

## MADAGASCAR

**Date of Elections:** 28 August 1983

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament. General elections had previously been held in June 1977, and the members' 5-year term of office had been extended by 13 months.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Madagascar, the National People's Assembly, comprises 137 members elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of Madagascar who are at least 18 years old and in full possession of their civil rights are entitled to vote unless they have been convicted of a criminal offence.

Electoral registers are normally revised at the beginning of each calendar year and, exceptionally, prior to each election. Voting is regarded as a civic duty but is not compulsory.

Qualified electors at least 21 years of age, in full possession of their political rights, resident in Madagascar and in good standing with respect to obligations concerning national service and taxation are eligible to stand for election. Disqualified are persons under guardianship and citizens who were naturalized within the preceding 10 years. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the office of President of the Republic, membership of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, the post of High Councillor of the Constitutional High Court, active military service, a second elective mandate in local people's councils, or paid service on behalf of a foreign country or international organization.

Candidates for Parliament must be nominated by an organization or party belonging to the country's National Front (*Front national pour la defense de la revolution socialiste malgache*).

For electoral purposes, Madagascar is divided into 110 constituencies (equivalent to the "*fivondronampokotany*", or former sub-prefectures). In single-member constituencies, Deputies are elected by simple majority vote; in multi-member constituencies, election is by proportional representation list-system in conjunction with the rule of largest remainder.

Assembly seats which become vacant between general elections are filled within 60 days through by-elections, unless the vacancy occurs subsequent to the penultimate ordinary session of the legislature.

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

The life of Parliament had been extended by 13 months because of the intervening (November 1982) presidential election and the economic difficulties facing the country. The 1984 election campaign, which was generally calm, lasted 12 days. Although only parties

belonging to the ruling *Front national pour la defense de la revolution socialiste malgache* (FNDR) participated in the poll, all the FNDR's seven component parties, led by the *Avant-garde de la revolution malgache* (AREMA), nominated candidates for the Assembly's 137 seats; these totalled 565.

On polling day, AREMA, headed by President of the Republic Didier Ratsiraka, recorded an impressive triumph, capturing 117 seats. The main opposition party of the Congress of Independence (AKFM/K.DRSM) lost six of its previous 15 seats. President Tatsiraka, who had reshuffled his Council of Ministers on 1 July 1983, announced further changes on 21 October.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors	4,838,279
Voters . . . . .	3,519,997 (72.75%)
Blank or void ballots . . . . .	87,734
Valid votes . . . . .	3,432,263

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained		Number of Seats	Number of Seats held at Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections
<i>Front national pour la defense de la revolution socialiste malgache</i> (FNDR)						
- AREMA . . . . .	137	2,239,771	65.25	117	114	114
- MFM/MFT . . . . .	112	372,842	10.86	3	—	—
- VITM . . . . .	122	364,640	10.62	6	6	6
- AKFM/KDRSM . . . . .	83	300,809	8.76	9	15	15
- MONIMA-KAMIOVIOMBIO . . . . .	56	126,452	3.68	2	—	—
- VSM . . . . .	23	15,727	0.48	—	—	—
- UDECMA/KMTP . . . . .	32	12,022	0.35	—	2	2
				137	137	137

*2. Distribution of Deputies according  
to Professional Category*

Teachers. . . . .	37
Civil servants. . . . .	23
Farmers. . . . .	.14
Civil administrators. . . . .	.13
University professors. . . . .	9
Doctors. . . . .	7
Ministers of religion. . . . .	.6
Magistrates. . . . .	5
Liberal professions. . . . .	4
Midwives and nurses. . . . .	.3
Agricultural engineers. . . . .	2
Others. . . . .	<u>.12</u>
	135*

*3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	133
Women. . . . .	.2
	135*

*4. Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

20-30 years. . . . .	3
30-40. . . . .	28
40-50. . . . .	.61
50-60. . . . .	30
60-70. . . . .	.12
<u>Over 70. . . . .</u>	.1
	135*

\* Data on two Deputies unavailable.