

Cuba hospital energy storage

Journalist Carlos Herrera Rodr guez took to social media on Wednesday to highlight a situation he described as both shocking and unbelievable: a clinic in the Playa district of Havana was left without fuel for its generator.

"The emergency room at the 26 de Julio polyclinic in Playa has no oil to run the generator. Unbelievable, but true," Herrera stated on his Facebook profile. He criticized the lack of consideration for human life, underscoring the dire situation where a medical facility was left powerless, potentially jeopardizing medical care during emergencies.

Earlier, journalist Jos  Luis Tan Estrada from Camag ey reported a similar incident in his province via Facebook. "The Este polyclinic in Camag ey city is back online after I highlighted its power outage yesterday on this social network. This center operates 24/7 emergency services," he mentioned.

Despite how surreal it seems, Cuba's escalating energy crisis, marked by frequent blackouts, poses significant risks to patients in hospitals and clinics. Recently, the Municipal Hospital of Vertientes in Camag ey faced an electricity cutoff, placing critically ill patients in serious danger.

Independent journalist Tan revealed on Facebook that a source confirmed the blackout occurred around 1:30 a.m., affecting individuals with respiratory issues and pregnant women.

A similar incident was reported at a hospital in Santiago de Cuba. A local mother expressed her anger on social media after an unexpected blackout hit a children's hospital. Journalist Yosmany Mayeta shared the mother's frustration on Facebook, following the outage at the Dr. Antonio Mar a B guez C sar Children's Hospital, commonly referred to as "La Colonia."

In the presence of Cuba's Vice Prime Minister Ramiro Vald s and the Minister of Energy and Mines Vicente de la O Levy, the results of a study focused on the control and supervision of investments in photovoltaic parks and the maintenance of thermal power plants were analyzed in the Industry, Construction, and Energy Commission of Parliament. In most of the investments reviewed, the necessary permits, construction licenses, endorsements from organizations, contracts, and their scope and updates were suitably verified.

There were, however, defaults in investments in Ciego de  vila, Guant namo, and Matanzas. In this last territory, there are investments that have been paralyzed for more than five years and others do not have the executive project.

The commitment of the workers to reduce the energy generation deficit was confirmed, considering that the

investment processes under development with renewable energy sources will guarantee fuel savings, mainly diesel and fuel oil, along with a revival of the economy. Vicente de la O Levy commented that a program is being implemented in Cuba for the construction of 92 photovoltaic parks. “The resources are arriving to supply them, we have fuel in Cuba for these works, and progress is being made in the projects,” he said.

Vicente de la O Levy noted the importance of electric company directors in controlling the investment process, and he specified that work was already underway on the civil construction of the first 19 parks—71 containers with resources have already arrived in the country. “There has been a significant increase in the prices of shipping companies that transport containers, but so far there are no delays in payments. We apply alternatives in the face of difficulties,” he said.

Likewise, he said that the country is in a scientific-technical position to design a way to go abroad to finance these projects. In addition, nine photovoltaic parks (22 MW) are under construction, for which supplies should arrive at the end of this year. Meanwhile, work is being done on the Herradura 1 wind farm and on achieving a generation of 120 MW, thanks to a Chinese donation of 22 parks. The first stage envisions the installation of 35 MW in seven parks, whose resources will arrive in the country before the end of 2024.

Regarding the electrification of homes isolated from the national electrical system using renewable energy sources, it was noted that currently 4,256 systems have partial breakdowns, allowing service only during the day. Likewise, about 1,150 have total breakdowns. All of these cases must have a solution with the entry into the country of 5,000 batteries that arrived in July and the 3,176 systems that will receive those batteries.

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