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JANUARY 2020

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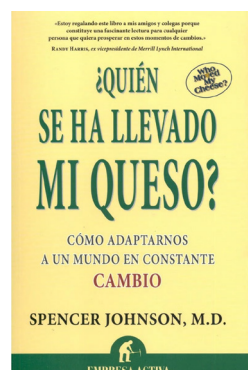
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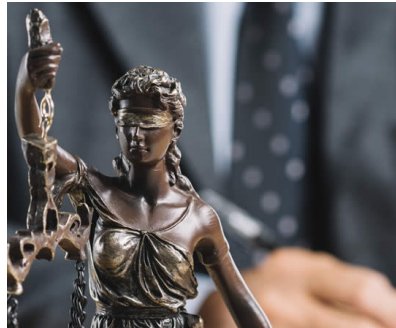
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# Editorial

## Some annotations on the National Government Strategic plan 2020 – 2024

Through Official Gazette 28931-A of December 31, 2019, Executive Branch has complied with Article 16 of Law 34 of 2008 Fiscal Social Responsibility that orders publication of Strategic Government Plan within first 6 months of installing each administration.

This is an extensive document in which, as indicated in the point of thanks, they have had a very broad participation of high-level officials, as well as comments from financiers, economists, academics, United Nations representatives under the advice of Dr José B. Sokol, a Panamanian economist who worked in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy and also in the World Bank.

I must admit that, in my professional experience of several decades in the public, private and union fields, I had not read a document that was so up to date. In fact, the statistical information of the different topics included in this Plan includes figures for the year 2019 inclusive.

For the purposes of this document, I consider that my first duty is to invite all our readers to calmly review this action plan, since a crude tomography of the reality of the country in different fields can be obtained and it can also be deduced what are the great decisions that without delay must be undertaken to avoid a collapse, not only of the economy, but of the country's own perception in the eyes of the world.

**I think it is convenient to mention some axioms that are in the document:**

1. It is necessary to be very selective in all the investments subject to public indebtedness, therefore, an evaluation of the cost, benefit of the projects, is mandatory in each case.
2. It is necessary to improve the management of public finances.
3. Foreign direct investment is the only instrument of consistent and robust growth

in the process of growth of the Panamanian economy, since it reached in 2018 the sum of \$ 6,578 million.

**4. The protectionist measures that are being given globally are affecting to a greater or lesser extent, not only the income of the Canal, but the entire economy of the country.**

5. Specifically as far as the Canal is concerned, China is no longer the second user of the Canal and only exports of liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas have offset the precipitous drop in imports - exports between the United States and China.

**6. The fall of European economies and Brexit are also impacting our economy.**

7. In the service economy, the regional headquarters of multinational companies, connectivity, air, logistics, tourism, fiber optic submarine cables are the best engines to quickly take off economic slowdown, unemployment, informality and income inequalities

**8. As for goods, mining, banana exports, the recovery of agricultural production can improve the gross domestic product in the coming years.**

The document analyzes in a very detailed way the historical growth rates of the last 10 years, in each of the activities carried out in the country; as well as, the labor market that has had a resounding fall to reach a formal unemployment of 7.7%, a great informality of almost 50%, an exponential growth of state payroll and a paralysis of sectors such as construction, Colon Free Zone, hotel activity, among others, which dramatically affects loss

of confidence, both of investors and consumers. The examination of reality in matters such as education, health, safety, personnel, increasing inequality gaps, public, private and personal debt that suffocates the entire country does not escape the Strategic Plan. As if all this weren't enough, the Plan delves into the reality of indigenous communities and examines, among others, aspects such as: population dispersion, repetition and dropout, quality of education, quality of health, life expectancy, culture internal facing the national reality and concludes that multinational poverty rates are exacerbated in this set of regions, regions that represent more than 15% of the country's population. Also, analyze the situation of Afro-descendants tangentially..

Let's see now what the plan for this five-year period is.

I must say that, it seems to me that this central aspect falls short, because although it is true, there is a list of activities, investments, sectors, but I didn't find a timely schedule of the multiplicity of these investments, taking into account that one of the main difficulties that until now are perceived in our daily life, is the lack of initiative of the government to face the accumulation of problems that we have inventoried.

In my opinion, there is no plan that can guide both the private sector, international investors, and the state apparatus itself, on what direction the country will take to revive the economy.

**For example:**

1. There is no initiative for the creation of an authority of mineral resources, with strength, independence, roots to the best practices of extractive activity to convert the country into a producer of different minerals that lie in our country

and that They are precisely located in the most depressed areas of the nation.

2. Except for the ACP initiative, there is no proposal in this Plan on the conservation, collection, transfer, reuse, rationalization, collection of the most important resource the country has, which is water, and what is causing negative impacts on the operation of the Panama Canal, agro-export activity, the provision of quality water and rational quantity for human use and the articulation of water administration from an independent, professional entity tailored to the ACP.

3. There is nothing about measures that restrict public spending, the multiplicity of salary, the increase in civil servants, exorbitant salaries in the national police and special pensions that are contrary to the crisis situation in the Social Security Fund.

4. Nor did I find a proposal that led to the economy of scale between the Ministry of Health and the Social Security Fund, to introduce efficiencies in facilities, equipment, location, human resources and excess of officials in both units.

5. There are no measures to cut down the excessive delay in the procedures for the fulfillment of tax obligations, tax refunds, the solution of taxpayers' requests and in general the asphyxiating cost of the proceedings, before the national and municipal institutions that they represent a burden to create companies or sustain them with due accountability.

6. At the level of municipal decentralization, there is no concerted action so that the amounts received from the central government for municipal activities are not diluted in pharaonic inventions, in Christmas expenses or in the improvisation

of measures that send a message of widespread waste at the country level that only focuses on parties and not on promoting honest work, education and spending with discipline, among other aspects necessary to improve the living conditions of the population and reduce inequality.

7. There is no initiative that seeks efficiency in the accusatory criminal system, the judicial body, in the administration of prison centers, in resocialization, in perspective of action and not bills that will only add more bureaucracy and more cost to the state.

After all, in 7 months, I don't see the trace of a government that promised to work in a relevant way 24/7/365 and that has already had to produce important changes and not superfluous expenses at a time of extreme illiquidity and economic restrictions local and international

I was expecting a proposal at the beginning of the year on what are we going to do as a country to revive the economy? However, we are engaged between the beach project on Balboa Ave. and the carnival held in February.

We have extended the discussion of constitutional reforms, which seems sensible to me, but it is time to get to work to do different things but we want to have the same results, low economic growth, unemployment, informality, and uncertainty. We choose a government to work, make decisions and take the country to its best door. There is no time for anything other than permanent dedication to sustainable, human and national welfare development.

