

Nigeria suffers widespread blackouts after electricity grid fails

Nigeria's national electricity grid collapsed on Monday, 26 September, leaving many parts of the country without power, electricity distribution companies said.



High-tension electrical power lines are seen at the Azura-Edo Independent Power Plant (IPP) on the outskirts of Benin City in Edo state, Nigeria. 2018. Source: Reuters/Akintunde Akinleye

The grid has collapsed at least four times this year, which authorities blame on technical problems. Last month workers from the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) went on strike and temporarily shut the grid.

Electricity distribution firms, known as Discos, said the outage happened earlier on Monday and they were working with TCN to restore supplies. They did not state the cause of the outage.

Nigeria has installed capacity of 12,500 megawatts but produces about a quarter of that, leaving many Nigerians and businesses reliant on diesel-powered generators. Diesel prices have soared since the start of the year.

The nation's sclerotic power grid, and its precarious energy supply, are often cited by businesses as a key issue hindering growth in Africa's most populous country.

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