



Front Uni de la Diaspora Haitienne

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Press Release

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FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HAITI, HAITIANS FROM THE DIASPORA LED AN ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION TO MONITOR THE NOVEMBER 20, 2016 ELECTION.

Under the leadership of Firmin Backer, Chief of the Electoral Observation Mission, members of the United Front of the Diaspora, such as Dr. Joseph Baptiste, Attorney Soeurette Michel, Samuel Colin, Johnny Celestin, Dr. Fritz Fils-Aime, etc., supervised the Haitian national election of November 20, 2016. Our Electoral Mission observed elections in the following department: Artibonite, Nippes, North, Northeast, and West. Over the course of the last several months, the United Front has raised funds recruited and trained approximately 130 observers for this mission. The participants from the Diaspora and others living in Haiti, sacrificed time and money towards its success. The United Front is thereby expressing its gratitude.

We applaud our Mission Chief, Firmin Backer who mobilized several compatriots inside and outside of Haiti for this endeavor. He coordinated training for participating Haitians in the diaspora, and through delegates in Haiti, organized several professional training sessions for compatriots throughout various departments. The behavior of these observers was exemplary and their initial report indicates that the election went without a glitch.

For the United Front, the Electoral Observation Mission represents one step forward in the quest for reintegration of Haitians living abroad in the affairs of Haiti. Other entities such as OAS, CARICOM, Black Caucus, European Union, Canada and others have deployed people to oversee Haiti's elections, and at times, interfered in other Haitian sovereign matters. Our organization has taken a position that is consistent with our goal to be of service to our motherland. The mission of the United Front is to Mobilize Haitians living in the Diaspora, our children, our friends, our allies and our resources to help develop Haiti. It is within that framework we took the initiative to serve as election observers. We feel it is not only our right, it is also our duty.

The collaboration between Haitians living inside and outside of the country is nothing new. For years, our members have worked tirelessly to help amend our constitution so to grant Dual Citizenship to

foreign children born from a Haitian parent, either mother or father. When Haiti faces natural disasters, man-made instability, lack of resources to organize elections, or institutional weakness in the defense of human rights, we have been there in the past and intend to be there in the future. Last August, we sent a delegation to Haiti to meet with the executive and legislative branches to help support our self-determination by funding our elections. Our work has just begun!

Once again, the United Front of the Haitian Diaspora applauds the work of all of our members who made the Electoral Observation Mission successful. We look forward to providing a comprehensive report of the November 20, election very soon.

For more information, consult our Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/haitianunitedfront>

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