Luck is cast and excuses, enough is enough!

*It will dawn and we will see... L&E*

# Invited Writer



## THE DRINKING WATER OF PANAMA MANAGEMENT, QUALITY AND DIS- TRIBUTION, A BRIEF OVERVIEW

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**Who**

governs water in Panama? It is a question that is rarely generated by the Panamanian, considering directly that it is under the regime of the institution that supplies it in urban areas or a rural aqueduct in the case of less populated areas. Although Panama has a water availability of 119.5 billion cubic meters per year, ranking as the largest for Central America, *how is this whole element distributed?* Well, this element is distributed in 25% for human consumption, food security, industrial, tourist, recreational, transportation, energy and scenic beauty; being the Pacific slope that generates the highest demand for water. 70%.

However, *how is all this water managed? Who legislates and orders the distribution of this valuable resource? What is the distribution of drinking water in Panama? Who supervises its quality? What is the reality of the water state of Panama? What is the quality of this, both in urban and rural areas?* Historically, the legal

and institutional framework of water in the country has been the responsibility of different ministries and institutions that have been entitled to it over the decades.

Drinking water in Republican Panama, was treated for the first time in the isthmus at the beginning of the 20th century, exactly with the signing of the Hay Bunau-Varilla Treaty, on November 18, 1903, which included the construction of aqueducts and sewers, sanitation works and water distribution in the cities of Panama and Colon. Decades later, in 1947, the first Health Code was approved. Later, in 1961, the National Aqueduct and Sewer Institute (IDAAN) was created and in 1969 the Ministry of Health (MINSa), both with the responsibility of ensuring water supply: the first, its distribution, and the second, its quality. Four years later, in 1973, the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) was created, with the responsibility of managing the use of water in agriculture, and in 1986 the National Institute of Renewable



**Natural Resources (INRENARE)** was created with the purpose to ensure the proper use and management of water resources.



In the following decade, in 1997, **the Panama Canal Authority (ACP)**

was created, having among its functions the administration of water within this basin and part of the supply of drinking water to the capital city. In 1998, **the National Environment Authority (ANAM)** was created in its role as environmental manager. This same year, **the Panama Maritime Authority** is created; and between 1999 and 2000, the technical regulations for the quality of drinking water and discharge water regulated by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industries (ICIM)** originate.

Already entered the new century, a special administrative regime for the management of water resources is established from Law 44 of August 5, 2002. In 2005, crimes against the environment are added to the Criminal Code, from Law 5 of January 28. In 2006, **the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama** was created as responsible for the management of water resources; In 2015, **the Ministry of Environment** was created, also with the purpose of managing the good management of water resources, and on August 23, 2016, the **National Water Council (CONAGUA)** was founded, as the entity responsible for the execution of **the National Plan of Water Security 2015-2050**.

In addition to the aforementioned entities, there are others with the right to regulate water issues: **The Ministry of Housing and Land Management, the National Council for Sustainable Development,**

**the Ministry of Public Works (MOP) and the Tourism Authority of Panama (ATP).**

Although, in 116 years of the Republic, various entities have been created with responsibility of water resource management, which for some eyes should

be reflection of a strong and structured water resource management institutionality, problems continue. The two main problems: **distribution and quality**; where the most affected are people who live in rural areas of the country and popular neighborhoods of Panama City. Currently, **there are around 4,500 rural aqueducts, also called Rural Water Management Boards (JAAR)**, of which few have a detailed study of the quality of their water, in which their consumers, sometimes, have presented intestinal problems related to parasites or sediments. A reality that many peoples live.

In this area, in the field of water quality, the Ministry of Health, among its preventive health functions, is responsible for monitoring the quality of drinking water supplied to the population through monitoring, follow-up and evaluation. **This is regulated by the Technical Standard of drinking water DGNTI – COPANIT 23-395-99 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MICI)**, which establishes water quality, determining the physical, chemical and biological parameters that should be considered in studies and evaluations.

So, **what are so many hands in your administration for?** In comparison, two geographical scenarios are taken (See article *"Hidden water"*, *La Prensa*,



*January 16, 2018): Chile and France.* Chile (with an area of 756,950 km<sup>2</sup>) manages its surface and groundwater through the General Directorate of Water, Ministry of Health, community boards and Ministry of Public Works; or by management of the regional government. While, in France (with an area of 643,801 km<sup>2</sup>) The Cadre de l'Eau Directive, the "*Water Management Framework*" provides a transversal legal framework for the protection of surface, transient, coastal and underground inland waters in France. Additionally, France has La Police de l'Eau "*The Water Police*" whose objective is to preserve water sources to maintain their good quality and manage the different uses of this resource.

Undoubtedly, the Panamanian State must regroup this administration or create a single authority that manages water as an element and resource: [a single regulation, a single legislation](#) (an update of the water use regulation is urgent, Law Number 35 of September 1966) and water management law. Regulation and control of the use of surface and underground water, especially this second one, which has an inefficient law and few studies regarding the quality, quantity of its water, as well as hydrodynamic properties that ensure its reservoirs as a source of water for future.

Many threads have yet to be cut in terms of the Panamanian water theme, the solution is not to increase the rates from one moment to another, for this we must ensure the population a good service of quality and quantity; First, it must be ensured that the Panamanian will have water to become before granting part of the rights of this element to third parties, and second, the Panamanian as a member of a large urban ecosystem must be aware of the use of water. Thus, together, the conservation of the [nation's blue gold](#) can be ensured. *L&E*

<sup>1</sup> "Hidden Water", La Prensa, January 16, 2018

[https://www.prensa.com/opinion/agua-escondida\\_0\\_4941255913.html](https://www.prensa.com/opinion/agua-escondida_0_4941255913.html)



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## TAX DEFRAUDATION IN PANAMA AND ITS PENALTY

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Since before entry into force of Law 23 of 2015 that prevents money laundering in Panama, we have been considered as one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of money laundering, a situation that has greatly affected us before rest of the world.

As a result, the international efforts of allied countries to combat the scourge of money laundering and prevent the use of illegal resources in other jurisdictions. Panama arrives in an attempt for the first time in its criminal legal life and bets on the criminalization of the crime against the national treasury giving rise to the criminalization of the crime of money laundering, in turn contributing to the international entities responsible for fighting in all borders such illegal activities.

