

SENEGAL

Date of Elections: February 26, 1978

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of the National Assembly on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Senegal, the National Assembly, consists of 100 members elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Senegalese citizens who are at least 21 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote. Disqualified from being registered as electors are persons convicted of crime or under sentence of imprisonment of specified length for certain offences, persons in contempt of court and undischarged bankrupts. Members of the armed forces on active service, as well as police and customs officials and those of the penitentiary system, cannot vote while holding these posts.

Registration on the electoral lists is compulsory. These lists are compiled at the local level and revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

Every registered voter is eligible for election to the National Assembly provided he is at least 25 years of age and has 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 of 10 years from the date of their naturalization. Ineligible are persons made so by court decision, those under guardianship, and convicted persons if their conviction prevents them from registering on an electoral list.

Governors and their deputies, certain high public officials, judges and senior officials of national services or public institutions are for their part ineligible while holding these offices and for six months thereafter.

The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with a number of offices or activities, including membership in the Economic and Social Council, holding of public office under foreign States or position in an international organization, and occupying the post of executive in a State enterprise, State-assisted company, savings and credit organization or company holding a government contract.

Lists of candidates for the National Assembly must be submitted by political parties no later than 60 days prior to the election date, accompanied by a monetary deposit. The latter is reimbursed if the list concerned obtains at least 5 % of the votes cast in the elections.

In accordance with the Electoral Code of 1976, subsequently modified in 1977 *, deputies are elected according to the party-list system, with proportional representation on the basis of an electoral quota which is computed on the national level; remaining seats are distributed on this same level in conformity with the rule of highest average. Electors cannot cast preferential votes, split their votes between different lists or limit their votes within the same list.

Parliamentary vacancies are normally filled by the " next-in-line " candidate on the list of the same party which held the seat in question. By-elections are resorted to within three months, should there remain no more names of potential deputies on the list concerned and the total number of deputies in the Assembly has been reduced to 70. No by-election is held within the last 12 months of the legislature.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Under the terms of a 1976 constitutional amendment **, the 1978 parliamentary elections — combined with those for municipalities and President of the Republic — were contested by three different political parties: the ruling *Parti socialiste* (PS), the centre-right *Parti démocratique sénégalais* (PDS), founded in 1974, and the Marxist-Leninist *Parti africain de libération* (PAI). The elections moreover marked the initial time that deputies were chosen, within the framework of the new Electoral Code, via proportional representation rather than majority vote.

During the 15-day campaign, all parties' expenses were financed by the State and all had equal access to radio and television.

While incumbent President Leopold Senghor — in power since independence in 1960 and challenged for the first time — won re-election for another five-year term, the PS retained its overwhelming position in the Assembly.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 10.

** See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections X (1975-1976)*, p. 9.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors.	1,566,250
Voters.	974,826(62.24%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	7,345
Valid votes.	967,481

Political Group	Number of Candidates	v , . . ,	%	Number of Seats
<i>Parti socialiste.</i>	100	790,799	81.74	82 (—18)
<i>Parti democratique senegalais</i> *	100	172,948	17.88	18 (+18)
<i>Parti africain de V indApendance</i> *	100	3,734	0.38	—
				100

* New party.

2. *Distribution of Deputies according
to Professional Category*

Civil servants.	28
Teachers.	28
Members of the medical profession.	8
Company directors, industrialists.	8
Lawyers.	2
Engineers.	2
Journalists.	2
Others.	22
	100

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men93
Women7
	Total

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

Under 30 years.5
30-46.30
45-59.50
60 and over.15
	100