

POLICY MEMORANDUM

Memorandum for Haitian Government/President Rene Preval

From: Group #5, Miracles of Development

Subject: Youth Anti-Corruption Training Program via Photojournalism

I. Action-Forcing Event: Haiti is in a fragile state, in need of political stability. Thirteen percent of Haiti's 1.6 million young people, ages 15-24, are content with their lives, according to a World Bank report. More than half of 20 year-olds have not completed secondary education and nearly half of the youth in the labour market are unemployed. Policy is needed to foster civic engagement and to inspire new leadership.

II. Background/Analysis: In 2004, former president Aristide was removed from power. It was not until 2006, that the current president Rene Preval was elected into office. From 2004-2006, an interim government held a tenuous grasp on Haitian politics. Youth disengagement as a result of the political instability has fragmented the country. Policies and programs on a macro level have been enacted to deal with this issue by improving economic and political stability in the country, through ties with Venezuela and the United States, and support from the IMF through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. However, these efforts do not specifically address civil unrest on the micro level.

III. Recommendation: We propose a youth engagement program that will include a multifaceted training initiative for people between the ages of 16 – 26. Among the skills and concepts that will be taught are: good governance practices, community organization strategies, indicators of corruption, accountability infrastructure, and the fundamentals of photojournalism as an anti-corruption tool. This will empower young people with education, access to technology, and useful skills to become leaders. International non-governmental organizations involved in civic engagement, leadership training, and photojournalism would provide direction and assistance to Haitian teachers (e.g. recruited from Haitian universities). Students will learn how to operate a digital camera; journalistic techniques; indicators of corruption; introduction to political theory; models for community organization; and other topics of leadership training. Intensive training would take place over the course of four weeks, during which students would be provided basic instruments, such as cameras and books. Partners from developed nations (e.g. corporations, international media, philanthropies) would contribute resources. The program will empower young people to recognize corruption, hold their government accountable via international media outlets, learn the basics of good governance, and understand methods of community organization. Long-term goals of the program include the strengthening of free media, stabilizing of the government, and Haitian advancement in the global community.

IV. Group's Role: The group will present the policy proposal and research to relevant partners, including but not limited to the World Bank, the Haitian government, and other potential sponsors. As students from a wide spectrum of disciplines, the group could also provide on-site guidance in Haiti at the launch of the program.

Sources:

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