

## PHILIPPINES

**Date of Elections:** November 11, 1969

### Characteristics of Parliament

The Philippine Parliament is bicameral and consists of:

— The Chamber of Representatives, comprising 110 members elected for 4 years.

— The Senate, a third of whose 24 members, elected for 6 years, are renewed every 2 years.

On November 11, the citizens were called upon to fill 8 vacancies in the Senate upon the normal expiry of their holders' mandate, and to renew the entire Chamber of Representatives upon the normal expiry of the preceding legislature.

### Electoral System

All literate Philippine citizens of either sex, aged 21 and over, who have been resident in the country for one year and in their constituency for 6 months, are allowed to participate in the elections, provided their name appears in the electoral registers — which are revised every 2 years before the presidential elections that coincide with the legislative elections — and provided they are of sound mind, able to fill in their ballot themselves and, of course, enjoy full civil and political rights.

Voting is compulsory but the law provides no punishment for abstentionists.

To be eligible for election to the Chamber of Representatives, candidates must be native citizens of the Philippines, aged at least 25 and resident for one year in the province in which they are contesting a seat. Candidates to the Senate must be at least 35 years of age and resident in the country for 2 years.

The 110 members of the Chamber of Representatives are elected in single-member constituencies by simple plurality of vote.

Senatorial elections — for 8 seats each time — are held throughout the country, which constitutes a single electoral college, by plurinomial majority ballot. The voter fills in the names of 8 candidates on his ballot paper, in order of preference. The 8 candidates with the greatest number of votes are elected.

Should a vacancy occur in the Chamber of Representatives at least 10 months before the expiry of a legislature, a by-election is held to fill the seat.

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

The elections were of major importance as the Philippine citizens had to elect a new President of the Republic concurrently with the entire Chamber of Representatives and one-third of the Senate.

Two parties contested the elections, the Nacionalista Party led by Mr. Marcos, outgoing President, and the Liberal Party led by Mr. Osmena. Both leaders were presidential candidates.

Both parties had put forward candidates for the Chamber of Representatives in each of the 110 constituencies. Throughout the territory, 16 candidates — 8 from each party — contested the 8 Senate seats.

The very active electoral campaign centred on the development of the country and its relations with the United States. As in previous elections, the campaign was characterized by a certain number of acts of violence. It should be noted that very definite legal provisions are made for the electoral campaign; for instance, candidates for Parliament are forbidden to spend on their propaganda a sum greater than the annual parliamentary allowance.

The success of the outgoing President, who had led a particularly dynamic campaign, was indisputable. His party, which already had a large majority, nearly doubled its membership in the Chamber of Representatives and gained one seat in the Senate.

## Statistics

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

Number of registered voters . . . . .	10,300,898
Voters . . . . .	8,202,793 (79.6 %)
Blank or void ballot papers . . . . .	140,989
Valid votes . . . . .	8,061,804

Political Group	Votes obtained in Presidential Elections	<sup>OF THE 110</sup> Chamber of Representatives	Number of Senators elected on 11.X.69
Nacionalista Party . . . . .	5,017,343	90 (+44)	7
Liberal Party . . . . .	3,043,122	16 (^42)	1

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\* When these figures were communicated to the CIDP, the results of the elections in 4 constituencies had not yet been announced, pending a decision of the Supreme Court.

2. *Distribution of Members of the Chamber of Representatives  
according to Professional Category*

Lawyers. . . . .	68
Businessmen. . . . .	17
Engineers. . . . .	7
Farmers. . . . .	3
Retired officers. . . . .	3
Dentists. . . . .	2
Certified public accountants. . . . .	2
Journalists. . . . .	2
Physicians. . . . .	2
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3. *Distribution of Members of the Chamber of Representatives  
according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	103
Women. . . . .	3
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