

HAITI-OAS/CARICOM want electoral laws followed

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PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, CMC – The Joint Organization of American States -CARICOM Election Observation Mission (JEOM) in Haiti is urging candidates and political parties that contested the presidential and legislative council last month to follow the law in lodging their objections to the preliminary results scheduled to be posted on Tuesday.



“The Mission calls on candidates and political parties to carry out their claims and challenges in a peaceful manner and within the framework outlined by the Electoral Law which provides legal recourses to those who have grievances with regard to the results,” the JEOM said in a statement.

It reminds the various stakeholders that Article 174.1 of the Electoral Law stipulates that “where necessary, after the treatment of the data and before the proclamation of the official results, political parties and independent candidates participating in the elections have access to the Vote Tabulation Centre for verification purposes”.

It said it wanted “the actors to take advantage of this opportunity to verify in all transparency and within the framework of the law that the will of the people has been expressed through the ballot box”.

JEOM said that “if there is fraud or irregularity, Article 178 permits any candidate or his representative to contest the election of another candidate within 72 hours following the posting of preliminary results”.

But JEOM said it was “very concerned by the many complaints received by its observers concerning acts of intimidation against candidates who are involved in the current electoral process.

“The JEOM calls on the relevant authorities and in particular the Haitian National Police (HNP) to take the necessary steps in this post-election period. The Mission points out again that the holding of free and fair elections is closely linked to respect for human rights as set out in the American Convention on Human Rights, of which Haiti is a signatory.

“The authorities have the obligation to see to the security of candidates and other persons who are the targets of acts of intimidation and of violence,” it added.

The JEOM said it would continue to follow closely the coming phases of the electoral process, “including the claims and challenge phase that follows the publication of the preliminary results”.

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