

## ETHIOPIA

Dates of Elections: June 23 to July 7, 1973

### Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all members of the Chamber of Deputies on the normal expiry of their term of office.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Ethiopia consists of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies.

The Senate comprises a maximum of members which is one-half the total of Deputies (125), all appointed by the Emperor for 6-year terms, one-third of whom are renewed every 2 years.

The Chamber of Deputies comprises 250 members elected for 4 years.

### Electoral System

All Ethiopian subjects by birth, of either sex, aged 21 years or more who are regularly domiciled or habitually present in any electoral district and who possess the qualifications required by the electoral district for candidates, from such district, to the Chamber of Deputies may vote. Persons deprived of civil rights or imprisoned on criminal charges are disqualified.

To be eligible for being a Deputy, a person must be, by birth, an Ethiopian subject who has reached the age of 25 years and who is a *bona fide* registered resident of the constituency concerned. He must furthermore meet the property qualifications required by the Electoral Law—that is, own real property worth E\$ 1,000 and personal property of ES 2,000.

For election purposes, the entire Ethiopian territory is divided into electoral districts containing as nearly as possible 200,000 inhabitants; each district is represented by 2 Deputies. In addition, each town with a population exceeding 30,000 inhabitants is entitled to one Deputy and to one additional Deputy for each 50,000 inhabitants in excess of 30,000.

### General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Since no political parties were tolerated by the 1955 Constitution, some 1,500 individual candidates stood for the 250 Deputies' seats at stake.

Prior to the 1973 elections, Emperor Haile Sellassie I — who has the power to originate legislation and convene annual and extraordinary sessions of Parliament — had proposed a land reform bill that concerned taxation of land and certain tenant rights.

Subsequent to the elections, the Government of Ethiopia was led by Prime Minister Mekonnen.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections*

Registered voters . . . . . 7,300,000 (approx.)