

SUDAN

Dates of Elections: 13 November 1981 to 15 January 1982

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following premature dissolution of this body on 5 October 1981 in accordance with Article 108 of the Constitution. General elections had previously been held in April-May 1980.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Sudan, the People's Assembly, consists of 151 members*, 138 elected and 13 appointed by the President of the Republic. All members have a 4-year term of office.

Of the elected members, 68 represent geographical areas (Northern Sudan: 52 and Southern Region: 16) and 70 represent the alliance of working forces. The 13 appointed members - who may not be Ministers - are meant to represent different talents.

Electoral System

Under the terms of the People's Assembly Election Rules 1980, any person is qualified to register on the electoral roll of a geographical constituency, or area, if he is a Sudanese at least 18 years of age who has been resident in the constituency concerned for a minimum of three months (nomads and semi-nomads are exempted from this last condition). Disqualified are the insane and persons not in full possession of their political rights.

Electoral rolls for constituencies of the units of the alliance of working forces include rolls of popular professional organizations at the provincial level (18 provinces) and rolls of sectoral (national) organizations.

Qualified electors who are at least 21 years of age, literate and who have not previously been convicted of an offence connected with honour, morals or the security of the State may be candidates for the People's Assembly. Further requirements are not being a member of the people's regional council and the producing of a certificate from the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU - the country's only recognized political organization and the ruling party) to the effect that there is no objection to the nomination concerned. The nominations of officials and workers in the Government or public sector must be accompanied by a certificate from the unit to which the official or worker belongs showing that he has ceased to perform his duties.

Nominations must be seconded by two qualified electors of the constituency in question and be accompanied by the payment of 100 non-refundable Sudanese pounds. Voting may be effected either by ballot paper or token.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 23.

Assembly seats which fall vacant between general elections are filled through by-elections, held within 60 days of the vacancy. Seats of appointed members are filled by presidential decree.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Before President Gaafar el-Nimeiry dissolved the Parliament on 5 October 1981, it consisted of 366 members. The number was reduced to 151 as part of a plan to decentralize powers and delegate more responsibilities to the regional assemblies in matters like health, education and welfare. Under a decision taken by the 1980 SSU Congress, the country was to be divided into six regions under their own governments and assemblies. Preliminary elections for the new Assembly were held in the third week of December 1981. The presidential appointments were announced on 8 February 1982.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly

Political Group	Number of Seats
Sudanese Socialist Union	151