

## BENIN

**Date of Elections:** 10 June 1984

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament. General elections had previously taken place in November 1979, and the term of the Assembly was extended by 18 months in February 1983\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Benin, the National Revolutionary Assembly, has been reduced from 336 to 196 members ("People's Commissioners") elected for 5 years\*\*.

### **Electoral System**

All Beninese citizens who are at least 18 years of age and not insane or disqualified pursuant to court decision are entitled to vote and be elected to Parliament.

Electoral registers are compiled on the village and town ward level.

The parliamentarians represent socio-professional classes and mass organizations; all are members of the *Parti de la revolution populaire du Benin (PRPB)*. The electoral process is comprised of three stages: "democratic consultation" ("*consultation democratique*"), drawing up of the national list of candidates and the elections proper; the objective of the first (consultation) stage is the selection of candidates after extensive public debate. On polling day, the national list of the PRPB is submitted to the electorate for approval or rejection as a whole.

### **General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

The candidatures of more than half of the incumbent members of the National Revolutionary Assembly failed to be approved by the Central Committee of the ruling *Parti de la revolution populaire du Benin (PRPB)*, which is in charge of drawing up the definitive **PRPB** list of candidates that is proposed to the electorate on polling day.

On polling day, the single **PRPB** list of 196 candidates - one per Assembly seat - was overwhelmingly approved by some 98% of the citizenry. Under Benin's unique electoral system, this list had been compiled on the basis of fixed quotas for different socio-professional categories and mass organizations. Twenty-two different types were thus established, each presenting a number of candidates which had been determined in advance. "Peasants and

\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XVII (1982-1983)*, p. 8.

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

craftsmen from rural areas" had the greatest number of seats (78); next came mass organizations, the Party (31 seats), civil servants (divided into six categories), the army (privates, non-commissioned officers and officers all have their own representatives), workers, religious bodies, students, retired people, magistrates and even the "national bourgeoisie", who will be represented in the Assembly by three commissioners chosen from their own ranks.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections*

Number of registered electors. . . . .	1,987,173	
Voters. . . . .	1,851,044	(93.15%)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	5,123	
Valid votes. . . . .	1,845,921	
<i>Votes in favour of the Parti de la revolution</i> . . . . .		
<i>populate du Benin (PRPB).</i> . . . . .	1,811,208	(98.1%)