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OCAPH MOBILIZES CITIZENS TO CROWDSOURCE ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DAY



The OCAPH crowdsourcing team monitored polling stations in the northern, southern and western regions of Haiti, documenting the primarily calm conditions that prevailed.

October 26, 2015, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

OCAPH, a civil society watchdog organization based near Port-au-Prince, reports that the crowdsourcing action it coordinated during Haiti's Presidential elections yesterday was successful. More than 800 SMS messages describing conditions at polling stations were sent in by its team members stationed in three locations: Cap Haitien on the north coast, Les Cayes seaport in the southwest, and the greater metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. They also documented location-specific scenarios with photos.

"We are pleased to report that, overall, conditions at the voting locations we monitored were calm, and that turn-out appeared to be strong," says Karl Jean-Louis, OCAPH Senior Governance Advisor. "There were isolated incidences of accessibility problems, last-minute poll location changes, and citizens' names not on voter lists, but fortunately they were the exception rather than the norm."

The OCAPH crowdsourcing team of approximately 100 citizens included representatives from organizations such as Future Generations Haiti, RANIFH (disability rights group), and OCAPH Jeune (youth group). Yesterday's crowdsourcing action followed on from OCAPH's earlier crowdsourcing action it carried out on August 9th during Haiti's first round of Parliamentary elections.

"From our perspective, OCAPH's crowdsourcing actions bring double benefits," says Jean-Louis. "First, they bring increased transparency into the electoral process, transparency created by trusted local citizens. And, second, they enable participants to become directly involved in strengthening their nation's democracy. Through crowdsourcing, OCAPH is documenting the present and building for the future."

For more information, see www.ocaph.org or call Observatoire Citoyen de L'Action des Pouvoirs Publics en Haiti (OCAPH) at 1-509-47-78-44-44. ###