



Embassy of the United States of America
Mahé, Seychelles

PRESS RELEASE

Vaani Vyapoory Launches “Stop Polisyon” Music Video

Port Louis, April 22, 2016 : The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce a new music video to promote environmental preservation created by young Mauritian woman, Vaani Vyapoory. After participating in the U.S. Embassy’s 2015 Pan African Youth Leadership Program, Vaani returned to Mauritius with one goal in mind—to teach young people about the importance of protecting the environment. Yesterday, on the eve of Earth Day 2016 and in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy and Rogers, Vaani premiered her song, “Stop Polisyon”. Together with a group of friends, she wrote and composed this clip, which is available on YouTube and Facebook. The hope is for the clip to go “viral” and become an anthem for greener living in Mauritius.

“Vaani has created a beautiful piece of music; one which I know will inspire you as it has me. She and her friends, as you will see in the video, have worked hard to improve the environment in Mauritius. Lest anyone think the job is done, most of the scenes in the video, including those of plastic waste, were taken around the island. I applaud Vaani and the many young people like her with a vision for taking on climate change as individuals. Maybe it’s purchasing a reusable grocery bag, maybe it’s cleaning up that beach you visit on weekends, maybe it’s even asking a complete stranger to drop his cigarette butt in the trash instead of the ground in front of you. These little efforts will slowly change the mindset in our countries and create a culture of environmental conservation”, said Chargés d’affaires a.i. Susan Falatko.

In January 2016, Vaani launched a non-governmental organization called Youth United for the Environment, which aims to create a grassroots movement and provide a platform for youth to share their views on the environment. The group’s first event was a beach clean-up in Bel Ombre, sponsored in part by the Rogers Foundation, the Bel Ombre Village Council, and the U.S. Embassy. But she knew that beach clean-ups were not enough to inspire youth to action; the best way to reach young people today is through social media. So she came up with the idea of a music video clip that could be shared across Facebook.

Pan-African Youth Leadership Program (PAYLP)

Now in its third year, the Pan-African Youth Leadership Program (PAYLP) for students ages 15-18 aims to foster regional cooperation in Africa in addition to nurturing future leaders. Through three-week, intensive exchanges in the United States, participants engage in workshops on leadership and service, community site visits related to the program themes, interactive training in conflict resolution, presentations, visits to high schools, local cultural activities, and homestays with local

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American families. A key component of the program is to develop community-based projects in the students' home communities to affect change upon their return.

Facebook link : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/804778396316450/>

YouTube link : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVbsRdtFD8s>

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