

DJIBOUTI

Date of Elections: 21 May 1982

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament in the first such poll since independence was attained in June 1977*.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Djibouti, the National Assembly, is composed of 65 Deputies elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

Under the Electoral Law of October 1981**, Deputies are elected by party-list simple majority system in one round of voting, the number of candidates being equivalent to the number of parliamentary seats to be filled and the country as a whole forming a single constituency. The *Rassemblemeni populaire pour le Progres (RPP)* is alone entitled to nominate candidates; its list must be submitted at least 21 days prior to the election date.

Citizens who are qualified electors, 23 years of age or above and who have a clean judicial record, been resident in Djibouti for at least five years and know how to read, write and speak French or Arabic in a fluent fashion are eligible for election to the National Assembly. Certain public or government officials, judges and their substitutes, and members of the armed, police and security forces may not be members of Parliament while holding these posts and for two years after leaving the same.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Prior to independence on 27 June 1977, members of national legislature (Chamber of Deputies) were elected for five years on 8 May 1977, a single list of 65 candidates having been presented by the People's Alliance for Independence (*Rassemblemeni populaire pour l'indépendance*). In 1979, this political group was succeeded by the *Rassemblemeni populaire pour le Progres (RPP)*. Under the October 1981 Electoral Law, the RPP was the only party empowered to nominate candidates for the May 1982 elections. On polling day, this RPP list of 65 names was overwhelmingly supported by the electorate.

The President of the Republic is Mr. Hassan Gouled Aptidon and the Prime Minister is Mr. Barkat Gourad Hamadou.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections XI (1976-1977)*, p. 8.

** See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 11.

Statistics1. *Results of the Elections*

Number of registered electors	85,995
Voters	79,380 (92.3%)
Blank or void ballot papers	1,349
Valid votes	78,031
<i>Votes in favour of the</i> <i>Rassemblement populaire pour le progres list.</i>	78,031