Identifying the weaknesses of the fiscal sector,

Panama in 2019 modified the Criminal Code regarding crimes against the economic order, thus adhering to a new chapter called "**Crimes against the National Treasury**", which consists of 4 articles, namely 288-G , 288-H, 288-I and 288-J, all with the sine qua non requirement, which for the consummation of the criminal type establishes a minimum limit of three hundred thousand dollars (US \$ 300,000.00), in turn, the Code Criminal establishes that if the payment is made before the decision of the court is finalized or enforced, the person who commits this crime will be exempted, but this benefit is only granted only once to each natural or legal person, specifically indicated in the Article 288-J according to the last modification made on December 5, 2019. But such change is contradictory with what is established in the second paragraph of Article 288-G, 288-H and 288-I, since these indicate

that the penalty provided and in said articles will only be applicable when the amount defrauded from the tax in ONE FISCAL PERIOD is equal to or greater than three hundred thousand balboas (B/.300,000.00).

**Article 288-G states that:**

***“Those who, for their own benefit or that of a third party and with intent, incur tax fraud against the National Treasury of the Republic of Panama and affect the correct determination of a tax obligation to stop paying, in whole or in part, the corresponding taxes, will be sanctioned. with prison of two to four years.*”**

***The penalty provided for in this article will only be applicable when the amount defrauded from the tax in a fiscal period is equal to or greater than three hundred thousand balboas (B/.300,000.00), not including fines, surcharges and interest in the calculation of the sum. In cases of less than three hundred thousand balboas (B/.300,000.00), the competence will be of the tax authority. The criminal conduct included in this article will be applied as defined in the Tax Procedure Code.”***

From what follows from the aforementioned norm it is necessary to carry out an in-depth analysis, since it tries to regulate tax fraud based on a ***“supposed intention”***, to commit said illicit that for our concept is something very risky for the taxpayer. In recent cases in our country it has been seen that the failure to pay a certain tax may be the result of

a human error, and not by intention to defraud. Therefore, the subject of ***“intention”*** must be carefully reviewed, given its degree of subjectivity. It is clear that Panama doesn't seek to criminalize crimes against the national treasury, since the Panamanian tax jurisdiction is merely territorial and does not exceed the limits of its border.

Last but not least, Panama made an important modification through Law 70 of January 31, 2019, including the crime against the National Treasury as a precedent for Money Laundering or Money Laundering, through article 254-A of the Code Criminal, but leaving again a window to the interpretation, since when establishing a ceiling of three hundred thousand dollars (US \$ 300,000.00) in articles 288-G, 288-H and 288-I, for consummation of the criminal type, it will be it is almost impossible for the Public Ministry to reach a conviction, that is, impunity at the highest level.

In our opinion, it is the duty of the country to be at the forefront in matters of tax fraud, money laundering and other crimes not contemplated within our legal system, since, for Panama it is vitally important to address international commitments and navigate in the update of the criminal tax legal system. Without leaving any doubt about the verticality of our internal policies and avoiding the legal limitations of the regulations.

***“Justice is a constant and perpetuates willingness to give each one what he or she has to do”***

Francisco de Quevedo. *L&E*

# Norms of INTEREST

## LEARNING BY DOING PROJECT

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**T**hrough Law 121 of December 30, 2019, the Learn by Making Project is created, which encourages the offer of first employment to young people in the private sector, which will be attached to the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development, as responsible for its implementation and execution.

It provides the rule in comment, that the Project aims to contribute to the reduction of the unemployment rate in young people from 17 to 24 years old, through labor internships in a friendly business environment, supervised and guided by employability specialists, through of training, certification and guidance to young Panamanians, who have not participated in first job projects.

The Project consists of three phases, **for Phase 1 Training in socio-emotional skills; Phase 2: Labor Internship and Phase 3 Obtaining worker status.**

In Phase 2 Labor Internship, it will be carried out for a period of **three (3) months in a private sector company**, the apprentice will receive as compensation the amount corresponding to the minimum wage that will be covered by the Ministry of Labor with a contribution of B/.300.00 per month and the difference will be assumed

by the company participating in the Project. **It has been established that in Phase 2, there will be no working relationship between the participating company and the apprentice, the relationship will be governed by an agreement signed by MITRADEL, the participating company and the apprentice that will contain the protection parameters of the parties.**

Companies that have at least one year of operating from the start date reflected in the operation notice and that are authorized to contract with the State, that the company's operations are verifiable according to the parameters of the regulation may participate in the Project.

It is indicated that the companies participating in the Project that hire workers in accordance with that established in Law 121, **will enjoy a tax incentive equivalent to double the monthly minimum salary applicable to the company, for a period of three months equivalent to the fourth, fifth and sixth month of hiring, after completing the internship, the trial period at the participating company.**

Finally, Law 121 will be regulated by the Executive Branch through the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development. *L&E*

## EXTENDED TERM OF INCENTIVES FOR INVESTORS IN TOURIST COMPANIES

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**W**ith the enactment of Law 122 of December 31, 2019 and published in the Official Gazette 28932-A of January 2, 2020, article 9 of Law 80 of 2012 that dictates incentive rules for the promotion of tourist activity

The reform focuses on the fact that from the entry into force of Law 122, **100% tax credit will be recognized for the purposes of income tax of the amounts invested by natural or legal persons in the acquisition of bonds, shares and others financial instruments issued by the tourism company.**

On the other hand, it is provided that the tax credit will be granted to the investor who is the first purchaser of the bonds, shares and other financial instruments issued by the tourism company. **The tax credit may be used annually from the second year of the investment up to a maximum amount equivalent to 50% of your income tax, provided that said amount does not exceed 15% of the initial amount of the tax credit and until 100% of the tax credit is consumed for a maximum period of**

**ten years, counted from the date it was granted.**

It provides Law 122 in reference, that incentive will be granted until December 31, 2025 to investors who are not directly or indirectly linked to tourist company that issued financial instrument and that are not the product of the division of a company into several societies if they are affiliates or subsidiaries of tourism companies.

Another aspect to mention is that they **include real estate investment companies duly registered in the Superintendence of the Stock Market, in a stock exchange of the Republic of Panama and in the National Tourism Registry.**

With regard to the Tourism Registry of companies or hotels, which have expired between **January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2019**, the validity of these will be enabled until **December 31, 2025**. For those that expire after **December 31, 2019** they will also be enabled until **December 31, 2025**.*L&E*

## TRANSFER OF A COMMERCIAL NATURE OF MONEY WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION IS AN OFFENCE

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# M

Through Law 123 of December 31, 2019, article 253-A is added to the Criminal Code, which states that whoever performs the money transfer service commercially, either through systems

of transfer or transfer of funds, compensation of funds or by any other means and without a competent authority license, will be punished with imprisonment of five to eight years. *L&E*

# SUPERINTENDENCE OF NON-FINANCIAL SUBJECTS

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In recent days, Law 124 of January 7, 2020, which creates the Superintendence of Non-Financial Subjects, as an autonomous State body, with legal status, its own assets and administrative, budgetary, financial, technical and management independence was passed.

