

BURUNDI

Date of Elections: 22 October 1982

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the elective seats in Parliament for the first time since the national legislature was dissolved in August 1966.

Characteristics of Parliament

Under the terms of the 1981 Constitution*, the unicameral Parliament of Burundi, the National Assembly, comprises 52 elected members and 13 appointed by the President of the Republic. All Deputies have 5-year terms of office.

Electoral System

All Assembly members are nominated by the *Union pour le Progres National* (UPRONA), the country's sole legal political organization, and elected by direct universal adult suffrage.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The previous National Assembly was elected in May 1965 and dissolved in August 1966, after which Burundi became a republic. No national legislature therefore existed until the October 1982 elections, held for the Parliament foreseen in the November 1981 Constitution.

The *Union pour le Progres National* (UPRONA) is the country's sole legal political party. For the 1982 poll, UPRONA nominated 104 candidates (twice the number of the Assembly's elective seats), who had been chosen by local party selection committees. These were overwhelmingly backed on election day in a voter turnout of approximately 95%.

The newly-elected Assembly met for the first time on 1 November. On 8 November, President of the Republic Jean-Baptiste Bagaza announced the formation of a new Council of Ministers.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XVI* (1981-1982), p. 10.