

EGYPT

Dates of Elections: 6 and 13 April 1987

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the elective seats in Parliament following the premature dissolution of this body on 14 February 1987 due to the modification of some Articles of the People's Assembly Law*. The normal term of the dissolved Assembly was to end in June 1989.

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; 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, proficient in reading and writing and who has either 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, one independent member is elected by individual majority system and the others by proportional representation party-list system. At least half of the members should be workers or farmers.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 9.

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 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.

Each political party must obtain at least 8% of the total votes cast in order to gain parliamentary representation. Each independent must for his part obtain 20% support in any of the 48 constituencies.

By-elections are held to fill elective Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The election dates were set upon dissolution of the Parliament on 14 February 1987, and the electoral campaign officially opened on 6 March. The polling was contested by five parties: the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP); an alliance among the Socialist Labour Party, the Socialist Liberal Party and the Moslem Brotherhood; the right-wing New Wafd; the National Progressive Unionist Party; and the recently-formed Al-Omma Party. Some 3,700 candidates vied for the Assembly's 448 elective seats (1,700 for the 400 filled by proportional representation from party lists and 2,000 independents for the remaining 48 seats).

The election campaign was lively and marked by sporadic violence, the opposition parties being permitted to hold outdoor rallies, publish their own newspapers and advocate their programmes on both radio and television. On polling day, the centrist NDP of President of the Republic Hosni Mubarak retained its large though reduced parliamentary majority and the Islamic alliance emerged as the main opposition force. Voting continued on 13 April for nine Assembly seats. The first session of the new Parliament was held on 22 April.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors.	14,324,162	
Voters.	7,207,467	(50.45%)
Blank or void ballot papers. I.	402,559	
Valid votes.	6,824,908	

Political Group	% of Votes obtained	Number of Seats
National Democratic Party (NDP)	69	359
Alliance*. j	17.5	57
New <i>Wafd</i> Party.10	34
Independents.		8
		458

* Comprising the Socialist Labour Party, the Socialist Liberal Party and the Moslem Brotherhood.

2. *Distribution of Deputies according
to Professional Category*

Workers	160
Farmers	69
Others	229
	458

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men	440
Women	_18
	458