

HAITI

Date of Elections: 12 February 1984

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following premature dissolution of this body on 27 August 1983. General elections had previously taken place in February 1979.

Characteristics of **Parliament**

The unicameral Parliament of Haiti, the Legislative Chamber (*Chambre législative*), is composed of 59 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.

Native Haitians qualified as electors who have resided a minimum of five years in the constituency they seek to represent and who own real estate, carry on a profession or run an industry therein 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 59 constituencies, that candidate who has obtained the greatest number of votes cast by the electors grouped into Primary Assemblies (*Assemblées 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 Considerations **and** Conduct of the Elections

On 27 August 1983, Life President of the Republic Jean-Claude Duvalier dissolved Parliament in conjunction with adoption of a new Constitution*. The election date was set on 15 November.

See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 12.

A total of 309 candidates contested the 59 parliamentary seats. All but one were members of the Party of National Unity (*Parti de unite nationale* - PUN), the country's official political organization. On polling day, all seats were won by PUN. In the capital, Port-au-Prince, less than 40% of the electorate voted, and in the rural areas new, younger candidates were chosen. Altogether 30 incumbents failed to be returned.

President Duvalier governs with the assistance of an eight-member appointed Cabinet.

Statistics

1. *Distribution of Seats in the Legislative Chamber*

Political Group	Number of Seats
<i>Parti de l'unite nationale (PUN)</i>	59