

ZAMBIA

Date of Elections: 26 October 1988

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for the 125 elective seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' 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, elected 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 owes allegiance to a foreign State, is insane, under sentence of death or imprisonment or does not possess a national registration card issued 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 found 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 (UNIP), 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 his candidature has been adopted by the Central Committee of the Party. Such candidature must be founded on a nomination accompanied by a monetary deposit of 100 *kwacha* (approximately US\$ 10) and supported by no fewer than nine persons registered as voters in the particular constituency.

Elected parliamentarians who are at the time of their election in the civil service, police, defence forces or other public services must resign from their 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.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The date of the simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections was announced on 23 August 1988, a day after President of the Republic Kenneth Kaunda had dissolved Parliament at the 10th (Mulungushi) general conference of the United National Independence Party (UNIP), Zambia's only legal political organization. Mr. Kaunda had been elected the sole presidential candidate by the general conference. Out of 706 candidatures submitted for approval by the Central Committee of UNIP, 612 were retained. Local issues dominated the campaign debate, at a time of certain continuing economic problems facing the country (foreign debt, inflation, unemployment).

On a generally calm polling day, voter turnout was estimated at 60%. President Kaunda, in power since independence in 1964, was overwhelmingly re-elected for a sixth five-year term. There were 65 new members while 60 incumbents were re-elected. On 2 November, President Kaunda announced his new, trimmed Cabinet. In March 1989, Gen. Malimba Masheke became Prime Minister.

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

Number of registered electors.	2,600,000	(approx.)
Voters. . . . .	.60%	(approx.)

Political Group	Number of Seats
United National Independence Party (UNIP). . . . .	.136

2. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Profession

Businessmen. . . . .	.39
Civil servants. . . . .	.18
Farmers. . . . .	.17
Lawyers. . . . .	.3
Doctors. . . . .	.1
Others.	<u>.56</u>
	134*

3. Distribution of Members of Parliament according to Sex

Men. . . . .	.127
Women. . . . .	.7
	734*

4. Average Age of Members of Parliament: 49 years

* Plus the Speaker and one nominated member.

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, 1211 Geneva (Switzerland). Members of the Union are entitled to a 30% discount.

PARLIAMENTS OF THE WORLD: A Reference Compendium. A comparative study of 83 Parliaments in a series of 47 tables preceded by explanatory texts. Pp. 1422. (Gower Publishing Company Ltd., Croft Road, Aldershot, England, 1986). French edition of 1661 pages published by Etablissements Emile Bruylant, Brussels, Belgium. 1986. On sale in bookshops or by the publisher and, for members of the Union, at the Inter-Parliamentary Secretariat, at the reduced price of Sw. fr. 110.—.

SERIES "REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS"

Nos I, 2, 3, 7, II and 12 out of print

- No. 4 The Member of Parliament: His Requirements for Information in the Modern World** *Normal Price*
 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. 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.—
- No. 13 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments — Volume IV (1983-1985)**
 Bilingual. Geneva, 1986. Pp. 421. » 40.—
- No. 14 Distribution of Seats between Men and Women in National Parliaments**
 Covers 144 countries. Bilingual. Geneva, 1987. Pp. 116. free of charge
- No. 15 Participation of Women in Political Life and in the Decision-Making Process**
 Geneva, April 1988. Pp. 53*. free of charge
- No. 16 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments — Volume V (1986-1988)**
 Bilingual. Geneva, 1989. Pp. 475. » 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 XXIII (I July 1988- 30 June 1989)*. » 30.—

* French edition also available.

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

LIST OF BOOKS AND ARTICLES CATALOGUED

Annual bilingual compilation by the CIDP's Library since 1964. free of charge

WORLD DIRECTORY OF PARLIAMENTS

Bilingual, updated annually since 1979. 1989 edition covered 144 Parliaments free of charge