

CAPE VERDE

Date of Elections: 7 December 1985

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 Cape Verde, the National People's Assembly, comprises 83 members elected for 5 years, 20 more than in the previous legislature. There are in addition 66 substitutes to fill vacancies when they arise.

Electoral System

All Cape Verdean citizens who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote. Disqualified are persons deprived of the suffrage by court decision, those under special guardianship, persons in detention, the deaf-mute and the insane.

Electoral registers are drawn up on the constituency level. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors may be candidates for Parliament. Prior to the elections, local committees of the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), the country's sole party, organize electors' meetings at the district level, in factories, offices and all other work sites with a view to the compilation of the final list of candidates. Most Assembly candidates belong to the PAICV. In each of the 22 constituencies there is one Deputy for every 2,000 inhabitants, the minimum number of seats to be filled being two. The single list of candidates bears as many names as seats to be filled, plus substitute candidates; to be elected, candidates must obtain the majority of votes cast by the electorate. The substitutes fill parliamentary seats which fall vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Previous general elections had taken place in December 1980; all Assembly seats were won by the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), the only legal party in Cape Verde.

The 1985 election campaign was officially opened on 18 November by President of the Republic Aristides Maria Pereira. The final list of candidates was compiled after selection from among more than 200 persons at voters' meetings throughout the country, according to criteria of competence, aptitude and representativeness. Not all candidates were PAICV members; 34 were former Deputies.

On polling day, over 94% of the electorate cast positive votes for the candidates nominated. On 13 January 1986, the Assembly unanimously re-elected President Pereira for another five-year term. Three days later, Prime Minister Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires announced the composition of the new Council of Ministers.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors	143,303	
Voters	98,692	(68.8%)
Blank or void ballot papers	402	
Valid votes	98,290	

Political Group	Number of Seats
African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV)	83

2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category

Teachers	31
Members of the Government	14
Health sector	8
Tradesmen and industrialists	6
Jurists	4
Economists	3
Farmers	2
Others	81
	149*

3. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex

Men	128
Women	<u>21</u>
	149*

* Including the 66 substitutes.

