

## ZAMBIA\*

**Date of Elections:** December 19, 1968

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

By virtue of a constitutional amendment adopted on December 19, 1967, Zambia's unicameral Parliament, the National Assembly, comprises 105 elected deputies and a maximum of 5 deputies appointed by the Head of State.

The Speaker, who is elected by the Assembly, may either be a member of it, provided he is not a minister, or a non-member who is qualified to be elected as such.

Deputies are elected to the National Assembly for a 5-year term. Elections were held on December 19 following the premature dissolution of the previous legislature.

### **Electoral System**

All Zambian citizens of both sexes, with the exception of the mentally deficient and persons who have been deprived of their political and civil rights by court decision, are entitled to vote, provided they are at least 18 years old and have resided in Zambia for no less than 2 years.

Any elector who has reached the age of 21 is qualified for election to the National Assembly, except for members of the armed forces or police force and civil servants.

The 105 elective seats in Parliament are filled in the same number of constituencies by uninominal majority vote.

\* See *Parliamentary Developments in the World*, p. 11.

Moreover, general and presidential elections are carried out in a single operation. Each parliamentary candidate is required to declare his presidential choice, so that the candidate for the presidency whose supporters receive most votes is elected Head of State. When a parliamentary seat is uncontested and the sole candidate is thereby automatically elected, he is considered to have obtained a number of votes equal to that of the registered electors.

### **General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections**

Two political parties contested these general elections, the first to be organized in Zambia since it achieved independence in 1964. The ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP), led by President Kenneth Kaunda, submitted candidatures in every constituency, while the African National Congress (ANC), headed by Mr. Harry Nkumbula, put forward only 73 candidatures. 3 independent candidates also contested seats in 2 constituencies where the ANC was not represented. Furthermore, the leaders of the two national parties were the only persons running in the presidential race.

The principal difference in their programmes lies in their foreign policy. President Kaunda, an ardent African nationalist, recommends the establishment of increasingly strong links between Zambia and its northern neighbours, whereas Mr. Nkumbula favours a rapprochement with the ruling elements in southern Africa.

A third party, the United Party (UP), founded in 1967 by dissident members of the UNIP, had been outlawed on August 14, 1968, when its leaders were declared guilty of acts endangering the country's security and public order.

In the course of an electoral campaign which was marked by sporadic outbreaks of violence, the UNIP candidates stressed the need to eliminate partisan and tribal rivalry and strengthen national unity, if necessary by adopting an extremely firm policy. They recommended that Zambia continue to disengage itself from previously formed links with Rhodesia. On the other hand, the ANC

candidates made a point of criticizing the measures of austerity introduced by the Government to back up this policy and of encouraging the discontent caused, above all, by the Government's decision to put an end to the employment of Zambian workers in South Africa's goldmines.

The Government party was confident of success in these elections, especially since more than 30 seats, corresponding to constituencies in which there was no Opposition candidate, were automatically guaranteed. It won a resounding victory in both the presidential and legislative elections. However, it should be noted that its success was somewhat dimmed by the defeat of 4 ministers and a swing towards the ANC in Parliament.

The Head of State appointed 5 other members of Parliament on December 23 and 29 — as he is entitled to do under the Constitution — and, on January 21, 1969, the National Assembly convened to elect its Speaker, Mr. Robinson Nabulyato, a non-parliamentarian.

The next day, Mr. Nabulyato announced that he could not recognize Mr. Nkumbula as Leader of the Opposition, as the ANC was not sufficiently represented in Parliament to constitute the requisite quorum ( $y_4$  of the total number of deputies) for the Assembly to be able to deliberate or form a Government. The effect of this decision of the Speaker was to deprive Mr. Nkumbula of the salary, office and official residence normally attributed to the Leader of the Opposition.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections \* and Distribution of Seats in the Assembly*

Number of registered electors . . . . .	1,166,637
Voters. . . . .	962,150 (82.5 %)
Void or blank ballot-papers. . . . .	63,490
Valid votes. . . . .	898,660

\* The figures given here correspond to the 75 constituencies in which elections were held.

Political Group	VHM obtained'	%	ja u. f Seats in the Assembly	Number of S^&tsinfch& Previous Assembly
United National Independ- ence Party (UNIP) . . .	657,764	73.19	81	56
African National Congress (ANC). . . . .	228,277	25.40	23	8
Independent . . . . .	12,619	1.41	1	1
National Progress Party. . .	—	—	—	10*
			105	75

\* In accordance with the Constitution, 10 seats had, in the first legislature, been set aside for the representatives of Zambian residents of European and Asian stock, voting separately.

## 2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

	Elected Deputies	Appointed Deputies	Total
Men . . . . .	105	3	108
Women . . . . .	—	2	2
			110

## 3. *Average Age of Deputies: 40*

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