

## ZAIRE

**Date of Elections:** 6 September 1987

### **Purpose of Elections**

Elections were held for all seats in Parliament on the normal expiry of the members' term of office.

### **Characteristics of Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Zaire, the Legislative Council, comprises 210 members (*Commissaires du peuple*, or "People's Commissioners") elected for 5 years.

### **Electoral System**

All citizens of Zaire aged 18 years or more who are in full possession of their civil and political rights and who have resided in a constituency for at least one year may vote in that same constituency if they are not, on election day, imprisoned, confined because of mental derangement or residing abroad.

Electoral registers are revised before each election at the level of the local community or zone. Voting is compulsory, failure to do so resulting in a fine and/or imprisonment of two to seven days.

Qualified electors aged 25 years or more who have completed at least four years of secondary school or had experience in the political or administrative field are eligible for the Legislative Council. Ineligible are persons convicted and receiving certain sentences involving hard labour or imprisonment. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with a number of high-ranking Party and public posts, the office of judge, all elective public offices, membership of the armed or police forces, functions exercised under the jurisdiction of foreign States or international organizations, and employment in public enterprises.

Candidates must belong to the *Mouvement populaire de la revolution* (MPR), the country's sole political party, and must deposit a sum equivalent to approximately US\$ 170.-, which is not reimbursed. Candidatures are retained by the Central Committee of the MPR after its examination of recommendations sent up by local and regional units of the MPR.

In each electoral constituency, there is one Council seat for every 200,000 citizens, and an additional one for every fraction above 50,000. All constituencies are nevertheless entitled to at least one representative. Election is based on simple majority vote.

Substitutes elected at the same time as titular parliamentarians fill any Council seats which fall vacant between general elections. Two substitutes are chosen in each constituency with less than 100,000 inhabitants.

### **Background and Outcome of the Elections**

The election date was set by presidential decree on 13 January 1987. The national poll was preceded by those for regional and local bodies.

A total of 1075 candidates put forward by the central committee of the Popular Revolutionary Movement (*Mouvement populaire de la révolution - MPR*), the country's sole political party, contested the Legislative Council's 210 seats (reduced from 310 since the previous [September 1982] general elections).

On 7 March 1988, President of the Republic Mobutu Sese Seko reshuffled the 29-member National Executive Council (Cabinet).

### ]. *Distribution of Seats in the Legislative Council*

*Mouvement populaire de la revolution (MPR)* . . . **210**

#### 2. *Distribution of People's Commissioners according to Profession*

Administration. . . . .	.106
Company administrators. . . . .	53
Teachers. . . . .	.17
Farmers. . . . .	.12
Businessmen. . . . .	8
Lawyers. . . . .	.6
Doctors. . . . .	4
Politicians. . . . .	4
	<b>210</b>

#### 3. *Distribution of People's Commissioners according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	.198
Women. . . . .	.12
	<b>210</b>

#### 4. *Distribution of People's Commissioners according to Age*

26-35 years. . . . .	25
36-45 ». . . . .	83
46-55 ». . . . .	84
56-65 ». . . . .	16
66-75 ». . . . .	2
	<b>210</b>