

## SOMALIA

Date of Elections: March 26, 1969

### Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Somalia, the National Assembly, comprises 123 members elected for a 5-year term, plus 1 life deputy participating in the capacity of former President of the Republic.

On March 26, general elections were held for all the elective members of the Assembly upon the regular expiry of the legislature.

### **Electoral System**

All Somali citizens of both sexes who reach the age of 18 during the year in which elections are held are entitled to vote provided they are sound of mind and have not been deprived of their electoral rights, are not serving sentences of imprisonment and have not been interdicted from public office. There are no electoral rolls and voters cast their ballots in the constituency in which they are on polling day.

All electors at least 25 years old in the year of the election, and who are able to read and write, are eligible for election to Parliament, with the exception of employees of the State and other public bodies, and members of the armed forces and paramilitary organizations.

The national territory is divided into 48 constituencies, that is to say 1 for each district. Deputies are elected by majority vote in the 10 constituencies in which only 1 seat is to be filled and under

the blocked party-list system, with proportional representation, in those where 2 or more are to be filled.

In each constituency, all regularly constituted political parties may submit lists of candidates numbering at least twice and no more than 3 times the total number of seats to be filled, signed by at least 500 electors from the constituency.

Where only 1 seat is to be filled, this is attributed to the candidate whose name heads the list which receives most votes.

In the remaining 38 constituencies, the seats are distributed in the following manner.

An electoral quotient is obtained by dividing the total number of valid votes cast by the number of seats to be filled in the constituency. Each list receives a number of seats equal to the result of the division of its votes by the electoral quotient. If, after this operation, there remain any seats to be filled, a new distribution is made based on a second quotient calculated from the total of the remaining votes of each list, excluding those which failed to obtain a number of votes equal to the first quotient.

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

The major aspect of these elections was no doubt the appearance of a mass of small political parties which took part in the electoral campaign along with the Somali Youth League, the only party enjoying nation-wide support, and the Somali National Congress, which is strongest in the former Italian region of the country.

Whereas 21 parties contested the previous general elections, 64 different political groups, most of which were created just before the poll for purely electoral purposes, entered the field on this occasion with 2,214 candidates for the 123 available seats.

Elections, moreover, were held in only 43 constituencies; in the remaining 5, the Somali Youth League was the only party to submit candidates who were therefore automatically elected.

Thanks to the electoral system, 22 small parties managed to obtain 1 or 2 seats in Parliament. However, even before the opening

of the National Assembly, all the deputies of the other parties joined the ranks of the Somali Youth League, except for a single parliamentarian belonging to the Popular Movement for Democratic Action.

## Statistics

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

Voters . . . . .	879,554
Void or blank ballot papers . . . . .	97,320
Valid votes . . . . .	782,234

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats in Assembly
Somali Youth League . . . . .	260,046	33.24	73 (+ 5)
Socialist National Congress . . . . .	77,339	9.89	11 (— 12)
Somali Democratic Union . . . . .	46,064	5.89	2 (— 13)
Popular Movement for Democratic Action . . . . .	42,629	5.45	2 (+ 2)
<i>Hizbi Dastur Mustachil Somali</i> . . . . .	27,681	3.54	<b>8</b> (— 6)
<i>Partito Rivoluzionario Socialista Ope- rai</i> . . . . .	16,742	2.14	1 (— 1)
Somali African National Union . . . . .	42,006	5.43	6 (+ 5)
<i>Partito Socialista Somalo</i> . . . . .	31,058	3.97	2 (+ 2)
<i>Partito Liberale Giovani Somali</i> . . . . .	25,639	3.28	3 (+ 2)
<i>Partito Solidarieta Nazionale Somala</i>	12,269	1.57	1 (+ 1)
<i>Partito Movimento Popolare Somalo</i>	8,531	1.09	2 (+ 2)
<i>Partito Eepublicano Somalo</i> . . . . .	6,240	0.80	— (— 1)
<i>Partito Laburista Somalo</i> . . . . .	5,122	0.65	1 (+ 1)
<i>Partito Democrazia Musulmano</i> . . . . .	6,655	0.85	1 (+ •)
<i>Unione Manifesto Nazionale Somala</i>	2,908	0.37	1 (+ 1)
<i>Movimento Nazionale Somalo</i> . . . . .	4,290	0.55	— (— •)

*Somalia*

Political Group	Votes obtained	%	Number of Seats in Assembly
<i>Partito Democratico Africano Somalo</i>	3,471	0.44	1 (+ i)
United Somali Party . . . . .	13,942	1.78	— (- i)
Somali Danwadag Union Party . . . . .	5,389	0.69	1 (+ i)
Worker's and People's Democratic Party. . . . .	3,524	0.45	1 (+ i)
Somali United Party. . . . .	7,923	1.01	1 (+ i)
<i>Ururka Dadka Dalka.</i> . . . . .	13,543	1.73	<b>i</b> (+ <b>i</b> )
Somali National League ( <i>Cuore</i> ) . . . . .	5,404	0.69	i (-)
Ubah Party. . . . .	5,912	0.76	<b>I</b> (+ i)
Organization of Somali Unity . . . . .	4,353	0.56	i (+ i)
Progressive Socialist Union . . . . .	4,426	0.57	<b>I</b> (+ i)
All Somali Association . . . . .	5,395	0.69	<b>I</b> (+ i)
<i>Partito Amalgamazione Somala</i> . . . . .	2,870	0.37	i (+ i)
<i>Partito Democratico Somalo</i> . . . . .	2,293	0.29	<b>I</b> (+ i)
<i>Partito Giustizia e Liberta.</i> . . . . .	2,305	0.29	<b>I</b> (+ i)
34 Other Political Parties. . . . .	86,265	10.90	— (=)
		123	

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	123
Women . . . . .	123

3. *Average Age of Deputies: 40*