

COMOROS

Date of Elections: 22 March 1987

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 the Comoros, the Federal Assembly, comprises 42 members elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Comorian 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 other public functions or offices.

Each candidate must make a deposit of CFA 10,000 (equivalent to 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 42 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 20 constituencies, Anjouan has 16 and Moheli 6.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies which arise between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The election date was announced on 10 February 1987 and the three-week campaign opened on 1 March. Earlier, President of the Republic Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane had announced that the polling would be free and open to all, and that candidates belonging to the ruling *Union pour le progres comorien* (UPC), the country's sole political party, would stand in an individual capacity for the enlarged Assembly's 42 seats.

On polling day, the 42 UPC candidates were all elected in the first round of voting as opponents of the regime alleged irregularities in the nomination and electoral processes. President Abdallah also heads the Council of Ministers.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections

Number of registered electors.	340,000	(approx.)
Voters.65%	(approx.)

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	42
Women	42