

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Date of Elections: 12 February 1985

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 the Republic of Korea, the National Assembly, comprises 276 members elected for 4 years. Of these, 184 are elected directly from 92 districts and 92 seats are set aside for proportional representation. All members have the same status while in office.

Electoral System

All citizens who have attained the age of 20 are entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane, undischarged bankrupts, persons convicted of crime unless the execution of the sentence has been suspended or the term of imprisonment completed, and persons convicted of electoral fraud.

Electoral registers are compiled on the local (city, county, town) level as of the announcement of the polling day and revised continuously during this pre-election period. Voting is not compulsory.

Every qualified elector who has attained the age of 25 may be a candidate for the National Assembly. Certain government officials, members of the armed forces, holders of election-connected offices, employees of public corporations and of agricultural, marine and rancher co-operatives may not simultaneously be Assembly members.

Candidates may figure on party lists or run as independents. In the latter case, they need the support of 500 to 700 voters in their constituency. All candidates must make a monetary deposit - 7,000,000 *won* for party nominees, 15,000,000 *won* for independents; these sums are forfeited if at least one-third of the valid votes cast in the constituency are not obtained by each unsuccessful candidate.

Under the Electoral Law, Assembly members are chosen according to a combined system of simple majority direct election and proportional representation. The party that wins the most seats via simple majority in the 92 two-member district constituencies is automatically given two-thirds of the remaining 92 seats, with the rest divided proportionately among the other parties in accordance with their winnings, on condition that these have captured at least five elective seats. No one party may hold more than 55.4% of all parliamentary seats. All minor parties must be dissolved if they have not won at least one seat or 2% of the valid votes cast.

By-elections are held to fill constituency seats which fall vacant between general elections, while vacant proportional representation seats are filled by the "next-in-line" candidates of the political party concerned.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The election date was set on 23 January 1985. During the three-week campaign, the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) stood on its record and stressed the nation's continuing political stability and economic growth (about 8% in 1984). The newly-formed opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) called for democratic reform, especially at the local level, while the Democratic Korea Party (DKP), among others, advocated a direct presidential election system. A total of 440 candidates from nine parties and 29 independents vied for the 184 directly-elected Assembly seats.

Polling day was marked by a high voter turnout. According to final results, the DJP retained control of the 276-seat Assembly but the showing of the opposition was considerably stronger than predicted. The NKDP succeeded in capturing 29% of the popular vote to emerge as the largest of three opposition groups; it gained numerous seats at the expense of the DKP. The DJP also gained 61 of the proportional representation seats, giving it a grand total of 148, three less than in the previous legislature.

On 18 February, a new Cabinet headed by Mr. Lho Shin Yong was formed.

Statistics

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

Number of registered electors	23,987,830
Voters	20,286,672 (84.57%)
Blank or void ballot papers	312,029
Valid votes	19,974,643

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	" „	Number of Seats		Total Number of Seats
				„• Election	Proportional Representation	
Democratic Justice Party (DJP)	92	7,040,811	35.25	87	61	148 (-3)
New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP)	93	5,843,827	29.26	50	17	67 (+67)
Democratic Korea Party (DKP)	92	3,930,966	19.68	26	9	35 (-46)
Korea National Party (KNP)	71	1,828,744	9.15	15	5	20 (-5)
Others	63	680,267	3.41	2		2 (-6)
Independents	29	650,028	3.25	4		<u>4 (-7)</u>
				184	92	276

Subsequent to the elections, many elected DKP members left their party to join the NKDP. As of 10 May 1985, distribution of National Assembly seats was thus the following:

DJP	148
NKDP	103
KNP	20
DKP	3
Independents	<u>2</u>
	276

2. *Distribution of Members of the National Assembly
according to Professional Category*

Politicians.	167
Businessmen.	31
Civil servants.	21
Women's circles.	8
Lawyers.	7
Journalists.	4
Others.	38
	276

3. *Distribution of Members of the National Assembly
according to Sex*

Men.	268
Women.	8
	276

4. *Distribution of Members of the National Assembly
according to Age Group*

31-35 years.	1
36-40 ».	6
41-45 ».	39
46-50 ».	95
51-55 ».	59
56-60 ».	49
61-65 ».	21
66-70 ».	5
Over 71 years.	1
	276