

## ZIMBABWE

**Dates of Elections:** 27 June, 14 July 1985 (House of Assembly)  
9, 11 and 16 July 1985 (Senate)

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all the elective seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office in the first such poll since independence in April 1980.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The Parliament of Zimbabwe is bicameral, consisting of a 40-member Senate and a 100-member House of Assembly. The maximum term of both Houses is 5 years as from the date on which Parliament first meets after a general election. This period may be extended if Zimbabwe is at war or if a state of public emergency exists.

### **Electoral System**

Any citizen who is at least 18 years of age, resident in an electoral constituency, not disqualified due to absence from that constituency for a period of 12 months and registered on the Common Roll or the White Roll, is entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane and mentally deficient; persons incapable of managing their own affairs; those convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment (or the subject of preventive detention) for at least six months, during the imprisonment and for five years after discharge therefrom; and persons convicted of an electoral offence, for the period during which they are declared to be disqualified.

There are 80 Common Roll constituencies and 20 White Roll constituencies. A black person may not be registered as a voter on the White Roll. A white person may be registered on the White Roll and the Common Roll.

Persons having good reason to believe that they will not be in their constituency on polling day or that they will be prevented from attending a polling station on account of ill-health, infirmity or duty as a member of a disciplined force may vote by post.

All qualified electors who have attained the age of 30 and have been ordinarily resident in Zimbabwe for not less than 10 years during the immediately preceding 20 years are eligible for election as Senators if enrolled as voters on the Common Roll (in relation to black Senators) or on the White Roll (in relation to white Senators). The office of Senator is deemed incompatible with the holding of public office, except in the case of Ministers or Deputy Ministers; members of the Defence Forces or reserve forces of the Police Force whose services are not wholly in the employ of the State; and persons holding any office for which no remuneration is provided other than payment of travelling or subsistence allowances. A Senate candidature must be supported by not less than 30 and not more than 50 persons enrolled, as the case may be, on the Common Roll or White Roll. If the candidate

contests a seat of a Senator Chief (see below), he must himself be a Chief and nominated and seconded by Chiefs, both of whom are members of the appropriate electoral college.

All qualified electors who have attained the age of 21 years and have been ordinarily resident in Zimbabwe for not less than five years during the immediately preceding 20 years are eligible for election to the House of Assembly. Black persons enrolled as voters on the Common Roll may be elected as Common Roll constituency members, while white persons enrolled as voters on the White Roll may be elected as White Roll constituency members. Incompatibilities are the same as for Senators. House of Assembly candidates must be supported by not less than 10 and not more than 20 persons registered in the same constituency.

Of the 40 Senators, 14 are elected by an electoral college consisting of the House of Assembly members chosen by the 80 Common Roll constituencies; 10 by an electoral college consisting of the House of Assembly members chosen by the 20 White Roll constituencies; 5 (Chiefs) by an electoral college consisting of those Chiefs in Matabeleland who are members of the Council of Chiefs; 5 (Chiefs) by an electoral college consisting of those Chiefs in Mashonaland who are members of the Council of Chiefs; and 6 are appointed by the President of the Republic on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Election of House of Assembly members is carried out in the course of one ballot. Each Assembly or Senate candidate must make a deposit of ZS100 or ZS200, respectively. This sum is reimbursed if the candidate is elected or obtains at least one-fifth of the number of votes cast for the successful candidate (Assembly) or the candidate elected with the lowest number of votes (Senate). In Common Roll constituencies, Assembly members are elected by simple majority. In White Roll constituencies, electors express their preferences among the candidates on the ballot paper. When there are two candidates, the one obtaining the most first preference votes is elected, provides he thus wins the absolute majority of votes. If this majority is not attained, the least-favoured candidate is eliminated and his votes are allotted to the candidates who received second preferences on the ballots of the eliminated candidate; this process is continued until an absolute majority is reached.

Senate or House of Assembly vacancies are filled through by-elections held 14 to 28 days after the vacancy was officially recorded.

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

The 1985 elections, first planned for January and then March, were postponed pending completion of voter registration and delimitation of constituency boundaries. The polling was the first since independence in April 1980.

Parliament was dissolved on 14 May and the election dates were set on 3 June. By government decree the nominating period was scheduled until 10 June and the election campaign for the three subsequent weeks.

Competing for the 20 House of Assembly seats chosen by voters registered on the White Rolls were the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe (CAZ), led by Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith, and the Independent Zimbabwe Group (IZG). The CAZ, which waged a confrontational campaign against the socialist-oriented Government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, scored a decisive victory over their moderate rivals on 27 June.

Six parties fielding 258 candidates were in contention for the remaining 80 (Common Roll) Assembly seats. The ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and its main challenger, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) headed by Mr. Joshua Nkomo, nominated candidates in all constituencies. Polling, originally scheduled for 1 and 2 July, was extended by two days due to the heavy turnout of voters and procedures related thereto. Final results gave ZANU-PF an additional seven seats to 64, but ZAPU captured all 15 at stake in Matabeleland. Prime Minister Mugabe indicated that he interpreted the ZANU victory as a mandate to discard the elements of the country's Constitution that ensured multi-party democracy in favour of a one-party socialist State.

The renewal of the Senate took place on 9 and 11 July (Chiefs) and 16 July (members elected by the House of Assembly and appointed by the Head of State).

On 15 July, Prime Minister Mugabe announced the formation of a new 26-member Cabinet.

## Statistics

### 1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Common Roll Seats in the House of Assembly

Valid votes. . . . .		2,818,427	
Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	Number of Seats
Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). . . . .	80	2,199,057	64 (+ 7)
Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). . . . .	80	517,654	15 (- 5)
United African National Council (UANC). . . . .	55	65,603	- (- 3)
ZANU (Sithole). . . . .	35	35,737	1(+1)
Others. . . . .	8	376	—
			80

2. *Distribution of White Roll Seats in the House of Assembly*

Political Group	J j j j j
Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe (CAZ) . . . . .	15 (+8)
Independent Zimbabwe Group (IZG) . . . . .	4 (-9)
Independent . . . . .	1
	20

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

	„	House of Assembly
Men . . . . .	37	91
Women . . . . .	3	9
	To "	100

## 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 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 to be published by Etablissements Emile Bruylant, Brussels, Belgium, in spring 1987. 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 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 —

#### No. 11 out of print

#### No. 12 Distribution of Seats by Sex in Parliamentary Assemblies

Covers 142 countries. Bilingual. Geneva. 1985. Pp. 50. . . . . free of charge

#### No. 13 World-Wide Bibliography on Parliaments — Volume IV (1983-1985)

Bilingual. Geneva, 1986. Pp. 421. . . . . » 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. (1 July 1969-30 June 1970) to XX (1 July 1985 - 30 June 1986)\*.

. . . . . » 30 —

\* French edition also available.

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