

## ZAMBIA

**Date of Elections:** 27 October 1983

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for the 125 elective seats in 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 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 fluent 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 been adopted 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\$25) 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, armed forces and 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.

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

The date of the simultaneous presidential and legislative elections was announced on 24 August 1983. Two days later, Parliament was dissolved by President of the Republic Kenneth Kaunda after he was declared the sole presidential candidate of the United National Independence Party (UNIP), Zambia's only legal party since 1972. In the subsequent all-important primary elections, the Central Committee of UNIP rejected the applications of 46 out of 812 Assembly candidates.

Campaign debate centered on economic problems (caused largely by the slump in the world price of copper, the country's main export product) and the consequent austerity measures introduced by the Government. On a generally calm polling day, voter turnout was estimated at 63%. President Kaunda was overwhelmingly re-elected for a fifth five-year term while 125 UNIP Assembly candidates were returned. On 3 November, the formation of a new Cabinet was announced and the President stated that national economic recovery would be its prime objective.

### Statistics

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

Number of registered electors	2,400,000 (approx.)
Voters . . . . .	63% (approx.)
Political Group	Number of Seats
United National Independence Party (UNIP)	136

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

Businessmen . . . . .	37
Civil servants . . . . .	24
Farmers . . . . .	13
Lawyers . . . . .	6
Others . . . . .	<u>55</u>
	135*

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

Men . . . . .	131
<u>Women</u> . . . . .	4
	135*

4. *Average Age of Members of Parliament: 47 years*

\* Plus the Speaker.

## 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 Macmillian Press Ltd., 1976.) 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. 105.—. English version out of print. New edition under preparation.

### 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 —

### 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 XVIII (1 July 1983- 30 June 1984)\*.

. . . . . » 30 —

\* French edition also available.

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