

MOZAMBIQUE

Dates of Elections: 15 August to 15 December 1986

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament in the first such poll since 1977.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Mozambique, the People's Assembly, is composed of a maximum of 249 members who are indirectly elected by provincial assemblies for a term of 5 years. Most of the Deputies are officials of the ruling FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) Party.

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. Disqualified from election are persons under confinement, those belonging to colonialist or imperialist organizations and the insane.

Indirect election of Deputies to the national People's Assembly by the country's provincial legislatures culminates a pyramid-like structure at the basis of which there are directly-elected local people's assemblies. These choose delegates to district assemblies which, in turn, elect delegates to provincial assemblies.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

General elections were previously held two years after independence, in 1977. According to the Constitution, they should be held every five years. But the military situation in the country (especially the Government's continuing struggle against rebels of the MNR, the national resistance group) had led to several postponements of the polling for security reasons.

The nationwide electoral process commenced on 15 August 1986 and was due to last three months. However, polling was temporarily suspended in October, after the death of President of the Republic Samora Machel. Following the appointment of Mr. Joaquim Chissano as President, the elections were resumed. District assemblies were chosen until 25 November and the 11 provincial assemblies until December. All 299 national candidates were nominated by FRELIMO (the Mozambique Liberation Front), the country's only political party. On election day, 249 of these were chosen along with 10 substitute members.

In January 1987, a reshuffle of the Council of Ministers took place. The Prime Minister is Mr. Mario Machungo.

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

<u>Political Group</u>	<u>of Seats</u>
FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) . . .	249

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category

Public officials.	28.1%
Manual workers.	21.7%
Farmers.	17.7%
Members of the armed and security forces . . .	16.9%
Others.	15.6%
	100%

3. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men	210
Women.	39
	249