

## KHMER REPUBLIC

Dates of Elections: September 3, 1972 (National Assembly)  
September 17, 1972 (Senate)

### Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for 32 members of the Senate and all the members of the National Assembly, newly established pursuant to the Constitution approved by popular referendum on April 30, 1972.

### Characteristics of Parliament

The Parliament of the Khmer Republic is bicameral, composed of the Senate and the National Assembly.

The Senate consists of 40 members elected for 6 years, half of whom are renewable every 3 years. Three-fifths of these Senators are elected indirectly in the country's different regions, one-fifth by the civil administration, and the remaining fifth by the Council of the Armed Forces.

The National Assembly consists of 126 members elected directly for 4 years.

### Electoral System

All citizens of either sex who are at least 18 years of age, registered on the electoral lists and in full possession of their civil rights are entitled to vote for members of the National Assembly. The age requirement is 40 to vote for Senators.

Electoral lists are revised every 4 years. Voting is not compulsory.

To be eligible for election to the National Assembly, a citizen of either sex must be at least 25 years old and a member of a political party. The age requirement is 40 for the Senate. Naturalized persons of less than 10 years' citizenship are not eligible. The holding of any other public office is incompatible with membership in either Chamber. Any parliamentarian may, however, also be a member of the High Court of Justice.

For elections to the National Assembly, the country is divided into 61 constituencies. In each, 1 to 3 Deputies are elected on the basis of a party-list majority system. Although the Constitution states that Senators are to be elected indirectly by simple majority, it further stipulates that all members of Parliament can be elected directly by party-list majority system in time of war or national crisis.

A by-election is held to fill a seat in the Parliament which becomes vacant between general elections.

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

Following public approval of the Constitutional referendum held on April 30, 1972, which provided for a new Parliament, the elections were contested by the Social Republican Party and the newly-formed *Pracheachon* (People's Party), whose name and symbol — the plough — were the same as those previously used by the Cambodian Communist Party. In protest against certain representation provisions of the new Electoral Law\*, both the Republican Party and Democratic Party, the 2 major Opposition groups, had decided, on August 3 and 6, 1972, respectively, to boycott the elections.

Major issues during the election campaign included the continuing armed conflict, means of consolidating the Republican regime and post-war economic development.

Led by Colonel Lon Non, the brother of President Lon Nol, the Social Republican Party won all 126 seats at stake in the National Assembly, all but 10 of its candidates being returned unopposed.

In the Senate elections held on September 17, the same party also won all 32 seats at stake, being uncontested for 24 of them.

The new Cabinet was formed on October 15.

**Statistics**

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

Number of registered voters	1,686,900
Voters . . . . .	1,325,559 (78.6 %)
Blank or void ballot papers	8,498
Valid votes . . . . .	1,317,061

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats in the National Assembly
Social Republican Party	126	1,304,207	99.1	126
<i>Pracheachon</i> . . . . .	10	12,854	0.9	
				126

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

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	/o	Number of Seats in the Senate
Social Republican Party . . . . .	32	989,196*	95.71	<b>32</b>
	8	43,171	4.29	
				32**

\* Including 30,116 votes for Senators representing the civil administration.

\*\* 8 more Senators (non-party military officers) are chosen by the Council of the Armed Forces.

*2. Distribution of Members of the National Assembly according to Professional Category*

Administrators. . . . .	.71
Liberal professions and superior administrative posts . . . . .	38
Workers. . . . .	.13
Businessmen and industrialists. . . . .	4
	126

*3. Distribution of Members of the National Assembly according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	.122
Women . . . . .	4
	126

*4. Distribution of Members of the National Assembly according to Age Group*

Under 30. . . . .	.12
30-50. . . . .	.97
Over 50. . . . .	.17
	126