

SENEGAL

Date of Elections: February 25, 1968

Characteristics of Parliament:

The Senegalese Parliament consists of a National Assembly of 80 members whose mandate was increased, on June 20, 1967, from four to five years.

Voters went to the polls on February 25 to renew the entire Assembly following the regular dissolution of the previous Legislature.

Electoral System:

Deputies to the National Assembly are elected according to a single-ballot, majority party-list system, without vote-splitting or preferential votes. The entire country constitutes a single electoral college. No list may contain less names than the number of seats to be filled.

All Senegalese nationals of both sexes who are at least 21 years of age and who enjoy full civil and political rights are entitled to vote — apart from certain exceptions laid down by law.

Every registered voter is eligible for election to the National Assembly provided he is at least 25 years of age on polling day and has completely fulfilled all legal requirements regarding active military service. Naturalized foreigners and women who have acquired Senegalese nationality by marriage are eligible only after expiry of a period often years from the date of their naturalization.

Finally, an organic law adopted on June 20, 1967, put an end to the incompatibility which had existed previously between the functions of minister and deputy.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections:

The conditions in which the electoral campaign was conducted were different from the 1963 elections, in which the 80 seats in Parliament had been contested by two lists of candidates. The first was that of the *Union progressiste senegalaise* (UPS), formed as the result of the fusion in 1958 of the *Bloc populaire sen&galais* (BPS), headed by Mr. Senghor, and of the *Parti se'negalais d'action sociale* (PSAS), led by Mr. Lamine Gueye, and which was joined in October 1963 by the *Bloc des masses senfyalaises* (BMS). The second list gathered together, under the name of *Democratie et unite senigalaises* (DUS), a majority of militant members of the *Parti du regroupement africain-Senegal* (PRA-Senegal), a few personalities from the BMS, some supporters of the former Prime Minister, Mr. Mamadou Dia, and members of the Marxist-orientated *Parti africain de V independance* (PAI). The political situation has since developed in that the regrouping of political parties, which had already commenced, was pursued so that, on February 25, there was only a single list of 80 candidates before the electors.

The presentation of a single list under the auspices of the *Union progressiste senegalaise* had been made possible by the successive merger of the latter with the PRA-Senegal, in June 1966, and with the *Front national sinigalais* (formed by a group of ex-members of the BMS), in November 1967. The integration in the ranks of the UPS of a certain number of leaders and members of these two parties was provided for in the agreement sanctioning this merger. Hence, the list presented to the voters included, in particular, ten candidates who were former members of the PRA-S6negal and two others who had belonged to the FNS.

On polling day, this policy of reconciliation and national union for the economic and social progress of the country was widely approved by Senegalese citizens, both male and female, who went in large numbers to cast their votes for the UPS list, as indicated by the following figures.

Statistics:

Number of registered voters	1,306,791
Voters.1,215,730 (93.0%)
Blank or void ballot papers	5,746
Valid votes.1,209,984
Number of votes won by the UPS single list1,209,984