



AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

January 13, 2026

Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Leslie Voltaire confirmed the Transitional Presidential Council will depart February 7 but introduced conditions requiring sixty percent political class consensus and international community approval, contradicting the April 3 Agreement's unconditional mandate termination. CARICOM escalated pressure with its second warning in four days, expressing deep concern about actor slowness despite identified convergence points in transition proposals. The government inaugurated National Route 3 between Hinche and Saint-Raphael while Route 1 remains impassable at Montrouis and Route 2 faces periodic blockages, demonstrating capacity in secure zones but inability to clear gang-controlled territories. Twenty-five days remain until the constitutional deadline.



QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Leslie Voltaire stated CPT will leave February 7 but subordinated departure to political consensus formula and international approval.

CARICOM Group of Eminent Persons issued second warning in four days expressing deep concern about slowness of Haitian actors.

National Route 3 Hinche-Saint-Raphael section inaugurated while primary routes remain blocked by gang control.

Police reported seizing thirty-three weapons and twelve thousand rounds in recent operations.

Twenty-five days remain until February 7 constitutional deadline with no successor framework agreement.

DEVELOPMENT 1: The Voltaire Conditional Departure Framework

CPT Presidential Coordinator Leslie Voltaire delivered two public statements between January 10 and January 12 that represent the first explicit commitment by a Council member to honor the February 7 mandate expiration but introduced conditional language that fundamentally alters the commitment's meaning and creates ambiguity about whether departure will occur if specified conditions remain unmet. In Jacmel on January 10, Voltaire stated the Council signed to leave and will no longer be

legitimate after February 7, using unconditional language aligned with Article 12.1 of the April 3 Agreement. However, in Jeremie on January 12 during a Chamber of Commerce ceremony, Voltaire added that departure would be subordinate to adoption of a formula capable of rallying nearly sixty percent of the Haitian political class without offending the international community.

The distinction between unconditional and conditional framing reveals strategic positioning that allows multiple interpretations of the February 7 commitment. If a transition formula achieves sixty percent political class consensus and international approval by late January, the CPT departs as promised and Voltaire's statements prove credible. If no such formula emerges, the Council can argue it cannot responsibly create an institutional vacuum by departing without a successor framework, effectively justifying continuation beyond the constitutional deadline through the conditional language introduced in the January 12 statement. Vant Bef Info editorial analysis published January 13 questioned whether clear and definitive departure exists when subordinated to fragile political balances and external actor approval, noting the CPT risks accentuating public mistrust by reiterating the same promise without specifying implementation mechanisms.

The conditional framework creates institutional uncertainty about who holds authority to determine whether the specified conditions have been met. If the CPT retains unilateral authority to assess whether sixty percent consensus and international approval exist, the conditional departure becomes a discretionary extension mechanism controlled by the Council itself rather than an externally verifiable standard. The January 12 statement does not identify which entity will certify that conditions have been satisfied, whether CARICOM, the international community collectively, Haitian civil society, or the CPT itself. With twenty-five days remaining until February 7, the absence of specified verification mechanisms means the conditional framework could authorize indefinite extension if the CPT determines at any point that conditions remain unmet.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The April 3 Agreement Article 12.1 stipulates the CPT mandate ends February 7

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without reference to conditions or contingencies. Article 6.1 of the May 23 decree states the Council cannot benefit from mandate extension per legal analysis presented by Jerry Tardieu in December.

TALKING POINTS

Voltaire's January 10 Jacmel statement used unconditional language matching April 3 Agreement terms.

The January 12 Jeremie statement introduced two conditions not present in constitutional documents.

Sixty percent political class consensus threshold has no legal basis in transition agreements.

International community approval requirement creates external veto over Haitian constitutional process.

No verification mechanism exists to certify whether conditions have been satisfied.

CPT may retain unilateral authority to assess condition fulfillment creating self-extension power.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Demand CPT clarify whether all nine Council members endorse Voltaire's conditional framework or if statement represents minority position.

Require CPT specify which entity holds authority to certify sixty percent consensus and international approval have been achieved.

Request international community define what constitutes approval and which actors must provide it.

Monitor whether other CPT members issue statements this week supporting or contradicting conditional departure framework.

Prepare contingency plans for both February 7 departure and extension scenarios given framework ambiguity.

Track civil society and opposition group responses to conditional language over next seven days.



