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## THE PARTIES

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Nine parties contested the election for the Common Roll seats; a tenth, the Zimbabwe United Peoples Organisation, which had registered, having dropped out.

The following were the parties and their leaders:

- (a) The National Democratic Union (NDU) led by Mr. Henry Chihota;
- (b) The National Front of Zimbabwe (NFZ) led by Mr. Peter Mandaza;
- (c) The Patriotic Front (PF)\* led by Mr. Joshua Nkomo;
- (d) The United African National Council (UANC) led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa;
- (e) The United National Federation Party (UNFP) led by Chief Kayisa Ndiweni;
- (f) The United Peoples Association of Matabeleland (UPAM) led by Dr. Frank Bertrand;
- (g) The Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) led by Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole;
- (h) The Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) - ZANU (PF) led by Mr. Robert Mugabe; and
- (i) The Zimbabwe Democratic Party (ZDP) led by Mr. James Chikerema.

The two constituents of the Patriotic Front alliance which had prosecuted the armed struggle - Mr. Nkomo's ZAPU and Mr. Mugabe's ZANU - fought the elections separately. Mr. Nkomo registered his party under the name Patriotic Front, while Mr. Mugabe fought under the banner of ZANU (PF). Mr. Chikerema and Mr. Sithole had served in the transitional government set up in March 1978 under Bishop Muzorewa.

The UNFP and the UPAM had their headquarters in Bulawayo, and the others in Salisbury. The UNFP did not contest in Manicaland, Mashonaland West or Victoria. The UPAM contested only in Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South. The other parties put up candidates in each of the eight provinces.

The party list system, operated on a provincial basis, and the distribution of seats, by Province, are discussed in Chapter 5.

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\*Hereafter the expression "PF" is used to indicate the political party led by Mr. Nkomo, and the expression "Patriotic Front" to refer to the alliance between the PF and ZANU (PF).

The policies of the different parties were not of concern to us; we comment here briefly on some aspects of their campaigns. Extensive advertising in the newspapers, besides the permitted scale of advertising on radio and television, was a feature of the campaign. Posters were much in evidence, as were T-shirts specially printed with party symbols particularly among young people.

Each party held rallies; some of them drew the largest ever crowds seen in the country. They generally took place without serious incidents. There were smaller meetings throughout the country.

Of the major contenders for the African vote, the UANC had been legal for a much longer period than the other two, and had a campaign machine tested in the April 1979 election. The PF and ZANU (PF) had to start their organisation virtually from scratch though they had extensive networks of supporters.

These two parties did not hide their displeasure that Ministers of the previous regime retained their titles and other appurtenances of office. They were also resentful that official agencies continued to use the expression Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, coined by and associated with that administration. Its frequent use by the broadcasting service caused particular irritation. Objection was also taken to the use by public agencies of the flag of the former government. That these matters caused annoyance was not surprising, but they were not transgressions of the Lancaster House Agreement, and in any event we did not see them as likely to have much impact on electoral preference.

There was no limit on party expenses nor any obligation to disclose them. The Governor had power to make regulations regarding disclosure, but at the Election Council all the parties expressed the view that these were, in the circumstances, neither necessary nor appropriate. The UANC seemed to dispose of the most resources, but there was no evidence that the other parties were circumscribed by lack of funds.