

## ZAMBIA

**Date of Elections:** 12 December 1978

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for 125 members of Parliament on the 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 five 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 five 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, persons under allegiance to a foreign State, persons under court-imposed sentence of death or imprisonment, and those who have been 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* (approximately US\$ 31.—) and supported by no less than nine persons regis-

tered as voters in the particular constituency. In any constituency of the Assembly the three 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 three persons qualifies for nomination.

Each candidate who polls at least 5% of the total number of valid votes cast at the primary elections in his constituency is reimbursed his monetary deposit.

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 National 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 National Assembly seats which become vacant between general elections.

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

On 12 October 1977, President of the Republic Kenneth Kaunda announced that there would be general elections the following year in accordance with the Constitution. The same month, he announced sweeping economic changes to reduce Zambia's reliance on copper and promote agricultural export to earn much-needed foreign exchange; the President stated that the country should aim for self-sufficiency in food production.

The National Assembly was dissolved on 18 September 1978 and the all-important primary elections took place the following month. Of the candidates originally nominated for the Assembly, 28 were later eliminated by the Central Committee of the United National Independence Party (UNIP), the nation's only legal party since 1972.

On polling day, 125 UNIP candidates were returned. Voter turnout stood at approximately 65%. Running unopposed, President Kaunda, head of UNIP since 1960, was himself re-elected for another five-year term the same day. He thereafter carried out a major reorganization of UNIP and the Government, whose membership was reduced. On 2 January 1979, a new Cabinet led by Prime Minister Daniel Lisulo was announced.

## Statistics

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

Number of registered voters . . . . . 2,000,000 (approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats
United National Independence Party. . . . .	.136

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

Civil servants . . . . .	.84
Businessmen . . . . .	.14
Lawyers . . . . .	.9
Fanners . . . . .	.3
Others . . . . .	.26
	136

3. *Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex*

Men . . . . .	.130
Women . . . . .	.6
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4. *Average Age of Members of Parliament: 45 years*

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## 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). Distributed by the Macmillan Press Ltd. and Walter de Gruyter Verlag. 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. 95.—.

### 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.—

### CHRONICLE OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS\*\*

I. / July 1966 - 30 June 1967.

Bilingual edition (French-English). . . . . » 7.—

II. 1 July 1967 - 30 June 1978\*. . . . . » 10.—

III. 1 Juir 1968 - 30 June 1969\*. . . . . » 15.—

IV. (Uulv 1969 -30 June 1970) lo XIII (/ July 1978-30 June 1979)\* . . . . . » 30.—

\* French edition also available.

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