

NAURU

Date of **Elections**: December 18, 1976

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Nauru comprises 18 members elected for 3 years.

Electoral System

All citizens who have attained the age of 20 years and are resident in the country may vote in general elections unless they are insane or have been convicted and are under sentence for an offence punishable by imprisonment for one year or longer. Voting is compulsory except in certain specified instances.

Any citizen who has attained the age of 20 years is qualified to be elected as a member of Parliament unless he is insane, an undischarged bankrupt, under sentence for an offence punishable by death or imprisonment for at least one year, does not possess the required residence or domicile qualifications, or holds an office of profit in the service of Nauru or of a statutory corporation.

A written nomination of a candidate must be submitted at least 14 days prior to polling day, signed by the candidate and two or more electors of his district.

For election purposes, Nauru is divided into eight constituencies; two members are returned in seven of these, four in the eighth, according to a system of preferential vote. In each constituency, the candidate who has received the largest number of first preference votes is, if that number constitutes an absolute majority of these votes cast, declared elected.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

On December 22, 1976 — four days after the general elections — the new members of Parliament of this small island in the Central Pacific elected one

of their number, Mr. Bernard Dowiyogo, as President of the Republic. Mr. Dowiyogo was chosen to replace Mr. Hammer De Roburt, who had been Head of State since 1968. A new Cabinet was formed.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections*

Votes cast	1,348
Blank or void ballot papers	193
Valid votes	1,155