Law 124 **develops in its Chapter I what concerns the Creation, Organs and Powers granted to guarantee its autonomy, the Board of Directors, in its Chapter II the Board of Directors in its composition, the requirements to be a director, periods of positions of directors, functions of the president, quorum and decisions, powers.**

The figure of the superintendent and deputy superintendent, the requirements to exercise the positions, **the functions, attributions, are developed in Chapter III, in Chapter IV the provisions common to the members of the board of directors, to the superintendent and to the deputy**

**and in the Chapter V the career of public servants of the Superintendence of Non-Financial Subjects.** We observe **that Chapter VI regulates the supervision of the non-financial obligated subjects and establishes that the Superintendency will have as a general objective the exclusive competence to regulate and supervise, in the administrative way, the non-financial obligated subjects in accordance with the Law 23 of 2015 in the prevention of the crimes of money laundering, terrorism financing and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, ensuring the effective application of the established prevention mechanisms.**

With respect to the non-financial obligated subjects, the articles have been restructured and those who are subject to the Superintendency have been defined, establishing that in addition to the listings, any other sector that by law is subject to the competence of the Superintendency, as



well like other entities and activities that are included by law and that, taking into account the nature of their operations, can be used to commit crimes of money laundering, terrorist financing, proliferation financing, weapons of mass destruction or those that arise of the national risk assessment plan for the prevention of money laundering offenses.

**It has been provided that all non-financial obligors domiciled in Panama will be subject to the supervision and regulation of the Superintendency, in order to verify compliance with the current legal provisions regarding the prevention of money laundering, terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.**

We must mention that the power of the Superintendence is maintained to request information from the non-financial obligors, who are obliged to provide the information and documentation of livelihoods related to the operations, activities, products, services, prevention manuals, among other documents and / or information deemed necessary for the achievement of supervision.

Within this context, **the principles of confidentiality and reserve of information, the protection of professional secrecy, as well as the criteria for the imposition of fines, sanctions, publication of sanctions and the collection of sanctions are maintained.**

In this regard, we must comment that Law 124 in reference, modifies articles of Law 23 and Executive Decree 361 of August 12, 2015, since it replaces the Intendance of Supervision and Regulation of Financial Subjects not Forced by the Superintendency of Financial Subjects Not Required. *L&E*



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# Politics

## THE ENVY IN POLITICS



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I would define envy as that unhappy feeling that an individual has for the good that another person enjoys, which causes misery, dislike or discomfort, and above all pain and sorrow.

**Envy is a feeling that is observed in all disciplines, including politics, which does not allow anyone who feels it to thrive, produces harmful consequences to their health, and often causes them to feel repressed. The evil envy encourages to motivate the evil to others and is accompanied by impudity and dishonest behavior, having the purpose of getting the envied to decline. The envious is a constant and continuous source of animosity towards the envied. No doubt envy is typical of people with inferiority complex.**

Recall the story of Cain and Abel, which represents the drama of human envy and the

clear example of the desire to have what the other has and the impetus to take away his virtues. This is observed in Chapter 4 of the Book of Genesis, which details Cain as a farmer and Abel as a shepherd. These brothers presented sacrifices to God with their respective altars; When God saw them, he preferred Abel's offering to Cain's, who went mad with jealousy and killed his brother. Cain and Abel, story of envy between brothers that ended in death. Envy was the cause of the first homicide in sacred history.





We cannot fail to mention the case of history in the Russian Revolution between Josef Stalin and Nicolai Bujarin, two characters who had much in common. Both were in exile for opposing the Tsarist regime and participated in

the October Revolution that broke out in 1917. **As time went by, Stalin began to feel jealous and envious for Bukharin in all areas, he was even envious of his physical appearance.** When Lenin died in 1924, Stalin began to see Bukharin as one of his main opponents to seize power. Despite having been friends, he relieved him of his charges, sent him to imprison for a year pending his trial, passing him through all kinds of hardships and was finally shot in 1938.



Also remember the leading figures of the independence of America, Liberator Simón Bolívar and General Francisco de Paula Santander, who carried out a joint effort to achieve the independence of Spanish America against the Spanish army. Bolívar was declared President and Santander was appointed Vice President of Gran Colombia. Their relationship deteriorated and they distanced themselves for reasons of ideologies that divided both leaders, causing hatred and envy among them.



This reached the point where Francisco de Paula Santander was

involved in the conspiracy and attempt to eliminate the figure of Bolívar, Liberator, when they stormed the Palacio de San Carlos on September 25, 1928, forcing Bolívar to flee for a Window with the help of his companion, the courageous Manuelita Sáenz, who confronts the conspirators so that Bolivar had time to escape through the window, which saved his life.



Subsequently, **General Santander was accused of treason and Bolivar forgave his life for his work in the country and condemned him to exile.** It should be added that some consider that General Santander had no knowledge of the conspiracy mentioned.



Another case is that of **Richard Nixon, former US president, whose envy of John F. Kennedy was evident. Richard Nixon, who came from a humble crib, resented that Kennedy came from the upper class, was handsome, with a great heritage and had tremendous charisma and natural grace.** Kennedy had attractiveness and, above all, an incredible skill in making friends with journalists and the media, in short, Richard Nixon deeply bothered his mastery of public image and self-confidence, his personality and character.





**However, the US elections in 1960 were won by Kennedy to Nixon by only a narrow difference of 112,827 popular votes and 84 electoral votes (Kennedy 303 out of Nixon's 219).**

Another American example is the incessant and sharp criticisms made by the current President Trump to his predecessor, former President Obama, **with whom President Trump cannot avoid comparing himself constantly. It is clear that President Trump has the presence and legacy of former President Obama fixed in his mind, which explains the repetitiveness of his actions that he then compares to what was done by former President Obama to underline how Trump's doing is more Big and better.**



**For every observer and connoisseur, it is clear that what Trump points out in these instances is simply false, or distorted, or nonexistent.** Unfortunately, this will continue because there is no way that President Trump can overcome his marked inferiority to Obama's intelligence, preparation and elegance. Neither Obama nor anyone was perfect but origin of Trump's attention to Obama cannot be explained in any other way: **envy.**

All these examples and many others that we could mention, remind us that envy is always also present in politicians, mainly in those who

are unsuccessful or self-conscious, who use different means to eliminate their competition. These are always immersed in their mediocrity, hating and pretending to destroy every adversary and everything around him. **Sometimes they think that being envious is a virtue, but those who suffer from it show a self-destructive attitude towards themselves and their competence.**

**The envious intends to reach the peak of success at the expense of the virtues of others and deceiving others.** They recognize in their internal jurisdiction that they are far from noble, honest, transparent, transparent people, far from corruption and that they have no genuine preparation on the economic, social and public affairs of the country. Many times, according to the toxic degree of envy they suffer, they are able to be promoters of smear and falsehood campaigns against their adversary and those around him with the intention of preventing honest and trained rulers from taking power for the general benefit. from the country.

