

SUDAN

Dates of Elections: February 2 to 11, 1978

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office. Previous general elections were held in May 1974*.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Sudan, the People's Assembly, consists of 304** members — 274 elected and 30 appointed by the President of the Republic. All members have 4-year terms of office.

In accordance with the Constitution, the elected members represent geographical areas (136), administrative units (36) and alliances of working forces of the people (102). The 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 1977***, any person is qualified to register in the electoral roll of a geographic constituency, or area, if he is a Sudanese at least 18 years of age who is of sound mind and enjoying his political rights and who has been resident in the constituency concerned for a minimum of three months (nomads and semi-nomads are exempted from this last condition).

Electoral rolls for constituencies of the units of the alliance of the working force of the people include rolls of popular organizations at the provincial level and rolls of sectoral (national) organizations at the national level. The former embrace all members of the popular organization's executive committee and the regional district executive committee. The latter comprise groups of farmers, workers, national capitalists, regular forces, leaders of the public service, holders of various university degrees, teachers, co-operative officers, technical and semi-technical officers, semi-professional officials, officials of the general list of clerks and departmental clerks and storekeepers, certified accountants and bookkeepers, parents and teachers school councils, and co-operative unions.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections VIII* (1973-1974), p. 8.

** See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 11-12.

*** See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 11.

The electoral rolls for constituencies of the administrative units, or provinces, consist of the members of the people's executive council of the province and members of area, town and rural councils in the province.

Literate citizens who are at least 21 years of age, of sound mind, enjoying their political rights and not previously convicted of an offence connected with honour, morals or the security of the State qualify as 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 (the country's only recognized political organization) 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 50 non-refundable Sudanese pounds.

Assembly members are elected by simple majority. There are 136 single-member constituencies for the geographic, or territorial, seats; 18 constituencies for the 54 seats allotted to the popular organizations within the framework of the units of the working forces of the people; 24 constituencies for the 48 seats allotted to the sectoral (national) organizations within this same framework; and 18 constituencies for the 36 seats allotted to administrative units. Voting may be effected either by ballot paper or token.

Assembly seats which fall vacant between elections are filled through by-elections, held within 60 days of the vacancy. Appointed seats are filled by presidential appointment.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The 1978 elections were the first since the size of the People's Assembly had been increased to 304 members by legislation promulgated in October 1977. It will be recalled that the previous membership of the Assembly was set at 250 deputies: 125 elected, 100 nominated by workers and other groups and 25 appointed by the President.

The country's sole legal political organization is the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU), founded in 1972. All parliamentary candidates must be approved on the basis of a "certificate of non-objection" issued by the SSU. The President of the Republic — and at the same time the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance — is General Gaafar Mohammed Nimeri.

Sudan

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the People's Assembly*

Political Group	Number of seats
Sudanese Socialist Union	304

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category*

Public servants.	108
Teachers.	64
Businessmen.	41
Farmers.	30
Administrative officers of local government	13
Workers.	10
Members of the legal profession.	10
Army officers.	8
Engineers.	5
Agriculturists.	5
Veterinarians.	5
Doctors.	3
Economists.	2
	304

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men.	284
Women.	20
	304

4. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Age Group*

21-30 years.	26
31-40.	137
41-50.	97
51-60.	37
61-70.	6
71-80.	1
	304