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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

14

ABSTRACT SERIES

TIME CHART ON THE ZAMBIAN PARLIAMENT 1911 TO 2022

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

PREFACE

This Abstract is part of the Zambia Parliamentary Procedure Abstract series and describes the historical development of the Zambian Parliament. The information is based on major chronological events that have taken place since 1911. It is aimed at providing, at a glance, the growth and development of the Zambian Legislature.

It is hoped that this will serve as an insight to the development of Parliament.

Roy Ngulube
ACTING CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCTION

The history of the Zambian Legislature dates back to early 1924 when the country came directly under British colonial rule. The first Legislative Council was created in May 1924, well over ten years after North-Eastern and North-Western Rhodesia merged into a single territory in 1911. However, this Council, like the Second and Third Legislative Councils, was more concerned with the interests of the white settlers; Africans had no representation. It was not a Parliament in the generally accepted sense. It was constituted in such a way that it placed the British Government in a position to exercise effective control on the colony.

The third Legislative Council lasted up to 1932 after which the Fourth Legislative Council with one (1) official Member nominated to represent African interests was ushered in. Representation of African interests increased to three in the Eighth Legislative Council. From 1945 to 1948, two (2) African Members were elected by the African Representative Council to represent their interests. This situation continued up to the last Legislative Council in 1959.

After the elections on 28th January, 1964, the Legislative Council was re-named the Legislative Assembly, with 65 seats elected by an African "main roll" and ten seats by a "reserved roll" primarily for Europeans. The result was a victory for United National Independence Party (UNIP), which won 55 of the 75 seats, allowing Kenneth Kaunda to become Prime Minister, and subsequently President when Zambia became independent on 24th October 1964.

This Time Chart provides, at a glance, the growth of the Zambian Legislature, from 1911 to 2022.

TIME CHART ON THE ZAMBIAN PARLIAMENT 1911 TO 2022

- 1911 North-Eastern and North-Western Rhodesia were merged into a single territory called Northern Rhodesia.
- 1918 An Advisory Council of 5 elected unofficial members was set up.
- 1924 Northern Rhodesia handed over by the British South African Company (BSA CO) to the British Government and became a Protectorate under direct Colonial Office Rule. The First Executive and LEGICO¹ were set up. The First LEGICO comprised the Governor as President, 9 appointed officials from the Executive and 5 nominated Members.
- 1926 The Second LEGICO was constituted and comprised the Governor, 9 appointed officials and 2 elected Members.

¹ Legislative Council

- 1929 The Third LEGICO was constituted and consisted of the Governor, 9 appointed officials and 7 elected Members.
- 1932 The Fourth LEGICO was constituted and consisted the Governor, 8 appointed officials, 7 elected Members and 1 temporary nominated unofficial member to represent African interests.
- 1935 The Fifth LEGICO was constituted and comprised the Governor, 8 appointed officials, 7 elected Members and 1 nominated unofficial Member to represent African interests.
- 1938 The Sixth LEGICO was constituted and consisted of the Governor, 9 appointed officials, 7 elected Members and 1 nominated unofficial Member to represent African interests.
- 1941 The Seventh LEGICO was constituted and comprised the Governor, 9 appointed officials, 8 elected Members and 1 nominated unofficial Member to represent African interests.
- 1945 The Eighth LEGICO was constituted and consisted of the Governor, 9 appointed officials, 8 elected Members and 5 nominated official Members, 3 of whom represented African interests.
- 1948 The Ninth LEGICO was constituted and consisted of the first Speaker, 9 appointed officials, 10 elected Members, 2 nominated unofficial Members to represent African interests and 2 African members elected by the Representative Council.
- 1948 Mr T S Page appointed as Speaker of the 9th Northern Rhodesia Legislative Council.
- 1953 The establishment of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland with its capital in Salisbury.
- 1954 The Tenth Legislative Council was constituted and consisted of the Speaker, 8 appointed officials, 12 elected members, 2 nominated unofficial members to represent African interests and 4 African members elected by the Representative Council.
- 1956 Sir Thomas Williams appointed as 10th Speaker of the Northern Rhodesia Legislative Council.
- 1959 The Eleventh Legislative Council was constituted and consisted of the Speaker, 6 appointed officials, 22 elected members, 2 nominated unofficial members, 2 African members who sat on the Executive Council as Ministers (1 elected, 1 nominated), and 6 elected African back benchers.
- 1962 Coalition Government comprising UNIP (14 seats), ANC (7 seats) and UFP (16 seats) established.

- 1963 The dissolution of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.
- 1964 The Legislative Council was re-named the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly consisted of the Speaker, 75 elected Members. 65 were on the main Roll and 10 on the reserve Roll.
- 1964 Self rule: Independence of Northern Rhodesia, country renamed Zambia on 24th October, 1964.
- 1964 Dr Kenneth David Kaunda became the 1st President of the Republic of Zambia, and the Legislative Assembly was renamed the National Assembly. The Assembly consisted of 1 elected Speaker, 75 elected Members and 5 nominated Members.
- 1964 Mr Wesley Pillsbury Nyirenda elected as 1st Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia. He served until 1968 when he retired.
- 1966 The Constitution was amended to increase the number of Cabinet Ministers from 14 to 16.
- 1967 The Constitution was amended to increase the number of Cabinet Ministers from 16 to 19.
- 1968 Dr Robinson Mwaakwe Nabulyato elected as 2nd Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia.
- 1969 A Constitutional referendum was held in Zambia on 17th June 1969. The purpose of the referendum was to seek public approval for Parliament to amend entrenched clauses of the Constitution with a two-thirds majority. The referendum was passed with 85 per cent voting in favour of the change. Voter turn-out was 69 percent.
- 1970 The Constitution was amended to delete any limitation on the number of ministers appointed.
- 1973 The Constitution was amended to make the Republic of Zambia a One-Party State. The new Constitution provided for 1 elected Speaker and 135 MPs.
- 1988 Dr Fwanyanga Matale Mulikita elected as 3rd Speaker of the National Assembly.
- 1990 The Constitution was amended to enable the Republic of Zambia to revert to a Multi-Party State on 17th December, 1990.
- 1991 A new Constitution was enacted by Act Number 1 of 1991, which provided for the National Assembly to have 1 elected Speaker, 150 elected Members and 8 nominated Members. Dr Frederick T J Chiluba was elected as 2nd President of the Republic of Zambia. Dr Robinson Mwaakwe