**Envy bitter the life of the politician since he knows that his adversary is better, that he has much more capacity and preparation than the envious.** He will always have an excessive desire to desire and covet the alien, spreading false facts, slander and lies. **In such a way that, for an intelligent politician, the best response and punishment against these resentful ones will be to ignore them and continue projecting on the path of success, achieving their objectives.** *L&E*

# Panamanian ECONOMY

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) AS OF DECEMBER 2019

Source: GCRP

The groups that presented decreases in the National Urban CPI of December, compared to November 2019 were: Transportation with 0.5%; Furniture, household items and for ordinary household preservation, and recreation and culture both with 0.4%; Alcoholic beverages and tobacco with 0.2%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages, and various goods and services both with 0.1%.

Transportation group reflected low in three of its seven classes. The greatest variation was in the class **"Air passenger transport" with 17.8%, due to the reduction in the price of airfare.**

The decrease presented in Furniture group, household items and for ordinary household conservation, was due to decrease registered in seven of its eleven classes.

The classes with the greatest variations were **"Tools and large equipment" with 1.2%, and "Non-durable household goods" with 1.0%.** The decline reflected in the **"Tools and large equipment"** class was due to the reduction in the price of household tools, and **"Non-durable household goods"** due to the decrease in the price of cleaning and conservation products.

Recreation and Culture group showed a drop in

seven of its sixteen classes. The greatest variation was in the **"Games, toys and hobbies"** class with 2.1%, due to the decrease in the price of dolls.

The reduction observed in the Alcoholic beverages and tobacco group was due to the decrease in two of its four classes, "Wine" with 0.7% and "Beer" with 0.5%. The Food and non-alcoholic drinks group registered a decline in five of its eleven classes. The greatest variation was in the "Fruits" class with 2.1%.

The diverse goods and services group showed a decrease in four of its ten classes. The class with the greatest variation was "Social protection" with 1.3%, due to the decrease in the price of childcare services.

Clothing and footwear groups; Housing, water, electricity and gas; Health; Communications, and Education remained unchanged.

The group that showed an increase was Restaurants and hotels with 0.2%. The increase observed in the Restaurants and hotels group was due to the increase in one of its two classes, "Restaurants, cafes and similar establishments" with 0.2%, due to the increase in the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages outside the home, and beverages alcoholics outside the home.

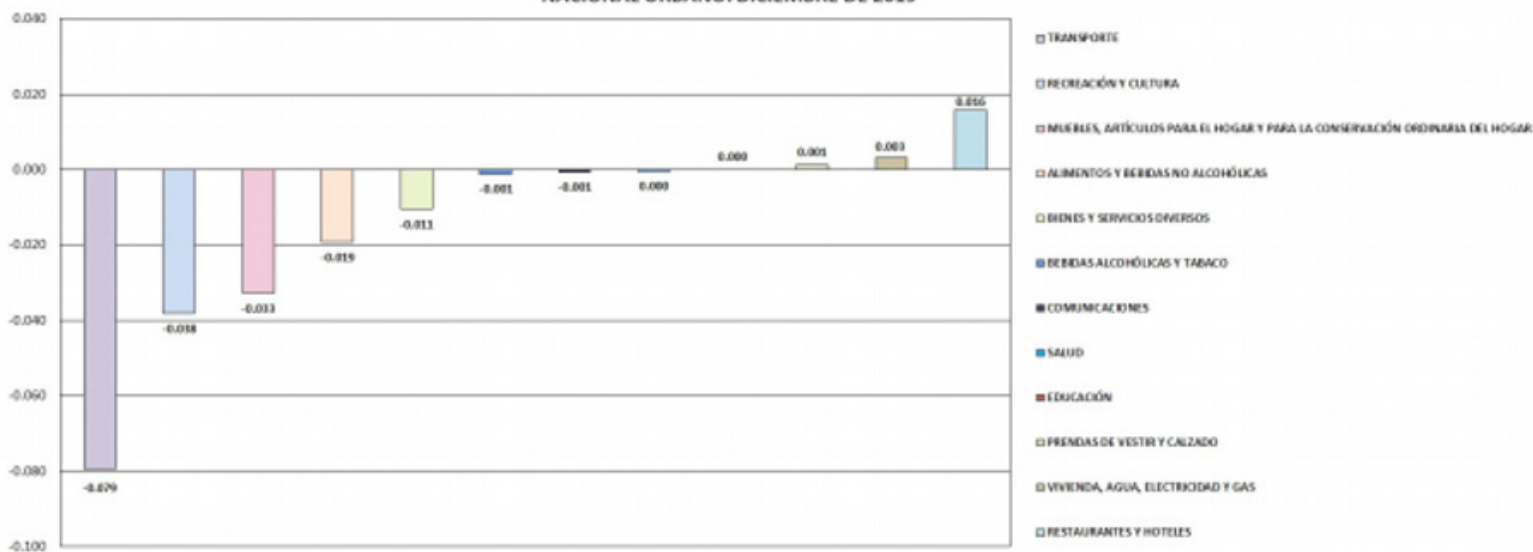
• The National Urban CPI of December 2019 with respect to its similar of 2018 reflected a variation of -0.1%.

When comparing the National Urban CPI of December 2019, with its similar of 2018, the following decreases were observed: Furniture, household items and for ordinary household conservation 1.3%; Communications 1.1%; Recreation and culture 0.8%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages,

and clothing and footwear both 0.4%; and Miscellaneous goods and services 0.2%.

