

HAITI 2004



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INDEPENDENCE BICENTENNIAL

**Of First Black Republic of the World :
Leader of the Struggle against Slavery
in the Americas**

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The commemoration of Haiti's Independence Bicentennial in 2004 will be a National, Caribbean, American, African reunion, a world-class gathering to reinstate the historical facts and realities that have brought on the epic events of 1804 and the birth of the Haitian nation.

It will be the moment to reaffirm Haiti's strong commitment to defend the universal concept of the dignity of men and women in the perspective of durable human development based on cultural values, to incite all Haitians to reintegrate into their daily lives the civic values of mutual respect, the sense of community and sharing with one another.

These ideas are clearly defined in His Excellency Mr. Jean-Bertrand ARISTIDE, President of Haiti, personal engagement which carries to all Haitians the spirit of peace and unity for 2004

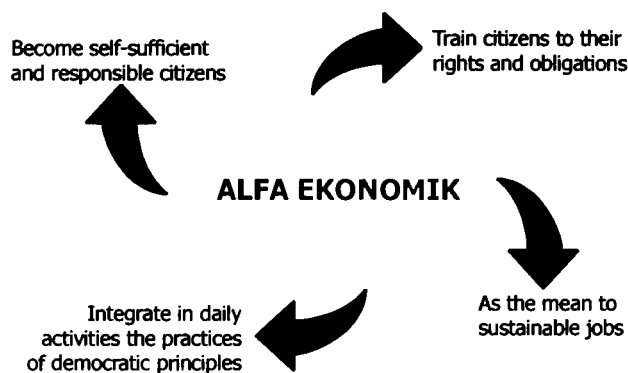
**NATIONAL CAMPAIGN PROGRAM
AGAINST ILLITERACY**

*« alfabetizasyon, se limyè
pou klere chimen 2004 »*

(Literacy is the light leading the way to 2004)

The President of Haiti, on September 8, 2001, initiated ALFA EKONOMIK, a national campaign against illiteracy in the objective of reducing the high illiteracy rate in the Haitian population over thirteen years old from 55% to 15%. President ARISTIDE is personally urging and actively promoting that Haitians and their brothers living abroad should join this effort, in the spirit of unity and civic duty, on a spontaneous and voluntary basis.

The strategy of this campaign, ALFA EKONOMIK, links the basic needs to know how to read and write as the mean to achieve sustainable and durable economic development, as defined in Haiti's global policy : *Investir dans l'Humain*. The premisses of such a policy recommends that there cannot be sustainable economic growth without investing in human resources. As such, the results of the program do confirm that literacy is conducive to better living conditions for the neediest members of the Haitian people.



REHABILITATION OF INFRASTRUCTURES

Despite the country's heavy financial constraints, the Government of Haiti is deploying its efforts in a coordinated fashion, to establish efficient links between all localities, small or large communities, within the country prior to 2004. To that end, the Government is focusing on:

- ♦ The rehabilitation of major road systems facilitating access to sites hosting the commemoratives activities in 2004;
- ♦ The modernization of the international airports in Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitian, and of six national airports, two of which near completion;

- ♦ The modernization of ports;
- ♦ The continuous efforts toward the amelioration of public service systems (communication, energy, purification and distribution of drinking water) ;
- ♦ The rehabilitation and modernization of customs and immigration offices on the Haitian-Dominican border.

**REINFORCEMENT OF TIES WITH
THE 10TH DEPARTMENT**

www.haiti2004lakay.com

**Link 8 millions Haitians with
their 2 millions brothers living abroad**

The mission of the Ministry for Haitians Living Abroad (MAHVE) for 2004 is to ensure, through its various programs, that the Haitian communities living abroad be involved in Haiti's political, social and economic life. The Ministry is, at this moment, lobbying for Haitians living abroad to be granted the same privileges and advantages enjoyed by Haitians living in the country. MAHVE, also encourages exchange programs in technical and professional assistance, incites potential investors from the Haitian communities worldwide to participate in Haiti's economic and social development, and invites the youth to discover and appreciate Haiti's unique cultural values.

AMELIORATION OF TOURISM SERVICES

Haiti's, positive assets and enormous investment potential, its capacity to improve the standards of the hotel industry as well as the service sector, are key to the country's return on the tourism destinations map.

In its commitment for sustainable tourism development, in the spirit of its open-door policy toward attractive incentives to local and international investors, and its dedication to job creation and

eradication of poverty, the Government of Haiti has signed an agreement with Hilton International to manage a new hotel located near the airport and industrial zone in Port-au-Prince's metropolitan area. Based on market trends in Haiti, this project aims to develop a viable and productive new gateway in the hotel industry capable to offer competitive services to key sector visitors. The new hotel will be equipped with international standard materials and services, host 165 rooms, a 300-seats conference room, several restaurants, a commercial complex, and all other leisure, sports and business services.

PROMOTION OF HAITIAN CULTURE

The promotion of haitian culture, the preservation of our national traditions, are one of the Ministry of Culture and Communication's missions, and place this institution at the heart of the activities celebrating the Bicentennial of Haiti's Independence. The Ministry is planning a series of events, fairs, exhibits, conferences, programmed around the great men of the Revolutionary war, the historic sites of our colonial and cultural heritage.

In this context, the Ministry, plans to organize an exhibit, « Les Anneaux de la Mémoire » an international Book Fair, on black writers: “Mondes Noirs /Mondes Pluriel”, and: and Exhibit on African Art. The most grandiose event will be the cultural Festival of Sans Souci, in Milot, Cap-Haitien, in 2004.

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

- ♦ 7 April 2003: 200th anniversary of the death of Toussaint Louverture; Fort-de-Joux, France
- ♦ 18 may 2003: 200th anniversary of National Flag creation; Arcahaie
- ♦ 18th November 2003: 200th anniversary of the victory at Vertieres against Napoleon's troops; Cap-Haitian.
- ♦ 28 November 2003: 200th anniversary of the

Declaration of Independence; Fort-Liberte

- ♦ 1 January 2004: 200th anniversary of the Independence of the World's First Black Republic; Gonaives
- ♦ 4 January 2004: Publication in the Philadelphia newspapers of the Declaration of Independence; Philadelphia, PA.

In October 2001, at its last General Assembly, UNESCO, has adopted the resolution to introduce at the United Nations that 2004 be declared: The International year for the struggle against slavery and its abolition.



18 novembre 1804
Vertières, Cap-Haitian, HAITI

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