

News from Representative Mario Diaz-Balart


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April 2, 2014

This weekend, I had the opportunity to join my colleagues, Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Frederica Wilson, on a Congressional Delegation to Haiti. It has been over four years since the island was ravaged by the 2010 earthquake. Both the U.S. government and the American people have been incredibly generous in their support of Haiti's rebuilding and development efforts, but recently, our support has faced obstacles. There have been reports that U.S. government funding on the island has been abused and mishandled, with many vital projects facing unnecessary delays and lacking substantial progress. One of the main purposes of the trip was to have an on the ground assessment of exactly how these funds are being used, making sure that American taxpayer dollars are not being wasted.

During our trip, we met with U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Pamela White, President of Haiti Michel Martelly, members of the Haitian Parliament, and Haitian Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe to discuss post-earthquake issues that still affect the island, the need for elections, and the effective distribution and use of U.S. government funding. We also participated in visits to a housing site, the national police academy, and the country's only critical care and trauma hospital.

The ties between South Florida and Haiti are strong, and we believe our communities can play a meaningful role in Haiti's future and the rebuilding process. We believe private investment in Haiti will lead to long-term economic growth and much needed jobs. I look forward to continue working with both Haitian and American government officials to make sure Haiti remains on a path to rebuilding

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its homes and businesses and restoring stability and a sense of community.



Congressman Diaz-Balart met with President of Haiti Michel Martelly and U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Pamela White during the Congressional Delegation this past weekend.

As always, stay in touch on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#), or visit my website for any constituent services I am able to provide you with.

Warm Regards,

Mario Diaz-Balart
[@MarioDB](#)

Washington D.C. Office
436 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4211
Fax: (202) 225-8576

District Office - Miami
8669 NW 36th Street, #100
Doral, FL 33166
Phone: (305) 470-8555
Fax: (305) 470-8575

District Office - Collier
4715 Golden Gate Parkway #1
Naples, FL 34116
Phone: (239) 348-1620
Fax: (239) 348-3569

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