

## IVORY COAST

**Date of Elections:** November 29, 1970

### **Reason for Elections**

The Ivory Coast electorate was called upon to renew all the members of the National Assembly who, having been elected in 1965, had completed their term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

Under the terms of the Law of November 5, 1970 \*, the unicameral Parliament of the Ivory Coast, the National Assembly, is composed of 100 — previously 85 — Deputies elected for a period of 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

Male and female citizens of the Ivory Coast who are at least 21 years of age and enjoy their civil rights are electors as of right.

They are required to register, or re-register, on the electoral rolls every 5 years before the elections. Voting is not compulsory.

Electors no less than 23 years of age with no criminal record and whose names appear on a national list proposed by a party may be elected to Parliament.

The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with a number of offices (member of the Government or of the Economic and Social Council), with non-elective public offices and with a number of judicial offices, as well as with administrative offices in companies enjoying advantages afforded by the State and which have an exclusively financial purpose and which appeal for savings and credit, or in companies whose principal activity consists in providing State or public community services.

Prospective candidates are required to send two copies of their declaration to the Ministry of the Interior at the latest 21 days before the date of the elections. Lists proposed by the parties must include as many names as there are seats to be filled.

The Ivory Coast is divided into 24 constituencies. In each of these, the Deputies are elected by party-list simple plurality system without preferential vote or vote-splitting.

\* See Section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 5.

Legislative and presidential elections take place simultaneously, a double ballot paper being used.

Seats which become vacant in the course of a legislature are only refilled — by by-elections — provided that the number of remaining Deputies is less than four-fifths of the total strength of the Assembly and that the vacancies occur more than 12 months before expiry of the legislature.

**General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Following the 5th Congress of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast (PDCI), held at the end of October 1970, the names of 100 candidates selected from among 650 applicants by the executive authorities of the party were published on November 7, 1970. Under the terms of the Constitution, a number of lists may in fact be presented, but only one national PDCI list was put to the electorate in November 1970.

The names of 67 former Deputies and 33 new applicants were retained and proposed to the electors of the Ivory Coast. On the whole, the new applicants were younger than their retiring counterparts; the former undertook their electoral campaign with the accent on such issues as the rejuvenation of the Assembly, the betterment of the level of its members and the need for planning expansion. The electoral campaign was conducted in a peaceful manner.

On the day of the elections, the PDCI candidates obtained the massive support of the electorate who also gave similar support to Mr. Houphouët-Boigny, sole candidate to stand for the Presidency of the Republic.

Statistics

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

Number of registered voters. . . . .	2,020,090
Voters. . . . .	1,999,643 (99.4 %)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	2,076
Valid votes. . . . .	1,997,567

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats in the National Assembly	Number of Seats in the Previous Legislature
PDCI . . . . .	100	100	85

## 2. Distribution of Deputies According to Professional Category

Teaching profession . . . . .	25
Civil servants . . . . .	14
Engineers, technicians, contractors . . . . .	14
Farmers . . . . .	12
Doctors . . . . .	12
Railway workers . . . . .	6
Pharmacists . . . . .	5
Shopkeepers . . . . .	4
Jurists and judicial professions . . . . .	4
Para-medical professions . . . . .	3
Company director . . . . .	1
	100

## 3. Distribution of Deputies According to Sex

Men . . . . .	97
Women . . . . .	3
	100

## 4. Distribution of Deputies According to Age Group

Under 25 . . . . .	1
25-35 . . . . .	8
36-40 . . . . .	16
41-45 . . . . .	16
46-50 . . . . .	22
51-55 . . . . .	18
56-60 . . . . .	10
61-65 . . . . .	7
66-70 . . . . .	1
Over 70 . . . . .	1
	100

## 5. Average Age: 45 years and 6 months