

CUBA

Date of Elections: 28 December 1981

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of its five-year term under the socialist Constitution of 1976.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Cuba, the National Assembly of People's Power, is composed of 499 Deputies elected by the country's municipal assemblies of people's power.

Electoral system

All Cuban citizens over the age of 16, except the mentally disabled and convicted criminals, are entitled to vote for the country's representative institutions. All citizens who are at least 18 years of age and have full political rights can be elected as Deputies to the National Assembly. Voting in elections is not compulsory.

Delegates to the 169 municipal assemblies of people's power are elected by popular and secret vote in the 10,736 constituencies in the country. In each constituency, the candidate obtaining the largest number of votes cast is considered elected. After municipal assemblies are constituted, the Deputies to the National Assembly are elected on the basis of secret ballots cast by municipal delegates. The candidates for these elections are selected and presented by a commission composed of representatives of the municipal organs of the Cuban Communist Party, the Young Communist League and the mass organizations. Candidates, however, need not necessarily be members of the Cuban Communist Party. Also, no monetary deposits are required from candidates. All expenses related to the electoral process are covered by the State. The number of Deputies per municipality depends on its population; there is one for every 20,000 inhabitants or fraction above 10,000, so that all municipalities are represented by at least one Deputy.

Once elected. National Assembly members continue working at their existing jobs; according to the Constitution, the status of Deputy does not entail personal privileges or economic benefits of any kind. Each Deputy is accountable to his electors who may recall him in case he betrays their confidence or commits an act unworthy of his office. Vacancies between general elections are filled through by-elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The election of candidates to the 169 municipal assemblies was held on 11 and 18 October 1981. A total of 6,097,139 registered voters (97.2% of the electorate) went to the polls and elected 9,763 delegates in the first round on 11 October. In the second and final round, the

remainder of the 10,736 seats were filled on 18 October 1981, with 1,156,216 voters (93.6% of the electorate) going to the polls.

The second five-year term of the National Assembly of People's Power was inaugurated on 28-29 December 1981. Sr. Flavio Bravo Pardo was elected President of the Assembly and Dr. Fidel Castro was re-elected (by the Assembly) as President of the Council of State (the highest representative body, being elected from among the Assembly's Deputies). Dr. Castro continues to be the Head of the State and the Government, and the First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party.

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

| | |
|--|------------|
| Leadership personnel. | 256 |
| Workers. | 80 |
| Technicians. | 61 |
| Teachers. | 28 |
| Public officials (service employees and civil servants). | 27 |
| Members of the armed forces. | 24 |
| Ministry of the Interior. | 13 |
| Peasants. | 6 |
| Others. | 4 |
| | 499 |

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Men. | 386 |
| Women | 113 |
| | 499 |

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 18-30 years | 24 |
| 31-40 » | 152 |
| 41-60 » | 299 |
| 61 and over. | 24 |
| | 499 |