

HAITI

Date of Elections: 11 February 1979

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Haiti, the Legislative Chamber (*Chambre legislative*), is composed of 58 members elected for 6 years.

Electoral System

All Haitian citizens who are at least 18 years old are entitled to vote if they have full political and civil rights and have not been declared insane or convicted of crime.

Electoral registers are revised annually. Voting is compulsory.

Qualified electors who have resided a minimum of five years in the constituency they seek to represent may be candidates for the Legislative Chamber. Neither contractors of the State nor representatives or agents of individuals, companies or public institutions that are contractors of the State may at the same time be Deputies. The parliamentary mandate, furthermore, is incompatible with the post of civil servant and membership of the armed forces.

In each of the 58 constituencies, that candidate who has obtained the greatest number of votes cast by the electors grouped into Primary Assemblies (*Assemblees primaires*) is declared elected.

By-elections are held to fill parliamentary vacancies arising between general elections, unless these vacancies occur during or following the last ordinary session of the legislature. The by-elections take place within 30 days of the convocation of the Primary Assembly concerned, which is effected by the President of the Republic.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Some 300 candidates participated in the three-month campaign; practically all of them supported the policies of Life President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Results of the elections showed that all but one of the Legislative Chamber seats were won by candidates associated with the *Parti de l'unite nationale* (the sole legal party), the remaining seat being captured by an independent from Cap-Haitien, the country's second largest city. A total of 16 incumbents were re-elected.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the Legislative Chamber

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Parti de l'Unite nationale.</i>	57
Independent	1
	58

2. Distribution of Deputies according to Sex

Men.	55
Women.	3
	58