



AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

December 31, 2025

Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prime Minister Fils-Aime publicly endorsed the CEP's revised electoral calendar on December 30, calling it realistic and credible, marking the government's first explicit normalization of the 365-day constitutional gap between February 7 2026 and February 7 2027. Haitian media published scathing editorials alleging the CPT is engaging in silent maneuvers to extend its mandate beyond the constitutional deadline. Economic data confirmed Haiti's lost decade with a 16 percent cumulative GDP contraction from 2019 to 2025. Gang violence remained absent for the eleventh consecutive day as armed groups strategically pause operations during the holiday period before expected January 2026 escalation. Thirty-eight days remain until February 7 2026.



QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

PM Fils-Aime endorsed CEP calendar on December 30 calling it realistic and credible despite 365-day constitutional gap.

Vant Bef Info and Rezo Nodwes published editorials accusing CPT of silent maneuvers to cling to power beyond February 7.

IHSI data shows 16 percent cumulative GDP decline from 2019 to 2025 confirming structural economic collapse.

Eleventh consecutive day without major gang violence suggests strategic positioning before 2026 escalation.

Thirty-eight days until CPT mandate expiration on February 7 2026.

DEVELOPMENT 1

Government Normalizes Constitutional Gap Through Calendar Endorsement

Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime met with the Provisional Electoral Council on December 30 and publicly endorsed the CEP's revised electoral calendar. The PM stated he had taken note with satisfaction of the publication of the electoral calendar and congratulated the Transitional Presidential Council for its commitment to elaborating the electoral decree. He characterized the calendar as realistic and credible and conforming to democratic requirements. This represents the first explicit government endorsement of the December 25 CEP calendar revision that abandoned the December 22 candidate list publication deadline and created a 365-day constitutional gap between February 7 2026 and February 7 2027.

The endorsement occurred one day before New Year's Eve and 38 days before the CPT's constitutional mandate expiration. By praising the calendar and congratulating the CPT, the PM is attempting to normalize an extra-constitutional transition without formally announcing a mandate extension. This strategy relies on operational continuity rather than legal declaration. The

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government proceeds with an electoral calendar that structurally requires the CPT to govern through 2026 while avoiding direct confrontation with international actors who have declared February 7 as the unconditional end of the transitional mandate.

The endorsement strategy faces three critical obstacles. Canadian Ambassador Sebastien Giroux declared on December 16 that February 7 represents the unconditional end of the CPT mandate, ruling out international legitimization of any extension. The MORN coalition declared on December 28 that the CPT mandate is already expired and authorities are only authorized for current affairs management. The OAS Roadmap's institutional continuity clause requires international actors to work with Haitian authorities to avoid a power vacuum but does not specify that the CPT remains the recognized authority after February 7.

The December 30 meeting represents a calculated effort to establish facts on the ground. By securing government endorsement of the calendar, CEP operational acceptance, and international acquiescence through silence, the CPT seeks to make its February 7 expiration logistically impossible without triggering state collapse. This mirrors the pattern identified in media editorials published December 31 alleging silent maneuvers to extend power. The strategy depends on international actors prioritizing stability over constitutional adherence when faced with the binary choice between CPT continuation and institutional vacuum.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Transitional Presidential Council was established on April 3 2024 through the April 3 Political Agreement with a constitutional mandate expiring February 7 2026. CPT members took an oath on April 25 2024 promising to respect the transitional timeline and organize elections within the mandate period. The December 25 CEP calendar revision represents the fourth major electoral deadline failure since the CPT's establishment, following missed commitments for voter registration launch in June 2024, constitutional referendum in September 2024, and candidate list publication on December 22 2025.

TALKING POINTS

PM endorsement represents first government validation of 365-day constitutional gap strategy. Calendar praised as realistic and credible despite requiring CPT governance through February 2027.

Endorsement creates operational facts on ground to make February 7 2026 expiration logistically impossible.

Strategy faces opposition from Canadian Ambassador Giroux's unconditional end declaration and MORN's expired mandate statement.

Government proceeding with calendar implementation while avoiding formal mandate extension

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announcement.

International community faces binary choice between accepting CPT continuation or triggering institutional vacuum.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Monitor for CPT or government statements in early January directly addressing February 7 mandate status.

