

ETHIOPIA

Date of Elections: 14 June 1987

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament provided for in the February 1987 Constitution* in the first parliamentary poll since the revolution of September 1974.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Ethiopia, the National *Shengo* (Assembly), comprises 835 members elected for 5 years. The Deputies represent the various segments of society, such as workers, peasants, intelligentsia, revolutionary army, nationalities and other democratic forces.

Electoral System

All Ethiopian citizens who are at least 18 years old are entitled to vote, and those aged 21 or more are eligible for Parliament. Candidates are nominated by organs of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, mass organizations, military units and other bodies so entitled by law.

Election of Deputies to the *Shengo* is based on population and conducted through direct and secret ballot in single-member constituencies. Three candidates contest each of the 835 seats. Each Deputy represents an average of 75,000 inhabitants in the rural constituencies and 15,000 in the urban constituencies.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The former bicameral Parliament elected in June/July 1973 was dissolved in the wake of the September 1974 revolution. Since then, Ethiopia had been ruled by a Provisional Military Administrative Council, chaired by Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam since February 1977. The new socialist Constitution adopted by national referendum on 1 February 1987 provides, *inter alia*, for a national Parliament (*Shengo*) as the Supreme organ of State power.

The date of the general elections was officially announced only two days in advance. In the running for the *Shengo's* 835 seats were some 2,500 candidates mostly nominated by the ruling Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE), the country's sole legal political organization. On a polling day marked by a reported 85% turnout, these candidates were overwhelmingly backed by the electorate in a vote observer[^] considered as legitimizing the regime of Lt. Col. Mengistu.

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

The *Shengo* members were sworn in in September 1987, at which time, in accordance with the Constitution, they proceeded to elect the President of the Republic (Lt. Col. Mengistu) and other officials of the State organs.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in Parliament*

Number of registered electors.	15,700,000	(approx.)
Voters.	13,400,000	(approx. 85.35%)

Political Group "f"jig[

Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE). 835