The groups that presented increases were: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco 1.5%; Restaurants and hotels 1.3%; Health, Transportation, and Education all 0.7%; and Housing, water, electricity and gas 0.2%. Below, graph with the monthly incidence by group of the National Urban CPI of December 2019:

Gráfica 1. INCIDENCIA MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO: DICIEMBRE DE 2019



CUADRO 1. INCIDENCIA Y VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO, SEGÚN GRUPO DE ARTÍCULOS Y SERVICIOS: DICIEMBRE DE 2019  
BASE 2013=100

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Ponderaciones	Incidencia	Variación mensual
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	22.4	-0.019	-0.1
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.7	-0.001	-0.2
Prendas de vestir y calzado	7.7	0.001	0.0
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	8.5	0.003	0.0
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	7.8	-0.033	-0.4
Salud	3.4	0.000	0.0
Transporte	16.8	-0.079	-0.5
Comunicaciones	4.3	-0.001	0.0
Recreación y cultura	9.7	-0.038	-0.4
Educación	2.4	0.000	-
Restaurantes y hoteles	6.7	0.016	0.2
Bienes y servicios diversos	9.8	-0.011	-0.1

- Cantidad nula o cero.

0.0 Cuando la cantidad es menor a la mitad de la unidad o fracción decimal adoptada para la expresión del dato.

**Gráfica 2. EVOLUCIÓN DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO TOTAL, ALIMENTOS Y BEBIDAS NO ALCOHÓLICAS Y TRANSPORTE: ENERO-DICIEMBRE DE 2019**



**CUADRO 2. EVOLUCIÓN DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO, SEGÚN GRUPO DE ARTÍCULOS Y SERVICIOS: ENERO-DICIEMBRE DE 2019**

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Variación porcentual mensual											
	2019											
	Enero	Febrero	Marzo	Abril	Mayo	Junio	Julio	Agosto	Septiembre	Octubre	Noviembre	Diciembre
<b>TOTAL</b>	-0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.2	-0.3	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.2
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.4	-0.3	-0.5	-0.1
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.7	0.2	1.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	-1.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2
Prendas de vestir y calzado	0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	-0.8	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	0.0	0.3	0.1	-0.4	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.5	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.4
Salud	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.0
Transporte	-1.3	0.5	2.4	1.7	0.6	-1.7	0.5	-1.1	-1.1	0.2	0.7	-0.5
Comunicaciones	-0.1	-0.3	0.7	-0.1	0.0	-0.9	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0
Recreación y cultura	-	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	-	0.0	-0.1	-0.4
Educación	-0.3	1.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restaurantes y hoteles	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.2
Bienes y servicios diversos	0.0	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.3	0.2	0.1	-0.2	-0.1

- Cantidad nula o cero.

0.0 Cuando la cantidad es menor a la mitad de la unidad o fracción decimal adoptada para la expresión del dato.

# MAIN MONTHLY INDICATORS JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2019

Source: GCRP

## 1. Transportation:

### a. Panama Canal Authority:

The total toll revenues of the Panama Canal for January-November 2019, compared to the similar ones for 2018, showed a positive variation of 5.9% and those of Neopanamax vessels at 13.4%; meanwhile, those referring to Panamax vessels registered a negative variation of 1.1%.

There was an increase in net tons by 8.0%; however, the cargo volume decreased by 0.1%. On the other hand, the transit of ships increased in 3.1%, highlighting the high draft in 3.5%.

### b. National Port System:

Container movement (TEU - equivalent to 20 feet) was 4.6% higher for January-November 2019, compared to its 2018 counterpart. Total cargo movement increased by 10.9%, in bulk 19.2%, general cargo 13.7% and the

containerized in 4.5%.

## 2. Foreign trade:

### a. CIF value of imports of goods:

The CIF value (Cost, Insurance and Freight) of imports of goods presented a negative variation of 2.3%, consumer goods 1.6%, intermediate goods 3.5% and capital goods at 2.5%.

### b. Net weight of goods imports:

The weight of imports of goods (net kilos) increased by 8.4%, in turn, consumer goods by 0.6%, intermediate goods 18.3% and capital goods by 0.5%.

### c. FOB value of goods exports:

The FOB value of exports of goods increased by 5.3%, that of bananas by 32.1%, melon 58.1%, watermelon 33.9%, fishmeal and fish oil 52.5%, coffee at 41.3%



and beef from cattle at 43.4%. There were negative variations in pineapple of 24.4%, shrimp 36.8%, fish and fish fillet (fresh, chilled and frozen) 25.8%, unrefined sugar 10.8% and scrap of steel, copper and aluminum in 25.0%.

#### d. Weight of goods exports:

The total net weight of exports of goods increased by 15.8%, of which banana stood at 116.2%, melon 83.7%, watermelon 32.2%, fishmeal and fish oil 47.8%, coffee 38.7% and beef cattle in 48.3%. There were negative variations in pineapple of 20.9%, shrimp 46.6%, fish and fish fillet (fresh, chilled and frozen) 27.3%, unrefined sugar 9.4% and steel, copper and aluminum waste in 33.7%.

#### e. Colon Free Zone:

The total value of wholesale trade in the Colon Free Zone reported a negative variation of 11.3%, with a decrease in CIF imports of 11.9% and FOB re-exports of 10.9%. On the other hand, the total commercial weight grew by 1.0% and imports by 3.6%; however, re-exports were reduced by 1.8%.

### 3. Internal trade:

#### a. Sale of fuels for national consumption:

The sale of fuels (in thousands of gallons) for national consumption increased by 2.5%, mainly gasoline at 2.7% and the C bunker at 13.0%. The sale of liquefied petroleum gas registered an increase of 1.1%.

#### b. Sale of marine fuel in ports, according to coast and terminal:

The sale of marine fuel (bunkering) in ports, measured in metric tons, reported a positive variation of 9.0%, registering an increase in the Atlantic Coast of 6.9% and in the Pacific of 9.4%.

#### c. Sale of marine fuel through barges and ships

served:

**The sale of marine fuel (bunkering), through barges, increased by 16.2%, mainly that of the Pacific Coast by 23.6%; on the contrary, that of the Atlantic was reduced by 5.6%. Total ships served grew by 22.5%.**

#### d. New cars registered:

The number of new cars registered in single vehicle register decreased 3.9% and specifically, regular cars 4.1%, panels 23.5%, buses 47.1% and trucks 13.8%. There were positive variations in luxury cars 6.0%, minivans 2.2% and SUV'S in 1.3%.

### 4. Construction:

#### a. Cost of construction registered by the main municipalities in the Republic:

The cost of construction, additions and private repairs (in balboas), was reduced by 12.7%, mainly that of residential works in 14.3% and non-residential works in 10.1%. At a regional level, the district of Panama was reduced by 15.8%, Colón 16.5%, the districts of David, Santiago, Chitré, Aguadulce and La Chorrera, grouped in 3.0% and Arraiján in 4.2%.

