

## SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

**Date of Elections:** 30 September 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 Sao Tome and Principe, the National People's Assembly, is composed of 51 members elected for 5 years and is deemed the supreme organ of the State. All parliamentary candidates are members of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe (MLSTP - the country's sole party); they are proposed by a candidature commission and elected by the people's district assemblies.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens at least 18 years of age have the right to vote and hold office, with the exception of those legally disenfranchized.

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

Members of the National People's Assembly were elected by the people's district assemblies, which had themselves been chosen by the people from 16 to 20 August 1985. All National Assembly Deputies were MLSTP nominees.

Subsequent to the parliamentary poll, Mr. Manuel Pinto da Costa was re-elected President of the Republic by the Assembly. President Pinto da Costa has held office since July 1975, when the islands gained independence from Portugal. At the MLSTP congress which had been held from 26 to 28 September, the Party had "expressed its confidence in the President and in his policy of opening up the country on an economic and political level".

### **Statistics**

#### *1. Distribution of Seats in the National People's Assembly*

Political Group	Number <u>of Seats</u>
MLSTP	51