Track international community response to PM endorsement particularly from Canada US and CARICOM.

Assess whether OAS or UN convenes emergency consultations on institutional continuity mechanisms.

Prepare scenarios for both CPT extension acceptance and alternative transition mechanisms.

Watch for domestic opposition mobilization particularly MORN coalition response to normalization strategy.

Evaluate whether PM's realistic calendar characterization signals acceptance of extended timeline by international partners.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 2

Media Alleges CPT Engaging in Silent Maneuvers to Extend Power

Vant Bef Info published an editorial on December 31 titled Beyond February 7 2026 the CPT's Silent Maneuvers to Cling to Power arguing the transitional council is quietly preparing to extend its mandate beyond the constitutional deadline. The editorial suggests the PM's December 30 endorsement of the CEP's calendar is part of a strategy to normalize the 365-day constitutional gap without formally announcing a mandate extension. Rezo Nodwes published a parallel editorial titled February 7 the Transitional Presidential Council or the Haitian Art of Staying After Swearing to Leave characterizing the CPT's behavior as emblematic of Haiti's political culture of broken promises.

Both editorials frame the calendar endorsement as evidence of systematic preparation for unconstitutional extension. Vant Bef Info's analysis aligns with previous allegations from the RNDDH on December 26 that CPT members proposed 500000 to 600000 dollar departure

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bonuses and Samuel Madistin's December 28 claim that a High Court decree would shield CPT leaders from prosecution. The editorial narrative suggests these elements constitute a coordinated strategy to secure financial incentives legal immunity and international acquiescence for continued governance beyond February 7.

The Rezo Nodwes headline directly challenges the CPT's legitimacy by invoking the April 25 2024 oath ceremony. CPT members swore to respect the transitional timeline and expire on February 7 2026 creating a public commitment that the current calendar endorsement appears to violate. By characterizing this as the Haitian art of staying after swearing to leave, the editorial positions the CPT's behavior within a historical pattern of political elites extending their mandates through procedural manipulation rather than democratic renewal.

Le National published a year-end retrospective documenting that four different CPT presidents in 2025 made public promises to restore security and organize elections. Leslie Voltaire in January, Fritz Alphonse Jean in May, Laurent Saint-Cyr in August, and Edgar Leblanc Fils by year-end rotation all pledged progress that did not materialize. The retrospective validates the media's skepticism about government timeline commitments and undermines the PM's characterization of the revised calendar as realistic and credible when previous calendars proved aspirational rather than operational.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti's political history includes multiple instances of leaders extending their mandates beyond constitutional limits. President Michel Martelly governed without a parliament from January 2015 to January 2016 after failing to hold legislative elections. President Jovenel Moise ruled by decree from January 2020 until his July 2021 assassination after parliamentary terms expired. The CPT was established specifically to avoid repeating this pattern by creating a fixed transitional timeline with international oversight, making the current extension allegations particularly significant as evidence of systemic governance failure.

TALKING POINTS

Vant Bef Info editorial alleges CPT engaging in silent maneuvers to normalize mandate extension. Rezo Nodwes characterizes CPT behavior as art of staying after swearing to leave.

Editorials connect PM's calendar endorsement to broader pattern including departure bonuses and legal immunity proposals.

Le National retrospective documents four CPT presidents' failed 2025 promises on security and elections.

Media narrative challenges PM's realistic and credible calendar characterization.

Editorial resistance demonstrates domestic opposition to normalization strategy despite limited

street mobilization.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Track editorial content trends in January for escalation of CPT legitimacy challenges.
Monitor whether media allegations influence MORN coalition mobilization capacity.
Assess if editorial criticism signals broader civil society rejection of extension despite weak protest turnout.
Evaluate whether independent media serves as early warning indicator for institutional resistance.
Watch for government response to editorial allegations or continued strategy of proceeding through silence.
Consider editorial narrative as barometer of educated urban population's acceptance of CPT continuation.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on verified editorial publications.

