

MOZAMBIQUE

Dates of Elections: December 1 to 4, 1977

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament in the first such poll since the attainment of independence in 1975 *. Prior to the elections, the 210-member provisional National People's Assembly had approved an Electoral Law that detailed the manner of choosing the new Assembly members.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Mozambique, the People's Assembly, is composed of a maximum of 210 members.

Electoral System

All Mozambican citizens over 18 years of age are entitled to vote and be elected to the People's Assembly, with the exception of those legally deprived of such rights.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The date of the People's Assembly elections was announced in August 1977 by President of the Republic Samora Machel. This poll was preceded by voting for deputies at local, district and provincial levels, commencing on September 25, 1977.

Lists of Assembly candidates were presented exclusively by the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO), founded in 1962 by the merger of three existing nationalist parties. At its third party congress in February 1977, it had been announced that FRELIMO had been transformed from a guerrilla movement into a Marxist-Leninist "vanguard party".

The newly-elected Assembly held its first session on December 23. On April 22, 1978, President Machel announced a reorganization of the 18-man Council of Ministers.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections X* (1975-1976), p. 9.

Statistics

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

Political Group	Number of Seats
Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELLMO)	210