

## **BENIN**

**Date of Elections:** 18 June 1989

### **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 Benin, the National Revolutionary Assembly, comprises 206 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.

The parliamentarians represent socio-professional classes and mass organizations rather than geographical constituencies; 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.

### **Background and Outcome of the Elections**

The general election date was announced on 7 April 1989, and the campaign was formally opened on 22 April by President of the Republic Mathieu Kerekou. Consultation on selection of candidates for the enlarged National Revolutionary Assembly took place from 8 to 18 May.

On polling day, the single list of the *Parti de la revolution populaire du Benin (PRPB)* - the country's sole political party - was widely approved. Of an 86% voter turnout, 89.6% reportedly voted for the list and only 9.7% against.

On 2 August, the National Assembly re-elected Mr. Kerekou President for another five-year term. He announced the composition of his Cabinet two days later.