CONFIDENCE



Moderate confidence based on partial institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 2: CARICOM Escalates Pressure on Haitian Political Actors

The CARICOM Group of Eminent Persons issued a statement January 12 expressing deep concern about the slowness of Haitian actors in finding common ground despite points of convergence in numerous publicly available transition proposals, representing the second warning in four days following the January 9 statement that time is running out. The January 12 escalation indicates CARICOM has identified viable frameworks with overlapping elements across multiple proposals but views the negotiation impasse as a failure of political will rather than absence of technical solutions. The statement specifically references points of convergence in proposals, suggesting CARICOM technical staff have analyzed civil society frameworks, political party positions, and international recommendations to identify areas of agreement that Haitian actors are failing to capitalize on.

CARICOM's characterization of actor slowness rather than proposal inadequacy signals growing international frustration with what regional observers interpret as deliberate delay tactics serving individual political interests at the expense of national stability. The call for actors to demonstrate patriotism above all if Haitians wish to decide their own destiny implies CARICOM views the negotiation stalemate as self-interested maneuvering rather than principled disagreement over governance structures. This framing suggests the alternative to Haitian-led consensus may be external imposition of a transition framework, which CARICOM has historically opposed but may consider unavoidable if domestic actors exhaust the remaining twenty-five day window without reaching agreement.

The timing of two warnings within four days indicates CARICOM assesses the critical decision window is narrowing to immediate timeframes rather than the full remaining period until February 7. If CARICOM issues warnings January 9 and January 12 with escalating language, the regional body likely expects concrete movement toward consensus by January 17, leaving twenty-one days for implementation rather than negotiation. Failure to demonstrate progress this week may trigger CARICOM

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emergency Heads of Government summit convening, withdrawal from facilitation role leaving Haiti to manage February 7 transition unilaterally, or endorsement of a specific proposal over others to break the deadlock.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

CARICOM has served as principal facilitator of Haitian political dialogue since March 2024 when regional leaders brokered the April 3 Agreement establishing the transitional framework. The Group of Eminent Persons was established to provide ongoing technical support and mediation for transition implementation.

TALKING POINTS

CARICOM identified points of convergence across multiple transition proposals submitted by different actors.

Regional body characterizes delay as actor slowness rather than framework inadequacy or technical complexity.

Second warning in four days signals escalating urgency and narrowing decision window.

Call for patriotism implies CARICOM views impasse as self-interested political maneuvering.

Alternative to Haitian-led consensus may be external framework imposition despite CARICOM's historical opposition.

Critical decision window likely closes January 17 if pattern of warnings continues requiring concrete progress this week.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Monitor for third CARICOM statement by January 15 which would establish pattern of daily pressure.

Track whether CARICOM convenes emergency Heads of Government summit this week to address actor slowness.

Identify which specific proposals contain the convergence points CARICOM references to assess viable compromise elements.

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Prepare for scenario where CARICOM endorses civil society January 6 proposal or alternative framework to break deadlock.

Assess whether January 17 represents hard deadline for consensus before entering implementation-only period.

Monitor international community statements following CARICOM warnings to gauge coordinated pressure campaign.



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High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 3: Infrastructure Theater Masks Territorial Control Gaps

The government inaugurated the rehabilitated National Route 3 section between Hinche and Saint-Raphael on January 13 including the Hinche bypass and launch of Saint-Raphael bypass construction, occurring twenty-five days before the CPT mandate expiration and one day after Secretary of State Andresol promised to reopen routes to the South and North before February 7. The timing demonstrates government capacity to execute infrastructure projects in secure zones of the Centre Department but exposes inability to address the primary territorial control challenge blocking national commerce and mobility. National Route 1 remains impassable at Montrouis since January 6 per OCHA reporting, and National Route 2 faces periodic gang blockages in Leogane and Artibonite checkpoints, meaning the two principal corridors connecting Port-au-Prince to the country's second and third largest cities remain outside government control.

