

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

**Date of Elections:** September 22, 1968

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

Equatorial Guinea's unicameral Parliament, the National Assembly, comprises 35 deputies elected for 5 years in the following ratio:

- 19 for the continental territory of Rio Muni;
- 12 for the island of Fernando Poo;
- 2 for the island of Annobon;  
2 for the group of islands of Corisco, Elobey-Grande, Elobey-Chico and adjacent islets.

On September 22, Guinean citizens went to the polls to elect the representatives of the first National Parliament of Equatorial Guinea, which became officially independent on October 12, 1968\*.

### **Electoral System**

Electoral procedure was set out under a number of provisions of the Constitution adopted by the people on August 11 and in Decree No. 2070/1968 proclaimed by the Head of the Spanish State on August 16, 1968.

All citizens of both sexes, of African stock and aged at least 21 years, who were born, or whose parents were born, in Equatorial Guinea and who were registered on the electoral rolls were entitled to participate in the elections.

To be eligible for the National Assembly, candidates were required to fulfil the voting conditions, know how to read and write, not

\* See *Parliamentary Developments in the World*, p. 8.

be under guardianship, not hold a post of magistrate nor be members of the armed forces and, finally, be natives of the province in which they were up for election. Furthermore, candidatures had to be submitted either by one of the political groups which participated in the Constitutional Conference in Madrid or by a group of voters comprising at least 2 per cent of the registered electorate of the relevant constituency.

Electoral procedure varied among the constituencies:

— The deputies of Rio Muni and Fernando Poo were elected on the party-list system, without preferential vote or vote-splitting, with proportional representation based on a quota fixed by dividing the number of valid votes cast by the number of seats to be filled and attributing unfilled seats to the list with the greatest remainder. It should be noted, however, that any list obtaining less than 5 per cent of the votes cast was automatically eliminated. As regards the attribution of seats within each list, this was based strictly upon the order in which the candidates' names appeared on it.

— The deputies of the 2 other constituencies were elected on a single-ballot party-list system.

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

The elections took place a few weeks after the referendum in which the people of Guinea had voted in favour of independence and coincided with the first round of the presidential elections organized on September 22 and October 2, 1968.

The electoral campaign involved 4 parties which submitted candidates both for the National Assembly and for the presidency. The presidential nominee of the Movement for National Unity of Equatorial Guinea (MUNGE) was Mr. Bonifacio Ondo Edu, then Prime Minister of the autonomous Government; the candidate of the National Liberation Movement of Equatorial Guinea (MONALIGE) was Mr. Atanasio N'Dongo Migone, who was returning to Guinea

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after several years of exile; the Popular Idea of Equatorial Guinea (IPGE), reinforced by fractions of the MUNGE and MONALIGE parties, supported Mr. Francisco Macias Nguema, Deputy Prime Minister; finally, the *Union Bubi*, whose supporters came from the main ethnic group of Fernando Poo and which, prior to the referendum, had militated in favour of this island's separation from Rio Muni, was represented in the presidential race by Mr. Edmundo Bosio Divo.

Almost 100,000 of the 125,253 registered electors took part in the September 22 poll, for which detailed results are not yet available, apart from the distribution of seats in Parliament

The first round of the presidential election showed Mr. F. Macias in the lead with 36,716 votes, but without the necessary absolute majority. A second round was therefore organized on October 2, 1968, in which Mr. Macias, benefiting from the withdrawal of Mr. N'Dongo and Mr. Basio, was victorious with 68,310 votes against Mr. Ondo's 40,254.

*(See Statistics overleaf)*

## Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the National Assembly  
following the Elections*

Political Group	Distribution of Deputies by Constituency				Number of Seats in the National Assembly
	Rio Muni	Fernando Poo	Annobon	Corisco/ Elobey	
National Liberation Move- ment of Equatorial Guinea (MONALIGE) . . . . .	3	5		2	10
Coalition of Popular Idea of Equatorial Guinea (IPGE) and MONAL- IGE and MUNGE frac- tions . . . . .	9	—	—	—	9
Movement for National Unity of Equatorial Guinea (MUNGE) . . . . .	7		2		9
<i>Union Bubi</i> . . . . .	—	7	—	—	7
	19	12	2	2	35

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	33
Women . . . . .	2
	35