

spray of flowers at the feet of his statue on the Champ de Mars

Port-au-Prince, April 7, 2004 -(AHP)- This April 7th marks the 201st anniversary of the death, under circumstances which remain confused, of the precursor of Haiti's independence, Toussaint Louverture, at Fort de Joux in France.

On this occasion, the interim prime minister, Gérard Latortue, accompanied by his minister of justice, Bernard Gousse, placed a spray of flowers at the feet of Toussaint Louverture's statue at the Square of Heroes on the Champ de Mars.

For his part, historian Rony Durand presented Toussaint Louverture as a living example from whom rising generations should draw inspiration for the creation of new horizons for Haiti.

Mr. Durand considered that despite the presence today of a foreign military force in Haiti, the Louverturian methodology is the path to follow in order to arrive at a new social contract that rallies the various social sectors of Haiti.

Toussaint Louverture died in France after having been deported from Saint-Domingue.

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Electricity rationing becomes increasingly drastic: the EDH only has 8 to 10 megawatts supplied by Péligre

Port-au-Prince, April 7, 2004 -(AHP)- Electricity rationing has become much more drastic in the Haitian capital over the past four weeks.

Neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince are receiving an average of only two to three hours of electricity per day, for the most part during the night.

Even the areas designated as priority zones are today going through the bitter experience of prolonged blackout.

This situation arises from the fact that the motors of various power stations in Port-au-Prince are no longer operating because of a lack of diesel or fuel oil, two weeks after the eruption of a scandal that was quickly smothered regarding possible in an order for fuel.

The EDH (Electricity of Haiti) disposes of no more than eight to ten megawatts per day supplied lately by the Péligre power station, which has a capacity of 54 megawatts.

According to sources close to the interim government, the director general of the electric company, who has yet to be officially appointed, could be provided with resources that would enable him to do a satisfactory job of operating the public utility.

The EDH needs approximately 125 megawatts to supply the region from Port-au-Prince to Léogâne with electricity on a 24 hour basis.

In addition, the employees of EDH, who were threatening to officially begin a strike over unpaid salaries have decided to suspend their action.

The lower-echelon employees reportedly received payment of wages Wednesday covering two of the four weeks pay owed to them.

The directors and heads of departments might receive their pay envelopes this Thursday.

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