The disconnect between Route 3 inauguration in a secure area and Route 1 and Route 2 impassability in gang-controlled territories reveals the Andresol promise to reopen southern and northern routes by February 7 is operationally unrealistic given the twenty-five day timeframe. Route 3 between Hinche and Saint-Raphael does not constitute the route to the North, which requires passage through Montrouis on Route 1 where gang control persists. Clearing and securing Montrouis requires sustained

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security operations involving the Haitian National Police and the Multinational Security Support mission, establishment of permanent security posts to prevent gang return, and maintenance operations to ensure sustained access. Twenty-five days is insufficient to execute security clearance, establish permanent presence, and demonstrate sustained control necessary to reopen commercial traffic and civilian mobility on routes that have been blocked since early January.

The Route 3 inauguration functions as symbolic demonstration of government activity ahead of the February 7 deadline but does not address the core territorial control deficit that prevents economic activity, humanitarian access, and population mobility across gang-controlled zones. The police reported seizing thirty-three weapons and twelve thousand rounds in recent operations during a January 12 press conference, but this quantitative metric does not translate to territorial recovery or route security. The government can host ribbon-cutting ceremonies in areas where it maintains control but cannot execute the military operations necessary to break gang territorial dominance in strategic corridors that determine whether Haiti functions as a unified national territory or a collection of disconnected enclaves.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

National Route 1 has faced periodic gang blockages since 2021 with increasing frequency and duration. The current Montrouis blockage since January 6 represents the longest sustained closure of the primary northern corridor. Route 2 blockages have similarly intensified over the past year as gang federations expanded territorial control.

TALKING POINTS

Route 3 inauguration demonstrates capacity in secure zones but does not address gang-controlled corridor problem.

Andresol January 12 promise to reopen routes by February 7 is operationally unrealistic with twenty-five days remaining.

Route 1 Montrouis blockage requires sustained military operations not ribbon-cutting ceremonies to resolve.

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Police seizure of thirty-three weapons and twelve thousand rounds does not translate to territorial recovery.

Government can execute infrastructure projects where it already controls territory but cannot extend control to contested areas.

Timing of Route 3 inauguration suggests symbolic theater designed to demonstrate progress ahead of February 7 deadline.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Assess whether government will attempt Montrouis clearance operation in next two weeks or abandon route reopening promise.

Monitor whether PNH and Multinational Security Support mission coordinate sustained operations at Route 1 and Route 2 blockage points.

Track economic impact of continued Route 1 and Route 2 closures on fuel distribution, food supply, and commercial activity.

Evaluate whether Route 3 inauguration generates positive media coverage sufficient to offset Route 1 and Route 2 closure impacts.

Prepare analysis of post-February 7 territorial control scenarios if current government cannot secure primary corridors.

Monitor whether opposition groups use infrastructure theater versus territorial reality contrast to delegitimize CPT extension arguments.



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High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS

Monitor whether additional CPT members issue statements supporting or contradicting Voltaire's conditional departure framework. If the Council remains silent,

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Voltaire's position may represent minority view rather than institutional consensus. Track whether civil society groups or opposition movements respond to conditional language by demanding unconditional February 7 departure per April 3 Agreement terms.

THIS WEEK

Watch for potential CARICOM emergency summit convening or third warning statement by January 15 establishing pattern of daily pressure on Haitian actors. The critical decision window likely closes January 17 if no concrete progress toward consensus emerges, forcing either external framework imposition or transition into implementation-only period with compressed timelines. Monitor whether government attempts Montrouis clearance operation to support Andresol route reopening promise.

STRATEGIC HORIZON

Assess whether CPT will invoke conditional framework to justify extension if sixty percent consensus and international approval remain uncertified by early February. Track whether international community coordinates pressure campaign following CARICOM warnings or fractures into competing positions on transition pathways. Monitor opposition group mobilization capacity if CPT attempts extension beyond constitutional deadline using conditional departure rationale.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Vant Bef Info editorial analysis on conditional departure framework
Haiti Libre comprehensive news coverage including CARICOM statement and Route 3 inauguration
CARICOM Group of Eminent Persons official statement January 12
Public Infrastructure Ministry Route 3 inauguration announcement
April 3 2024 Political Agreement Article 12.1 on CPT mandate termination
Le Nouvelliste Port-au-Prince daily reporting on Voltaire statements and government activities
AlterPresse coverage of CPT earthquake anniversary statement
OCHA humanitarian situation reporting on Route 1 Montrouis blockage
Haitian National Police press conference January 12 on operational results
May 23 2024 Presidential Decree Article 6.1 on mandate extension prohibition

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Civil society January 6 transition proposal documentation
Haiti24 security situation monitoring