

EGYPT

Date of Elections: 27 May 1984

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 Egypt, the People's Assembly, has 458 members*: 448 are elected, at least half of whom must be workers and farmers and 30 women; 10 are members appointed by the President of the Republic. The Assembly has a 5-year term.

Electoral System

All citizens at least 18 years old have the right to vote (naturalized citizens obtain this right five years after naturalization). Disqualified are the insane, undischarged bankrupts, persons convicted of crime or whose property has been sequestered, prisoners, persons who have been placed under guardianship for reasons of bad conduct or betrayal and persons who have been dismissed from employment in the Government or the public sector for dishonourable reasons.

Electoral registers are revised each year in December. Male electors are automatically registered; women, on request. Voting is compulsory for men, failure to do so resulting in a fine of one Egyptian pound.

Any candidate for election to the People's Assembly must be a qualified and registered elector who is at least 30 years old and proficient in reading and writing and who has either been completed or been exempted from military service. (Naturalized citizens may be candidates 10 years after naturalization.) Except in certain cases determined by the Assembly, the office of parliamentarian is incompatible with that of employee of the Government.

Every candidature must be accompanied by a monetary deposit of E£20 (approximately US\$16.50).

For election purposes, Egypt is divided into 48 constituencies. In each, members are elected by proportional representation party-list system. Each political party must obtain at least 8% of the total votes cast in order to gain parliamentary representation.

A *worker* is any person who, in industry, agriculture or the services, is engaged in manual or intellectual work, is dependent upon his work for his livelihood, and does not possess any diploma from a university, institute of higher education or military school. However, any

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

person who started out in life as a worker and later obtained a university diploma but has remained affiliated to his worker's trade union is regarded as a worker, notwithstanding his having obtained such diploma. A *farmer* is any person who, together with his wife and minor children, does not own more than 10 *feddans* (four hectares) of land, and for whom agriculture is the sole income and occupation. He must moreover reside in a rural area.

Parliamentary vacancies are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates on the list of the party which formerly held the seat.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The election date was set on 7 April 1984.

The expanded Assembly's 448 elective seats were contested by five groups: the ruling National Democratic Party of President of the Republic Hosni Mubarak, the centre-right New Wafd Party, the centre-left Socialist Labour Party, the National Progressive Unionist **Party**, and the Liberal Socialist Party. These fielded a total of some 4,000 candidates.

The election campaign was lively, the opposition parties being permitted - for the first time in years - to hold outdoor rallies and publish their own newspapers. Issues focused primarily on the economy.

On polling day, the ruling party won 391 seats as the three opposition groups in the outgoing assembly failed to win the 8% minimum necessary for parliamentary representation. The New Wafd Party, however, won 15% of the vote and 57 seats; its platform had favoured free enterprise, less government involvement in the economy and a more non-aligned foreign policy.

On 19 June, President Mubarak appointed the 10 additional members of the People's Assembly foreseen in the Constitution. On 17 July, a new Council of Ministers headed by Mr. Kamal Hassan Ali was announced.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors.	12,339,418	
Voters.	5,323,086	(43.1%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	176,521	
Valid votes.	5,146,565	

Political Group	Votes obtained		Number of Seats
National Democratic Party.	3,756,359	72.9	391*
New Wafd Party.	778,131	15.1	58
Socialist Labour Party.	364,040	7.1	4 "
National Progressive Unionist Party.	214,587	4.2	!••
Liberal Socialist Party.	33,448	0.7	—
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Copts (Egyptian Christians)			458

* Including one appointed member.

"Appointed members.

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Workers.	161
Farmers.	64
Others	<u>233</u>
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3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men	422
Women	<u>36</u>
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