age and have not been deprived of their civil rights are entitled to vote and be candidates for Parliament. Barred from election are Angolans "who were active members of factionalist, puppet groups" and those who have "participated in criminal actions against the people and have not been rehabilitated".

Parliamentary candidates are members of the country's ruling party (MPLA-PT), and must be "the most active politically and the most experienced". They are elected by colleges set up in each of the country's 18 provinces and composed of members of the respective provincial assemblies and representatives selected by the citizenry in their work- or living-places. Candidates must answer questions posed by citizens at public meetings and their candidatures must be approved by a majority of the people in their districts. This rule also applies to candidates chosen by the Party-sponsored mass organizations (such as those of women, youth, labour, etc.).

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General elections had previously taken place in November 1980. Due again in 1983, they were postponed for three years, owing to political and military problems. In 1986, the People's Assembly elections were held simultaneously for Angola's 18 provincial assemblies.

All candidates for the enlarged Assembly's 289 seats (plus 29 substitutes) belonged to the country's sole political organization, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola - Party of Labour (MPLA - PT). With the aim of widening Parliament's representativeness, nominations from all mass organizations and sectors of society were sought. The final Party

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 8.

list was decided upon at provincial delegates' election meetings. Approximately two-thirds of the incumbents were renominated.

On polling day, all candidates were overwhelmingly backed by the electorate as a total of 42 women were chosen. Members included manual workers and farmers (the majority), members of the armed forces, clerical staff, students and intellectuals.

The first session of the newly-elected Assembly was opened by President of the Republic Jose Eduardo dos Santos on 30 January 1987. President dos Santos is also Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Statistics

1. Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly

Political Group	Number of Seats
Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola- Party of Labour (MPLA-PT)	289

*2. Distribution of Members of Parliament
according to Sex*

Men	247
Women	42
	289