

MALI

Date of Elections: 9 June 1985

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 Mali, the National Assembly, consists of 82 Deputies elected for 3 years.

Electoral System

All Malian citizens who are at least 21 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote if not otherwise disqualified by law. Moreover, citizens of other African countries who have their residence in Mali and are registered as electors may also vote if they satisfy general requirements pertaining to the electorate. Disqualified from voting are citizens who have been convicted of certain crimes, bankrupts, and persons under guardianship.

Electoral registers are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors of 25 years of age or more who have been domiciled in Mali for at least one year are eligible for the National Assembly. Ineligible are persons who have been naturalized within the preceding 10 years. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with certain public offices.

Candidates for the National Assembly are nominated by the country's sole political party, the Democratic Union of the Malian People (*Union démocratique du peuple malien* - UDPM). Election of Deputies takes place on the basis of a simple majority party-list system. By-elections are held to fill seats which become vacant between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Prior to the general elections, a reshuffle of the Council of Ministers was announced on 31 December 1984. In late March 1985, at the second ordinary congress of the Democratic Union of the Malian People (*Union démocratique du peuple malien* - UDPM), the country's ruling and sole legal political organization, President of the Republic Moussa Traore was re-elected as the party's secretary-general. The congress, *inter alia*, examined ways and means of restructuring and giving new life to the UDPM. It also approved the creation of a national fund for self-sufficiency in food, to be financed from party resources.

The legislative elections were combined with those for President of the Republic. On polling day, General Traore, in power since 1968, was re-elected for a further six-year term; he obtained 99.92% of the vote. The 82 UDPM candidates to the National Assembly, for their part, were favoured by 99.90% of the electorate. Of those elected, 35 were newcomers to the Assembly and three were women.

Statistics

1. Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Union democratique du peuple malien (UDPM)</i>	82

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	79
Women	3
	82