

Ethnic Albanian leaders complained that polling boards strictly enforced the rules that electors had to present identity cards to vote in predominantly ethnic Albanian areas but not in predominantly ethnic Macedonian regions. Otherwise, most complaints lodged by the political parties concerned the inaccuracy of the voter register and the failure to make it public.

Following the election, VMRO-DPMNE (*Vnatesna Makedonska Revolucionerna Organizacija Demokratska Partija za Makedonsko Nacionalno Edinstvo* or the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation-Democratic Party for Macedonian Unity), SDSM (*Socijal Demokratski Sojuz na Makedonija* or Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia) and PDP (*Partita per Prosperitet Demokratik* or Party of Democratic Prosperity) formed an uneasy coalition. Frequent walk-outs by VMRO-DPMNE and the ethnic Albanian parliamentarians, however, hampered the legislative process. Often, parliamentary sessions were cancelled because there were not sufficient members present to form a quorum. The parliament failed to reform the constitution, electoral system, privatisation, government administration and a number of other issues confronting the new republic. Increasingly dysfunctional government finally collapsed in July 1992 following a vote of no confidence in parliament. VMRO-DPMNE withdrew from government and joined the opposition. The new coalition government was a marriage of convenience and inherently unstable.

Under these circumstances, new presidential and parliamentary elections were called for October 1994 under the legal framework of the old Yugoslav laws, old electoral districts and using an outdated voter register. More than 1,700 candidates competed for the 120 parliamentary seats. Candidates represented 37 parties and 284 ran as independents. In many respects the 1994 polls were simply a rerun of 1990. The first round of voting, however, was marred by a series of administrative errors and inconsistent application of regulations.

More than 50 percent of the electorate did not receive an official invitation to vote. This meant that voters did not know which polling site they had been assigned to. Moreover, the voter register was inaccurate and out-dated. Family members were often assigned to different polling sites and names of deceased voters and emigrants appeared on the list. As in 1990, many people were unable to vote because they did not have the necessary documentation such as newly-issued passports or citizenship certificates. Again, ethnic Albanians were disproportionately disqualified from casting ballots.

International and domestic election monitors noted that voter lists were incomplete and inaccurate and polling officials were inadequately trained. The monitors judged that there was little evidence of a co-ordinated pattern of disenfranchisement and that most problems