

SENEGAL

Date of Elections: 27 February 1983

Purpose of Elections

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

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Senegal, the National Assembly, consists of 120 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. Persons pronounced as ineligible by court decision, those under guardianship, and convicted persons if their conviction prevents them from registering on an electoral list cannot seek election to the National Assembly.

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 of CFA 50,000. The latter is reimbursed if the list concerned obtains at least 5% of the votes cast in the elections.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XVI* (1981-1982), p. 21.

Under the terms of a 1982 amendment to the Electoral Code, the National Assembly members are chosen according to a mixed system of party-list majority vote and proportional representation; 60 are elected by simple majority vote at the departmental level, and the other half via proportional representation from lists of candidates presented by parties at the national level. In the latter case, seats remaining to be distributed after the first computation are allotted 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 Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Eight of the country's 14 legally recognized political parties contested the 1983 parliamentary elections, which were held the same day as those for President of the Republic. The election campaign, generally calm, lasted three weeks.

On polling day, incumbent President Abdou Diouf of the *Parti socialiste* (PS) - in power since Mr. Leopold Sedar Senghor retired in December 1980 - was overwhelmingly elected for a five-year term as his main opponents - from the *Parti democratique senegalais* (PDS) and the *Mouvement democratique populaire* (MDP) - together gained only some 16% of the vote. At the same time, the PS won 111 of the 120 National Assembly seats under the new electoral system adopted in 1982 (see above). These latter results were challenged by a number of opposition parties, but the country's Supreme Court, on 23 March, rejected their charges of electoral irregularities.

Following his inauguration, President Diouf announced the formation of a new Council of Ministers on 3 April.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors.	1,928,257
Voters	56% (approx.)
Valid votes.	1,087,451

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats
<i>Parti socialiste</i> (PS).	869,107	79.92	111 (+ 29)
<i>Parti democratique senegalais</i> (PDS).	151,970	13.98	8 (- 10)
<i>Rassemblement national democratique</i> (RND)	28,250	2.62	1 (+1)
<i>Mouvement democratique populaire</i> (MDP)	12,447	1.14	
<i>Ligue democratique - Mouvement pour le parti du travail</i> (LD-MPT).	12,204	1.12	
Others.	13,203	1.22	
			120*

¹ Twenty seats added since last elections.

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men	107
Women	<u>13</u>
	120