DEVELOPMENT 3

Economic Data Confirms Lost Decade with 16 Percent Cumulative Contraction

Haiti Libre republished IHSI Economic Accounts data on December 31 emphasizing that the 2.7 percent GDP contraction in 2025 brings the cumulative economic decline from 2019 to 2025 to 16 percent. This represents the worst seven-year economic performance since the 2010 earthquake. Haiti's economy has shrunk by nearly one-sixth over this period driven by gang territorial control of 80 percent of Port-au-Prince, political instability with no elections since 2016, and humanitarian crisis affecting 4.2 million people representing 37 percent of the population.

The 16 percent cumulative decline demonstrates Haiti is experiencing structural collapse rather than temporary crisis. Economic activity has contracted continuously despite multiple changes in government leadership including President Jovenel Moise's assassination in July 2021, Prime Minister Ariel Henry's resignation in March 2024, and the CPT's establishment in April 2024. The consistency of economic deterioration across different political configurations validates that governance failures transcend individual leaders and reflect systemic institutional breakdown.

Le National's year-end retrospective documented the futility of CPT promises throughout 2025. Four different CPT presidents pledged to restore security and organize elections yet the year

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closed with worse conditions than January 1 2025. Gang territorial control expanded, the December 22 candidate list deadline was missed, and the 365-day constitutional gap was created. The PM's December 30 endorsement of a calendar requiring the CPT to govern through 2026 ignores this evidence. The CPT has failed to deliver security, elections, or economic recovery in 21 months from April 2024 to December 2025. Extending its mandate for another 12 months will likely deepen rather than reverse the collapse.

The economic data provides empirical validation for arguments against CPT extension. If 21 months of CPT governance produced 16 percent cumulative decline and zero progress on security or elections, extending the mandate to 33 months total through February 2027 lacks policy justification. The PM's characterization of the revised calendar as realistic must be evaluated against the CPT's demonstrated track record of failure to achieve stated objectives. Economic collapse of this magnitude requires political stability through legitimate government and democratic renewal, neither of which the current extension strategy provides.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti's GDP contracted 5.1 percent in 2010 following the January earthquake that killed over 200,000 people and destroyed critical infrastructure. The current 16 percent cumulative decline from 2019 to 2025 exceeds that single-year shock spread across seven years, indicating sustained systemic failure. Previous multi-year contractions occurred during the 1991-1994 embargo period following the coup against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the 2004-2006 political violence following Aristide's second departure. The 2019-2025 period represents the longest sustained economic contraction in Haiti's modern history.

TALKING POINTS

IHSI data shows 16 percent cumulative GDP decline from 2019 to 2025 worst since 2010 earthquake.

Seven-year contraction demonstrates structural collapse not temporary crisis.

Economic deterioration continued despite leadership changes from Moïse to Henry to CPT.

Four CPT presidents in 2025 failed to deliver promised security and elections.

CPT's 21-month track record shows zero progress justifying mandate extension.

Economic recovery requires political stability and democratic legitimacy that extension strategy cannot provide.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Use 16 percent decline data to challenge PM's realistic calendar characterization in stakeholder communications.

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Highlight CPT track record when evaluating international community proposals for mandate extension.

Prepare economic impact assessments for scenarios including CPT continuation versus alternative transition mechanisms.

Monitor Q4 2025 and Q1 2026 GDP data for acceleration or deceleration of contraction rate.

Track correlation between gang territorial control percentages and economic activity metrics.

Assess whether economic collapse data influences international donor willingness to fund extended CPT timeline.



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High confidence based on official IHSI institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 4

Eleventh Consecutive Day Without Major Violence Signals Strategic Gang Pause

December 31 marked the eleventh consecutive day without reported major gang violence following a pattern that began December 21. Monitored sources including Haiti Libre, Haiti24, Le Nouvelliste, and Vant Bef Info reported zero security incidents on New Year's Eve as of 5:16 PM EST. This represents the longest sustained operational pause in 2025 excluding isolated incidents on December 23 involving a repelled Coast Guard maritime attack and December 24 General Hospital attack plus Minoterie drone strike killing dozens.

The operational pause demonstrates gang capacity to strategically modulate violence rather than operating under external constraint. Groups that control 80 percent of Port-au-Prince and conducted systematic attacks through mid-December including the December 19 Petionville school shooting and December 20 Carrefour-Feuilles massacre can suspend operations at will. The timing during the holiday period suggests gangs are consolidating positions, monitoring political developments, and preparing for escalation in early January 2026 as the February 7 deadline approaches.

