

Haiti's Local Elections: What the Citizens Think

Two days before the holding of local elections throughout the country, do all the citizens have the same opinions about December 3?

First, we would like to thank all the citizens who agreed to share their opinions with us.

We collected the most opinions in the commune of Delmas, especially from street vendors, taxi drivers other citizens. Most people were reluctant to give their name or have their photograph taken.

The street vendors had clear expectations: "We want a municipal market area, we want a clean city, we are always victims of car accidents, we need a sufficiently clean place to sell our products." These sentiments were shared by all the vendors-- although they do not all sell the same products, they all are in the same situation.

In the commune of Port-with-Prince, a few citizens in the downtown area who agreed to share their opinions told us that they want the capital to be beautiful, free of trash, with a place to put the people who now are selling things on the sidewalk.

In the following communes: Tabarre, Croix-des-Bouquets, Cite Soleil and Pétion-Ville, citizens expressed almost the same opinions. Asked if they were ready to vote on December 3, 2006, many citizens said "yes, we will go vote." But others said no, citing bad memories of past elections in Haiti. Two elderly men, one 70, the other 65, on the edge of rue Borgela in Port-au-Prince said "we will not go vote, but we hope that those who are elected will respect the promises made to those will give them a vote of confidence on Sunday December 3, 2006.

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