#### b. Construction area (m<sup>2</sup>) in the main municipalities of the Republic:

The construction area (m<sup>2</sup>) in the main municipalities of the Republic, decreased by 11.5%, mainly, residential works by 16.4%; however, that of non-residential companies increased by 1.1%. Likewise, negative variations were observed in the municipalities of Panama in 22.0% and Arraiján in 32.0%.

On the other hand, the groups of David, Santiago, Chitré, Aguadulce and La Chorrera, rose by 14.2% and Columbus by 29.5%.

### 5. Financial intermediation:

**a. National Banking System:**

Data not available to date, by the source that supplies the information.

**b. Stock market indicators:**

The volume traded (in thousands of balboas) of stock market on the Panama Stock Exchange (BVP) grew by 39.6% and the number of shares at 83.4%. The secondary market decreased by 8.7%; on the other hand, the primary market increased by 53.6%. The calculated BVP index presented a negative variation of 0.2%.

**c. Insurance:**

Data not available to date, by the source that supplies the information.

**d. Loans approved by the Agricultural Development Bank:**

The loans approved by the BDA amounted to 5.2%, with those oriented to agriculture standing out in 40.9% and other items in 18.3%. In turn, declines in livestock and fishing were reported in 8.3% and 14.4%, respectively.

**6. Leisure activities:****a. Gross bets:**

Revenue from gross bets (including prizes paid) decreased 3.0%, mainly those of type "A" slot machines that fell 2.6%; in turn, those in bingo halls rose 26.5% and those in betting rooms of sporting events 10.2%. Gross lottery sales amounted to 3.5%.

**b. Net bets:**

Revenue from net bets (excludes prizes) decreased by 4.8%, specifically from type "A" slot machines by 5.7%;

on the contrary, positive variation was reported in the bingo halls in 6.8% and betting rooms of sporting events in 11.1%. Net lottery sales decreased by 2.3%.

**7. Electricity and water:****a. Electricity supply:**

The electricity supply (in kilowatts / hour) registered by the Commercial Measurement System (SMEC), presented a positive variation of 3.0%, due to the increase in thermal generation of 120.4%. The renewable energy generated was reduced by 31.2% and of this, the hydraulics by 36.4%; on the contrary, they increased wind generation by 18.2%, solar by 29.6% and self-generation by 251.8%.

**b. Destination of electricity:**

Electricity billing registered a positive variation of 1.0% and of this, residential customers in 5.4% and the Government in 8.4%; however, negative rates were reported in commercial customers of 3.2% and industrial 23.2%. In turn, that of large customers rose by 73.0%.

**c. Water:**

The invoicing of drinking water (in gallons) in the Republic reported an increase of 1.8%, with a breakdown in sectors: residential 2.4% and Government of 1.0%; on the other hand, the commercial sector was reduced by 0.4% and industrial by 2.2%.

**8. Manufacturing industries:**

In the manufacturing sector from January-November 2019, the slaughter of cattle increased by 4.8% and negative variations were observed in the slaughter of pigs of 9.6% and in the productions of: 0.4% chicken meat, evaporated, condensed milk and in 12.9% powder, 1.4% pasteurized milk, natural milk used for the production of derivative products 9.4%, alcoholic beverages 5.9%, soft drinks 5.3% and rectified alcohol in 5.5%.

## 9. Hotels:

### a. Hotels:

Data not available to date, by the source that supplies the information.

### b. Visitor input and expenses:

Data not available to date, by the source that supplies the information.

## 10. Public Sector Finance:

### a. Current income of the Central Government:

Total current revenues of the Central Government decreased by 7.2%, in turn, the tax revenues were 3.7% negative, of these, direct taxes were 3.9% and indirect taxes were 3.5%; Similarly, ITBMS on sales reported a 4.0% decrease.

## 11. Other related:

**a. Labor contracts registered in the MITRADEL:**  
Data not available to date, by the source that supplies the information.

**b. Registered non-horizontal and horizontal properties:**

Registered non-horizontal properties decreased by 4.6%, specifically, mortgages by 8.7%. On the other hand, horizontal properties decreased by 7.6% and of these, transfers by 11.1%.

**c. Corporations and common stock:**

The number of companies was reduced by 5.2%, of these, the corporations registered a negative variation of 5.8%; however, civilians grew in common societies in 16.2%. *L&E*

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# PANAMA CANAL ADOPTS MEASURES TO GUARANTEE WATER AVAILABILITY AND ROAD RELIABILITY

Source: ACP

**A**s a result of changes in rainfall patterns that have affected the level of Gatun Lake, the main source of water for the consumption of the population and the road, the Panama Canal will adopt measures as of February 15 to ensure availability of water resources and the reliability of service to its customers, while implementing a long-term solution to the water situation.

2019 closed as the fifth driest of the last 70 years, as a result of a 20% reduction in rainfall records compared to the historical average. Similarly, the temperature level in the Basin area has increased between 0.5-1.5 degree Celsius, which has caused a 10 percent increase in evaporation levels in the lakes.

Without adjustments and operational changes, water levels are projected to fall to levels that would affect the operation of the panamax and neopanamax locks.

The measures will have the following components:  
**Freshwater charge**

The Panama Canal will incorporate the value of water in the line of other maritime services through a charge for fresh water, which will depend on the availability

of the resource at the time of transit of the vessels. The freshwater charge is applicable to all vessels over 125 feet in length (long) that pass through the Canal:

- **Fixed component: B/. 10,000 for each transit.**
- **Variable component: percentage of the toll established on the basis of the daily level of Gatun Lake between 1% and 10% of the toll. That is, the higher the lake level, the less percentage would be charged, and in the same way, the lower the lake level, the higher the percentage would be.**

## **Modification to the reservation system**

In order to guarantee the most efficient use of water in the midst of scarcity conditions, the Panama Canal needs to be more certain about the number and type of vessels that are going to transit, so it will implement modifications to the reservation system, specifically in relation to the availability of quotas.

Based on a projection of the operation's water consumption during the coming months of the dry season, the Panama Canal will offer 27 daily

reserve quotas (six regular (90.00 feet of sleeve), 13 supers (107 feet of sleeve) and eight neopanamax), which will allow you to adjust your programming in a way that optimizes the use of the water resource.

Similarly, a quota will be auctioned to superships and a quota to regular vessels three days before transit. However, the Canal will continue to offer additional capacity as much as possible, serving ships in order of arrival.

Likewise, payment of the total amount of the reservation is required within 48 hours of making it.

