

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Date of Elections: 24 October 1984

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 National Parliament of Solomon Islands comprises 38 members elected for a maximum of 4 years.

Electoral System

All citizens of Solomon Islands who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote in the constituency in which they are ordinarily resident. Disqualified from voting are persons under sentence of death or imprisonment for at least six months, the insane and persons debarred because of election-connected offences.

Electoral registers are compiled on the ward level of each constituency and revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

Qualified electors who have attained the age of 21 years are eligible for election to Parliament. Disqualified are persons under allegiance to a foreign State, holders of public or election-connected offices, and undischarged bankrupts.

Candidates must be supported by at least three electors ordinarily resident in the same constituency and deposit a non-refundable sum of SIS100.

The 38 members of Parliament are elected in a like number of constituencies by simple majority vote.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies which arise between general elections.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Following the August 1980 general elections, Parliament approved a motion of no-confidence in Prime Minister Sir Peter Kenilorea (Solomon Islands United Party - SIUPA) one year later and selected Mr. Solomon Mamaloni (People's Alliance Party - PAP) to succeed him. There was a major Cabinet reshuffle in February 1984.

Some 230 candidates contested the 38 parliamentary seats. On polling day, the governing coalition comprising the PAP, the National Democratic Party (NADEPA) and independent

members went down to defeat and 19 incumbent members were unsuccessful. Subsequently, private negotiations took place with a view to choosing a new Prime Minister. Finally, on 19 November, Sir Peter recovered the position he had lost three years earlier; he then announced the formation of a new Cabinet.

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in Parliament*

Political Group	Number of Seats
Solomon Islands United Party (SIUPA)	13
People's Alliance Party (PAP)	12
National Democratic Party (NADEPA)	1
<i>Solomons Ano Sagufenua</i>	4
Independents	7
	37*

•Plus one vacancy.

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men	37
	37*

* Plus one vacancy.