

ZAMBIA

Date of Elections: December 5, 1973

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held to renew all the members of Parliament upon normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Zambia, the National Assembly, consists of 136 members. Among these members of Parliament are 125 who are elected, 10 who are appointed as nominated members by the President of the Republic, and the Speaker, chosen by the members of the Assembly themselves from among persons who are qualified to be elected as members of the Assembly but are not members of it. The normal term of the Assembly is 5 years.

Electoral System

Every Zambian citizen who has attained the age of 18 years is entitled to be registered as a voter, unless he is under declaration of allegiance to a foreign State, insane, under sentence of death or imprisonment, or lacking possession of a national registration card issued to him under the National Registration Act. No person is moreover entitled to vote who has been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice within 5 years preceding the subject election, who has been reported guilty of such practice upon the trial of an election petition, or who is in lawful custody on election day.

There is a general registration of voters every 5 years and voters' registers are revised annually. Voting is not compulsory.

Any person is qualified to be elected or nominated as a member of the National Assembly if he is a citizen of Zambia who has attained the age of 21 years, is a member of the United National Independence Party, and is literate and conversant in the official language of Zambia. The insane, undischarged bankrupts, those persons under allegiance to a foreign State, as well as persons who have been convicted, restricted in movement or detained pursuant to certain laws are not qualified to be elected or nominated as members of the National Assembly.

No person moreover qualifies as a candidate to the Assembly unless he is successful at primary elections held in accordance with specific provisions of

the Constitution and if his candidature has not been disapproved by the Central Committee of the Party. Such candidature must be founded on a nomination accompanied by a monetary deposit of 25 *kwacha* and supported by no less than 9 persons registered as voters in the particular constituency. In any constituency of the Assembly the 3 persons who have received the greatest number of votes at the primary election qualify for nomination from that constituency, unless the Central Committee disapproves the nomination on the ground of its being inimical to the interests of the State, in which event the person who received the next highest number of votes after the said 3 persons qualifies for nomination.

Elected parliamentarians who are at the time of their election in the civil service, police, armed forces and other public services must resign from their former posts.

For purposes of elections to the Assembly, Zambia is divided into 125 single-member constituencies. In each, an elector votes for a single candidate associated on the ballot paper with a symbol selected from among the list prepared by the Director of Elections. Such candidate is declared elected if he gains a simple majority of the votes cast.

By-elections are held to fill seats of the Assembly which become vacant between general elections.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Following dissolution of the National Assembly on September 30, 1973, legislative elections took place on the same day as presidential elections. These general elections were the first since Zambia became a one-party democracy in 1972, and since adoption of the country's new Constitution in 1973*.

The country's sole political group** — the United National Independence Party — presented most of the 300 candidates for the 125 elective seats of the National Assembly. The generally peaceful electoral campaign particularly focused on two topics: the Zambian ideology of "humanism" and the second national development plan.

As compared to the previous (1968) parliamentary elections, the rate of abstention was high. More than half of the successful candidates were new members of the Assembly of relatively young age.

President Kaunda, re-elected for a third term by an overwhelming majority, announced the formation of a new Government on December 10, 1973.

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 8.

** See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections VII (1972-1973)*, p. 7.

Statistics

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

Number of registered voters.1,746,107
Voters.	583,607 (33.4 %)
Blank or void ballot papers.	56,355
Valid votes.	527,252

Political Group	Number of Seats
United National Independence Party.136

2. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Professional Category*

Teachers.37
Public officials.33
Businessmen, tradesmen.14
Lawyers.9
Ministers.8
Members of the armed forces and police.4
Farmers.3
Chiefs.2
Others.26
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3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men.129
Women.7
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4. *Average Age of Members of Parliament: 43 years*

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PUBLICATIONS OF THE CIDP

Unless otherwise indicated, the publications mentioned below are obtainable from the Inter-Parliamentary Bureau, Place du Petit-Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 28 (Switzerland)

PARLIAMENTS. — A Comparative Study on the Structure and Functioning of Representative Institutions in Fifty-Five Countries (New revised edition). Preface by Mr. G. Codacci-Pisanelli and Mr. A. de Blonay. Pp. 346 (1966). French edition also available. On sale in bookshops and, for members of the Union, at the Inter-Parliamentary Bureau. Sw. Fr. 25.—

SERIES " REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS "

1. Present-Day Problems of Parliament.
Reports and Debates. Introductory reports and verbatim record of the debates of the 1st International Symposium held in Geneva from November 4 to 6, 1965. In the original language, English or French. Pp. 250 (out of print).
2. The Role of Parliament in the Elaboration and Control of Economic Development Plans.
 Mimeographed brochure, English and French. Pp. 50 (out of print).
3. Parliament and its Means of Contact with Public Opinion through the Press, Radio and Television.
Reports and Debates. Introductory reports and verbatim record of the debates of the 2nd International Symposium held in Geneva from December 5 to 7, 1968. In the original language, English or French. Pp. 316. » 15.—
4. The Member of Parliament: his Requirements for Information in the Modern World.
 Proceedings of the 3d International Symposium, held in Geneva from January 18 to 20, 1973.
 Two mimeographed volumes which contain:
 1. Verbatim record of reports and debates, in the original language (English or French), each statement followed by a brief summary in the other language; list of participants; index of speakers.
 2. *Synthesis of Results of the International Inquiry on the MP's Means of Information* — a revised version of the analysis prepared by the International Centre for Parliamentary Documentation, containing detailed comparative data in textual form with 13 tables, based on replies received from 39 countries. Sections on Parliamentary Libraries; Documentation, Study and Research Services; Experts; Procedures which contribute to informing MPs; Inspecting and Supervisory Bodies; Selective Bibliography (by country).
 Both volumes. » 25.—

CHRONICLE OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

- I. July 1, 1966 — June 30, 1967.
 Bilingual edition (English-French). » 7.—
- II. July 1, 1967 — June 30, 1968 *. » 10.—
- III. July 1, 1968 — June 30, 1969 *. » 15.—
- IV. July 1, 1969 — June 30, 1970 *. » 30.—
- V. July 1, 1970 — June 30, 1971 *. » 30.—
- VI. July 1, 1971 — June 30, 1972 *. » 30.—
- VII. July 1, 1972 — June 30, 1973 *. » 30.—
- VIII. July 1, 1973 — June 30, 1974 *. » 30.—

(Starting with Volume II, the elections are printed on detachable index-cards.)

* French edition also available.