

## COMOROS

**Dates of Elections:** 8 and 15 December 1978

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the new Federal Assembly provided for by the Constitution of October 1978\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

In accordance with the terms of the 1978 Constitution, the unicameral Parliament of the Comoros, the Federal Assembly, comprises 38 members elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Comoran citizens who are at least 18 years of age, in full possession of their civil and political rights and under no legal disability, are entitled to vote.

Electoral registers are compiled on the level of prefectures of the country's different regions. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors at least 21 years of age are eligible for the Federal Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with all public functions or offices.

Each candidate must make a deposit of CFA 10,000 (equivalent to approximately 200 French francs), which is reimbursed if he obtains at least 10% of the votes cast in his constituency.

For election purposes, the Comoros are divided into 38 constituencies, each of which returns one Assembly member by majority vote in two ballots; a candidate is declared elected if he obtains an absolute majority of the votes cast in either ballot. The island of Grande-Comore comprises 18 constituencies, Anjouan has 15 and Moheli 5.

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

Following independence in 1975\*\*, all legislative activity was suspended under President of the Republic Ali Soilih. Mr. Soilih was overthrown in May 1978, after which a Political-Military Directory headed by Mr. Ahmed Abdallah and Mr. Mohammed Ahmed was set up.

A new Constitution providing for the establishment of a federal State was approved by popular referendum on 1 October 1978\*, and went into immediate effect on the islands of Grande-Comore, Anjouan and Moheli (the citizens of Mayotte had elected to remain

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 10.

\*\* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections AT (1975-1976)*, p. 7.

under French control). On 22 October, Mr. Abdallah was chosen as the first President of the newly-proclaimed Federal and Islamic Republic.

Assembly candidates ran as independents. Candidatures had to be submitted by 25 November, and were published by the Government on 30 November. All candidates benefited from the same facilities during the election campaign, which lasted from 30 November to 6 December.

Mr. Salim Ben Ali was appointed Prime Minister on 22 December. He announced the make-up of his Government on 28 December.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections

	First Ballot (8 December)	Second Ballot (15 December)
Number of registered electors . . .	191,468	71,849
Voters. . . . .	144,767(75.6%)	56,172(78.18%)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . .	1,219	366
Valid votes. . . . .	143,548	55,806

### 2. Distribution of Members of the Federal Assembly according to Professional Category

Civil servants. . . . .	35
Farmers. . . . .	2
Tradesmen. . . . .	1
	38

### 3. Distribution of Members of the Federal Assembly according to Sex

<b>Men</b> . . . . .	38
Women. . . . .	
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### 4. Distribution of Members of the Federal Assembly according to Age Group

20-30 years. . . . .	6
30-40. . . . .	15
40-50. . . . .	17
	38