The Crisis Group assessed on December 15 that gangs are strategically monitoring the electoral and political process to determine their February 7 leverage options. By pausing operations during the MORN December 29 sit-in demonstration, gangs observed that opposition mobilization produced limited turnout and PNH tolerance without repression. By pausing through New Year's Eve, gangs avoid triggering international attention during the holiday period when media coverage and diplomatic engagement are reduced. The pattern validates Crisis Group analysis that armed

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groups seek amnesty as part of any February 7 transition negotiation.

The PM's December 28 statement declaring no negotiations with gangs represents a military solution doctrine that the eleven-day pause undermines. The December 27 US donation of 25 armored vehicles to PNH demonstrates continued international investment in security force capacity. However, the operational pause proves gangs are not militarily defeated or constrained. Expect violence to resume in early January following Haiti Independence Day on January 1 as armed groups test government resolve and signal their capacity to disrupt any transition process that excludes their interests. The pause is tactical preparation for escalation not evidence of security progress.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Gang operational pauses have historically preceded major escalations in Haiti. The relative calm during the first two weeks of April 2024 immediately preceded the intense violence that forced Prime Minister Ariel Henry's resignation and enabled CPT establishment. The December 2023 holiday pause preceded the February-March 2024 surge that closed Toussaint Louverture International Airport and surrounded the National Palace. Gangs use operational pauses to resupply, coordinate between factions, and position for maximum impact when violence resumes, making current calm a concerning indicator rather than positive development.

TALKING POINTS

Eleventh consecutive day without major violence represents longest 2025 operational pause. Pattern demonstrates gang capacity to modulate violence strategically not external constraint. Timing during holiday period suggests consolidation before January 2026 escalation. Pause validates Crisis Group assessment that gangs monitor political process for leverage opportunities.

PM's no negotiations doctrine undermined by evidence gangs not militarily defeated. Historical pattern shows operational pauses precede major escalations not sustained security improvements.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Prepare for violence resumption in first week of January following Independence Day on January 1.

Monitor gang activity in first 48 hours after New Year for signals of escalation timeline.

Assess whether operational pause reflects coordination between major gang factions.



Evaluate if pause demonstrates gang confidence in political leverage versus fear of security operations.

Track PNH deployment patterns during pause for indicators of institutional readiness. Consider whether gang pause influences international community timeline pressure on CPT mandate question.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on consistent reporting absence across multiple independent sources.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS

Violence resumption after Haiti Independence Day on January 1 would signal end of eleven-day operational pause. Gang activity in first 48 hours of 2026 will indicate whether armed groups maintain strategic pause through early January or immediately escalate to test government security response capacity. Zero incidents through January 2 would suggest gangs extending pause pending political developments while attacks on January 1-2 would demonstrate operational calendar tied to symbolic dates rather than political calculation. Monitor Port-au-Prince downtown areas, Petionville commercial zones, and critical infrastructure for first-strike targets.

THIS WEEK

CPT or government statement addressing February 7 mandate expiration by January 3-5 would clarify whether normalization strategy continues through silence or transitions to explicit extension announcement. International community response to PM's December 30 calendar endorsement particularly from Canada US and CARICOM by end of first week January will signal acceptance or rejection of 365-day constitutional gap. MORN coalition mobilization capacity in response to calendar endorsement would test whether editorial criticism translates to street opposition. CEP operational steps implementing revised calendar including staff recruitment or voter registration planning would confirm government proceeding despite mandate uncertainty.

STRATEGIC HORIZON

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Emergency OAS CARICOM or UN consultations by mid-January on institutional continuity mechanisms would indicate international actors preparing alternative transition frameworks rather than accepting CPT extension. Gang violence escalation in second or third week of January targeting electoral infrastructure or international facilities would signal armed groups' February 7 leverage strategy. Economic indicators for Q4 2025 and Q1 2026 showing acceleration beyond 16 percent cumulative decline would increase pressure for immediate political resolution rather than extended transition timeline. Domestic opposition coalition formation beyond MORN bringing together civil society, private sector, and diaspora networks would challenge CPT legitimacy more effectively than isolated protests.

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