

## VANUATU

**Date of Elections:** 30 November 1987

### **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 Parliament of Vanuatu comprises 46 members elected for 4 years.

### **Electoral System**

Every citizen of Vanuatu who has reached the age of 18 is entitled to vote in the constituency in which he ordinarily resides. Electoral lists are compiled annually at the district level.

Qualified electors at least 25 years old are eligible to be candidates for Parliament. Disqualified are undischarged bankrupts, the insane and persons sentenced to imprisonment. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the office of President of the Republic, judge or magistrate, public officer, membership of the police forces or the National Council of Chiefs, and membership of the teaching profession.

Candidates must be supported by at least five electors of their constituency and deposit a sum of *vatu* 10,000 (approximately US\$86), which is reimbursed if the candidate obtains not less than 5% of the votes cast in his constituency.

Members of Parliament are elected in 14 constituencies through a system which includes an element of proportional representation to ensure fair representation of different political groups and opinions. By-elections are held to fill vacancies which arise between general elections.

### **Background and Outcome of the Elections**

The 1987 general elections were the second since independence in 1980. Following the November 1983 poll, the Prime Minister, Father Walter Lini (*Vanuaaku Pali* - VP) overcame a motion of no confidence in his Government introduced by the opposition Union of

Moderate Parties (UMP) in November 1985. Father Lini was also criticized by the President of the Republic, Mr. George Sokomanu, who alleged that the Prime Minister's non-aligned foreign policy aggravated Vanuatu's domestic problems, particularly in the economic sector. Altogether there were over 100 candidates.

On election day, the socialist VP defeated the francophone UMP by a reduced margin in the enlarged Parliament, capturing 25 seats to the latter's 21. Prime Minister Lini formed a new Council of Ministers in January 1988.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in Parliament

Number of registered electors. . . . .	.70,000 (approx.)
Voters. . . . .	83% (approx.)

Political Group	% of Votes obtained	Number of Seats
<i>Vanuaaku Pali</i> (VP). . . . .	47	26 (+ 2)
Union of Moderate Parties (UMP)	42	20 (+ 7)
		46*

\* Seven seats added since last elections.