



# Power outages haiti

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Port-de-Paix, alongside several Northwestern cities, endures a relentless blackout as the local EDH office closes and a critical power plant remains inactive for the past two years. Promises of electrification by the late President Moïse have fallen through, leaving residents in darkness and uncertainty. Natural energy potentials remain untapped, compounding the region's challenges.

PORT-DE-PAIX--About three months ago, the local office of Electricity of Haiti (EDH), the government-run utility, shut down. The sudden move left residents without answers and has intensified the already dire power crisis, marked by constant blackouts across the region for more than two years.

"I can't recall the last time we had electricity. It must have been five years ago," Marc Freguy Cereste, a Saint-Louis-du-Nord resident, said.

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The recent office closure follows the earlier shutdown of a power plant inaugurated by the late President Jovenel Moïse. At the time, Moïse and EDH were launching a massive electricity campaign called Operasyon Relimen. But just days after the assassination, the plant ceased operations, plunging the cities into relentless darkness, just as Haiti's government also descended into political chaos and gang violence that left little in functioning order.

Instead of seeing the promise of daily power realized, residents enduring the relentless blackout have had to resort to alternative power sources. Solar panels, battery generators, inverters and flashlights have since become indispensable for anyone looking for energy to light their homes and power various devices over the past 30 months. Now, facing the latest closure and impatient residents who want the power back, local authorities and community leaders are calling for immediate action and clearer communication from the government.

EDH service has been suspended in several large cities in the Northwest department. Port-de-Paix in particular, with its dense population of over 300,000, faces severe hardship from the lack of electrical power. Many still lament the once-promising new power plant in La Saline, a small town just miles from Port-de-Paix, remains a stark symbol of unfulfilled promises.

"This power plant gave us hope that we might find relief from our energy struggles," said Morange Tanis, a Port-de-Paix resident. "But now, our problems have only deepened because, for over two years, we've had no access to the plant's service."

Like many across the region, Labranche Mertilus, also of Port-de-Paix, has had to find alternatives to electrical



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power to carry out basic activities.

"I used to light my home with a whale candle," Mertilus said. "Now, I rely on a small generator. Many in the neighborhood still use candles because they have no other option."

Those who cannot afford alternative sources are still living in darkness. The recently closed EDH office has reignited frustration, with both the darkness and the lack of accessible information.

"This plant was supposed to change our lives," Tanis said. "It's just another broken promise... It seems our problems in Port-de-Paix are far from resolved."

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