

GUINEA-BISSAU

Date of Elections: 15 June 1989

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 Guinea-Bissau, the National People's Assembly, comprises 150 Deputies elected for 5 years by the country's eight directly-elected regional councils.

Electoral System

All citizens at least 18 years of age who are not otherwise disqualified are entitled to vote for the country's representative institutions.

Members of the National People's Assembly are chosen by the country's eight regional councils, whose members are for their part popularly elected. Assembly members must be at least 21 years old.

Within each of the country's 37 sectors, candidates appear on lists drawn up by an electoral commission and approved by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the Republic's sole political organization. Electors have the choice of approving or rejecting the PAIGC's list as a whole. At least 50% of the voters of each sector must cast ballots for the poll to be valid.

According to the Constitution, Assembly members are deemed representatives of the country's citizenry as a whole and not only of the electoral circles that have elected them.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

On 1 June 1989, the country's electorate chose the 473 regional councillors, from whom the 150 members of the National People's Assembly were to be selected on 15 June. All candidates belonged to the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the sole political organization.

Participation in the regional councils poll was reportedly slightly more than 50%. Approximately 60% of the new members were newcomers, 30% were women, 40% peasants and the remainder comprising workers, intellectuals and party cadres.

On 19 June, Mr. Joao Bernardo Vieira, in power since 1980, was re-elected President of the Republic. He heads both the 15 member Council of State - the collegiate executive which is made up of Assembly members and assumes legislative functions between its sessions - and the Council of Ministers.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors.	223,592
<i>Votes in favour of the PAIGC.</i>	<i>214,400</i>

Political Group	Number of Seats
African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC)	150

* Of 1 June for the regional councils.