

ZAIRE

Dates of Elections: 18 and 19 September 1982

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Zaire, the Legislative Council, comprises 310 members* (*Commissaires du Peuple*, or "People's Commissioners") elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All citizens of Zaire aged 18 years or more who have resided in a constituency for at least one year may vote in that same constituency if they are not, on election day, imprisoned, confined because of mental derangement, undischarged bankrupts, under allegiance to a foreign State or residing abroad. Persons responsible for a serious breach of Party discipline in the last five years are also disqualified.

Electoral registers are revised before each election at the level of the local community or zone. Voting is compulsory.

Qualified electors at least 25 years of age are eligible for the Legislative Council. Ineligible are persons convicted and receiving sentences involving hard labour or penal servitude, and those detained after being similarly sentenced. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with a number of high-ranking public posts, the office of judge, all elective public offices, membership of the armed forces, functions exercised under the jurisdiction of foreign States or international organizations, and directorship of State enterprises.

Candidates must belong to the *Mouvement populaire de la revolution (MPR)*, the country's sole political party, and must deposit a sum of 1000 *zaïres*, which is not reimbursed. Candidatures are retained by the Central Committee of the MPR after its examination of recommendations sent up by local and regional units of the MPR.

In the 1982 elections, members of the Legislative Council were chosen from 154 constituencies. In each, the citizenry selected a number of People's Commissioners, based on the constituency's population, by simple majority vote.

Substitutes elected at the same time as titular parliamentarians fill any Council seats which fall vacant between general elections. By-elections are held if the list of substitutes is exhausted.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 15.

General Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The September election dates were set on 25 February 1982. A total of 1409 candidates selected by the *Mouvement populaire de la revolution (MPR)*, Zaire's sole legal political party, contested the newly-enlarged Legislative Council's 310 seats (increase due to population growth).

On 5 November, a major reorganization of the National Executive Council (Cabinet) was announced by President of the Republic Mobutu Sese Seko; Mr. Kengo Wa Dondo became First State Commissioner.

Statistics

I. Distribution of Seats in the Legislative Council

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Mouvement populaire de la revolution (MPR)</i> .	310

2. Distribution of People's Commissioners according to Professional Category

Businessmen, tradesmen	
Civil servants	
Farmers	
Lawyers	
	310

Distribution of People's Commissioners according to Sex

Men .	299
Women	<u>11</u>
	310

PUBLICATIONS OF THE CIDP

Unless otherwise indicated, the publications listed below are obtainable from the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Place du Petit-Saconnex. 1209 Geneva (Switzerland).

PARLIAMENTS OF THE WORLD: A Reference Compendium. A comparative study of 56 Parliaments in a series of 70 tables preceded by explanatory texts. Pp. 985. (London, The Macmillan Press Ltd., 1976). French edition of 881 pages published by Presses universitaires de France, Paris. On sale in bookshops and, for members of the Union, at the Inter-Parliamentary Secretariat, at the reduced price of Sw. Fr. 105.—. English version out of print.

SERIES "REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS"

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 out of print

No. 4 The Member of Parliament: His Requirements for Information in the Modern World

Volume I: Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 3rd Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 18 to 20 January 1973. Pp. 329.

Volume II: *Synthesis of the Inquiry on the MP's Means of Information.* Geneva, 1973. Pp. 128*.

Both volumes. **Sw. Fr. 25.—**

No. 5 Who legislates in the Modern World?

Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 4th Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 29 to 31 January 1976. Pp. 281. » **22 —**

No. 6 Provisions for the Information of Members of Parliament concerning the Activities of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies

Findings of an Inquiry. Geneva, 1977. Pp. 45*. » **7.—**

No. 7 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments

Bilingual. Geneva, 1978. Pp. 440. » **35.—**

No. 8 Parliaments and the United Nations

Bilingual verbatim record of debates of the 5th Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, held in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 1978. Pp. 252. » **23 —**

No. 9 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments - Volume II (1977-1979)

Bilingual. Geneva, 1980. Pp. 290. » **27.—**

No. 10 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments — Volume III (1980-1982)

Bilingual. Geneva, 1983. Pp. 400. » **40.—**

CHRONICLE OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS**

I.	/ July 1966 - 30 June 1967. Bilingual edition (French-English).	» 7.—
II.	/ July 1967 - 30 June 1968*.	» 10.—
III.	/ July 1968 - 30 June 1969*.	» 15.—
IV.	(I July 1969-30 June 1970) to XVII (I July 1982-30 June 1983)*.	» 30.—

* French edition also available.

** Prior to volume XII (1977-1978), this work was entitled "Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections".