

MADAGASCAR

Date of Elections: September 6, 1970

Reason for Elections

The electors were called to the polls to renew all the members of the National Assembly on normal expiration of their mandate.

Characteristics of Parliament

The Parliament of the Malagasy Republic consists of two Houses:

—• The National Assembly composed of 107 Deputies elected for 5 years on a basis of 1 per 50,000 inhabitants or per fraction of 30,000.

— The Senate or Council of Communities composed of:

.fii members elected in a ratio of 6 per province;

12 members nominated by the Government on a basis of 4 representing the economic interests, 4 the social interests and 4 the cultural interests;

6 members nominated by the Government on account of their competence in specific fields, 2 of whom must be specialized in economic questions.

Half of the 54 senators, with 6 year mandates, are renewed every 3 years.

Electoral System

All citizens of the Malagasy Republic, irrespective of sex, no less than 21 years of age, enjoying their civil and political rights and registered on the electoral rolls which are drawn up in each district and revised annually and just before each election, are entitled to vote for the election of the Deputies. Persons convicted of a felony or undergoing a jail sentence, non-rehabilitated bankrupt persons, those declared incapable of managing their own affairs and interned mentally defective persons may not be registered on the electoral rolls. The members of the Provincial General Councils and the Town and County Councillors participate in the election of the 36 elected senators. Voting is not compulsory.

Citizens of either sex, no less than 25 years of age for seats in the National Assembly and no less than 35 years of age for seats in the Senate, may stand for election provided they have the right to vote, that they are registered on the

electoral rolls and that they are legally in order as regards military recruitment and fiscal legislation.

Male citizens of the Malagasy Republic by naturalization may only be elected 10 years from the date of their naturalization while female citizens who have acquired nationality by marriage may only be elected 5 years from its acquisition. Moreover, some high officials, magistrates or military chiefs may not be elected in the constituency where they hold or have held office for less than 1 year.

The offices of Deputy and Senator may not be held jointly. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with any public, civil or military office (with the exception of Ministers, university professors and persons who hold a temporary office), with high positions in companies which are under contractual obligation to the State or which are publicly appealing to savings and credit.

One hundred and seven Deputies are elected in 7 constituencies (6 urban districts and the city of Tananarive) by party-list system without alliance, vote-splitting, incomplete lists or preferential vote.

The total number of seats to be filled in a given constituency are allotted to the list which has obtained no less than 55 % of the votes expressed. If no list meets this condition, the lists which have obtained less than 5 % of the votes are eliminated and the seats are distributed among the remaining lists by application of the Hondt method. In Tananarive, however, they are always distributed according to the electoral quotient system and the highest remainders.

The 36 elected Senators are returned in each province by party list system without alliance, vote-splitting or preferential vote, the seats being distributed according to the Hondt method.

In the case of a vacancy in the course of a legislature, the government may organize a by-election by simple majority system.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The electoral campaign for the foregoing legislative elections, the third to be organized since the country became independent, began on August 16, 1970.

The electoral joust opposed only two major political groups both with socialistic tendencies: the Social Democratic Party (PSD), created by President Tsiranana and the Independence Congress Party (AFKM) headed by Dr. Andriamangato.

These were in fact the only two parties to propose candidates in all the constituencies, while other minor groups such as Dr. Raseta's Movement for National Unity only sought to gain seats in Tananarive, where there is proportional distribution of seats. It is to be noted moreover that the AFKM only obtained seats in the capital (3 out of the 5 to be filled). The governmental

party (PSD) had made a notable renewal effort and about 40 young and new candidates, of whom 5 were women, appeared on the rolls.

For its part, the opposition party (AFKM) which wielded the banner of socialism principles, propounded a speedier nationalization of the economy and a break away from South Africa.

With the exception of a few skirmishes at the start of the electoral campaign between partisans of the PSD and of the AFKM, the campaign was conducted in a peaceful manner.

Statistics

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

Number of registered voters.	2,756,978
Voters.	2,612,956 (96 %)
Blank or void ballot papers.11,528
Valid votes.	2,601,428

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats in the National Assembly
Social Democratic Party (PSD)	2,413,421	92.3	104 (=)
Independence Congress Party (AFKM).186,626	7.2	3 (=)
Others.1,381	0.5	
			107

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	101
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	107