

## TOGO

**Date of Elections:** 30 December 1979

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the members of the National Assembly provided for by the 1979 Constitution\*.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Togo, the National Assembly, comprises 67 Deputies elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All Togolese citizens who are at least 18 years of age and in full possession of their civil and political rights are entitled to vote.

All qualified electors who are at least 25 years of age and not under guardianship, who can read and write French or one of Togo's two national languages, and who have resided in the country for at least two years are eligible for election as Deputies. The residence requirement does not apply to certain citizens who have been abroad for study, training, special mission or public employment purposes.

The office of parliamentarian is incompatible with the post of Minister, President of the Supreme Court and certain other public functions.

Candidates for Parliament are all nominated by the *Rassemblement du peuple togolais*, the country's only political organization; the list of candidates must be submitted to the Ministry of the Interior at the latest 15 days prior to the polling date. Deputies are elected by majority vote party-list system.

Substitutes elected at the same time as titular members fill vacancies which arise between general elections.

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

In Togo's first elections since 1963, the single list of 67 candidates nominated by the *Rassemblement du peuple togolais* (RPT) was unanimously approved by the electorate. Prior to this poll, the minimum voting age had been lowered from 21 to 18 years.

The RPT was founded in 1969, two years after the National Assembly was dissolved and the 1963 Constitution abolished.

\* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, pp. 32-33.

The election campaign lasted 15 days. On the same day as the legislative elections, General Etienne Gnassingbe Eyadema (proclaimed President of the Republic in 1967) was elected President for a seven-year term, and a new Constitution was approved by a popular referendum. This new Constitution provided for the institutionalization of the **RPT** as Togo's sole legal political party.

On 3 March 1980, President Eyadema's Government was reconstituted.

## Statistics

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

Number of registered electors. . . . .	.1,303,970	
Voters. . . . .	.1,294,243	(99.25%)
Blank or void ballot papers. . . . .	43,301	
Valid votes. . . . .	.1,250,942	
<i>Votes in favour of the Rassemblement du peuple togolais.</i> . . . . .		.99.65%

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats
<i>Rassemblement du peuple togolais</i>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>