Nabulyato was re-elected as the 4th Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, which position he held until November, 1998.

1996 The Constitution was amended to, inter alia, establish an autonomous Electoral Voter Roll and to put in place a new Electoral Process.

1998 Hon. Amusaa Katunda Mwanamwambwa elected as 5th Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia.

2002 Dr Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, SC, sworn in as the 3rd Republican President of Zambia.

2006 Launch of the Parliament Radio Studio at the Parliament Buildings by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Amusaa K Mwanamwambwa on 20th March, 2006.

2006 Dr Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, SC, re-elected as President of the Republic of Zambia in October, 2006.

2007 The National Constitutional Conference (NCC) Act No. 19 of 2007 enacted.

2008 Death of His Excellency Dr Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, SC, on 19th August, 2008 in Paris, France.

2008 Presidential elections were held in Zambia on 30th October, 2008 after the death of His Excellency Dr Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, SC.
Mr Rupiah Bwezani Banda sworn in as Zambia's 4th Republican President on 2nd November, 2008 at Parliament Buildings.

2010 The new Committee Building unveiled at Parliament Buildings on 14th July, 2010 by the Hon. Speaker Amusaa K Mwanamwambwa.

2010 The National Constitution Conference (NCC) was dissolved on 31st August, 2010.

2011 Dr Frederick T J Chiluba, 2nd Republican President, passed away on 18th June, 2011.

2011 President Mr Rupiah B Banda dissolved Parliament on 28th July, 2011.

2011 Mr Michael C Sata elected as the 5th President of the Republic of Zambia on 20th September, 2011.

2011 Hon. Justice Dr Patrick Matibini, SC, elected as 6th Speaker of the National Assembly on 6th October, 2011.

2012 United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon addressed Members of Parliament at Parliament Buildings on 24th February, 2012.

2012 The Media and Visitors Centre officially opened by Hon. Speaker Dr Matibini, SC, on 3rd September, 2012.

- 2012 Her Royal Highness Princess Anne of the United Kingdom visited the
Zambian Parliament on Thursday, 27th September, 2012.
- 2013 Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Mkhondo Lungu, officially
opened the second studio of Parliament Radio at Parliament Buildings on
Monday, 8th July, 2013.
- 2014 ZESCO Limited on 14th October, 2014, commissioned a 25Kw mini solar
Plant at Parliament Buildings at a cost of US\$372,888 to mitigate the
impact of power deficit. This ensured the supply of reliable electricity to the
public address system and emergency lights in the Chamber, as well as
lighting the entire Parliament Buildings.
- 2014 The Zambian Parliament joined the nation to celebrate 50 years of
Zambia's political Independence since 24th October, 1964.
- 2014 His Excellency Mr Michael Chilufya Sata, 5th President of the Republic of
Zambia died on 28th October, 2014 in London, United Kingdom.
- 2015 Presidential election was held on 20th January, 2015, following the death of
His Excellency Mr Michael Chilufya Sata.
Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu was sworn in as 6th President of the Republic of
Zambia on 25th January, 2015.
- 2016 The President assented to the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act
No. 2 of 2016 on 5th January, 2016.
- 2016 Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu re-elected as Republican President.
- 2016 The Rt Hon. Justice Dr Patrick Matibini, SC, was re-elected Speaker of the
National Assembly of Zambia on 23rd September, 2016.
- 2018 The Rt Hon. Justice Dr Patrick Matibini, SC, Speaker of the National
Assembly of Zambia officially launched Parliament Television on 21st
February, 2018.
- 2020 Hon. Valentina Matviyenko, Speaker of the Federation Council of the
Federal Assembly of Russian visited Zambia and addressed the House on
18th February, 2020.
- 2020 The Rt Hon. Justice Dr Patrick Matibini, SC, Speaker of the National
Assembly of Zambia officially launched Parliament Television on the Digital
Satellite Television (DSTV) platform Channel 272 and GoTV Platform
Channel 100 on 3rd September, 2020.
- 2021 Mr Hakainde Hichilema elected as the 7th Republican President on 12th
August, 2021.

2021 Hon. Ms Nelly B K Mutti elected Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia on Friday, 3rd September, 2021, becoming the first woman to occupy the position in the history of the Zambian Parliament.

2022 His Excellency, Mr Sergio Mattarella, President of the Republic of Italy, addressed the National Assembly of Zambia on 7th July, 2022.

CONCLUSION

The history of the Zambian Legislature can be divided into two: from 1911 to 1964 and Independence to-date. The Legislative Council was more representative of the white settlers than the African people. It was only after Independence that the National Assembly represented the indigenous Zambian interests and Parliament was vested with power to legislate. Today, after more than 58 years of its independence, the National Assembly of Zambia is comprised of one hundred and fifty six elected members, eight nominated members, the vice President, the Speaker and First and Second Deputy Speakers.