### Transit itinerary registration fee

Additionally, to have more elements to plan the operation, an itinerary registration fee will be adopted at the time each vessel requests its transit. Said charge shall be an advance payment at the time of notifying your transit intention based on the following ship size parameters:

- **Ships of 91 feet or more in width (width): B / 5,000**
- **Ships of more than 125 feet in length, and less than 91 feet in length: B/ 1,500.**

This charge will be credited when the vessel makes its transit, at the time of generating the invoice, so it is considered an advance of its transit cost and not an additional cost. If the client cancels the previously registered visit or transit, said charge will not be refunded.

The Canal will use information on the amount and type of transits to optimize water saving measures and provide better information to its customers about waiting times and the estimated transit date. Clients will have access to a platform with real-time information on current and projected levels of

Gatun Lake, indicators of precipitation, evaporation and maximum draft allowed when requesting transit through the Canal or making reservations. This decision has been taken after evaluating the result of the measures and adjustments that have been adopted in the operations to save water, given the rainfall patterns registered in the Panama Canal Hydrographic Basin.

### Among the measures are the following:

- **Suspension of power generation at the Gatún hydroelectric plant since October 2018 so as not to waste water through the turbines.**
- **During the transit of vessels, conservation actions are implemented such as the elimination of hydraulic assistance in the panamax locks, which speed up the transit of the ships, but imply greater use of water.**
- **Cross-filling is applied in the locks, that is, water is sent between the two lanes of the panamax locks during the transits, to reduce their discharge to the sea, which has resulted in water savings equivalent to six locks.**
- **To the extent that the size of the vessels allows it, two ships are traveled at the same time (simultaneous locks).**
- **The use of water-saving tubs in neopanamax locks is maintained.**

In addition to these measures, the Panama Canal will modify its investment program to include projects focused on addressing the sustainability of the water supply for the development of the country, as well as the water required in the operation of the medium and long-term road. *L&E*

# World ECONOMY



## GLOBAL GROWTH: MODEST REPORT OF 2.5% IN 2020 WITH INCREASE IN DEBT AND LOWER INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY

Source: World Bank

In 2020, economic growth of the world economy will approach, according to forecasts, 2.5% as investments and trade gradually recover from significant weakness, they showed last year. However, there are still risks that the situation will get worse, says the World Bank in January 2020 edition of World Economic Outlook.

Likewise, the growth of advanced economies as a whole is expected to decline to 1.4% in 2020, partly because weakness in manufacturing persists. In emerging markets and developing economies, on the other hand, growth is expected to accelerate this year to 4.1%.

This rebound is not widespread, and to establish this projection it is assumed that it will improve the performance of a small group of large economies, some of which are emerging from a period of considerable weakness. It is expected that about one

third of emerging markets and developing economies will slow down this year as a result of the volume of exports and investments being smaller than expected.

***"Given that the growth of emerging and developing economies will probably remain low, policymakers should seize the opportunity to address structural reforms that drive broad-based growth, an essential factor in reducing poverty," said the Vice President of Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions of the World Bank Group, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu. "Measures aimed at improving the climate for business, rule of law, debt management and productivity can contribute to sustained growth".***

According to the projections, the growth of the United States will slow down to 1.8% this year, reflecting the

negative impact of the increases in the rates previously set and the increase in uncertainty. In the euro area, growth forecasts have been modified downwards and set at 1% by 2020 in a context of weak industrial activity. On the other hand, the risks prevail that global perspectives worsen, and the realization of these risks could slow growth considerably. These risks include a further escalation of tensions in trade relations and uncertainty regarding policies in this area, and financial shocks in emerging markets and developing economies. Even if these markets and economies recover as expected, per capita growth will remain well below the long-term averages and the levels necessary to achieve the objectives linked to poverty alleviation.

***“Low global interest rates offer only precarious protection against financial crises,” said World Bank Outlook Group Director Ayhan Kose. “History shows that waves of debt accumulation don’t usually have a happy ending. In a fragile global environment, it is essential to implement policy improvements to minimize the risks associated with the current wave of indebtedness.”***

In the analytical sections of this edition of World Economic Outlook, several key issues of the present are addressed:

- **The fourth wave: The recent accumulation of debt in emerging and developing economies.**

In last 50 years there have been four waves of debt accumulation. The most recent, which began in 2010, has been largest, fastest and most widespread of the four. While current low levels of interest rates mitigate some of risks associated with high indebtedness, previous waves led to wide-ranging financial crises. Policies that can reduce the likelihood

of a crisis arising or that can mitigate its impacts if it occurs, include development of resilient fiscal and monetary frameworks, the establishment of strong regulatory and supervisory regimes, and enforcement of transparent debt management practices.

- **The promise fades: How to reactivate the increase in productivity.**

The deceleration of the increase in productivity, a fundamental source of the increase in income and the engine of poverty reduction, produced since the global financial crisis has been the most abrupt and the most widespread in the last 40 years. In emerging markets and developing economies, this slowdown has reflected weak investment and reduced efficiency gains, as well as less reallocation of resources between different sectors. The pace of improvements in relation to numerous key factors of labor productivity (including education and institutions) has declined or stagnated since the global financial crisis.

- **Price controls: Good intentions, bad results.**

Price controls are a widely used tool in emerging markets and developing economies. Although sometimes used as an instrument of social policy, price controls can reduce investment and growth, worsen the results related to poverty, lead countries to generate a heavy fiscal burden and complicate the effective application of monetary politics. The replacement of these controls with better oriented and more extensive social safety nets, reforms that encourage competition and a strong regulatory environment may be favorable for the poor and for growth.

- **Low rates for how much longer? Inflation in low-income countries.**

In low-income countries,

inflation has fallen to a median of 3% in the middle of 2019, after reaching 25% in 1994. This reduction was based on more flexible exchange rate regimes, greater bank independence central, lower indebtedness of governments and a more benign external environment. However, to keep inflation levels low and stable in a context of increasing fiscal pressures and the risk of currency crises, responsible officials must strengthen the monetary policy frameworks and capacity of central banks, and replace price controls with more efficient policies.

### Regional perspectives:

**East Asia and the Pacific:** The growth of the region will be attenuated, according to projections, and will be located at 5.7% in 2020, reflecting the moderate slowdown in China, which will show a rate of 5.9% this year in an unfavorable context both within of the country as in the international arena, which includes the persistent impact of trade tensions. If China is excluded, projections indicate that regional growth will recover slightly to reach 4.9%, given that domestic demand will benefit from the presence of generally favorable financial conditions, low levels of inflation and strong capital flows in some countries (Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam), and as a result of implementation of large infrastructure projects (Philippines and Thailand). Regional growth will also benefit from reduction of uncertainty regarding world trade policies and the moderate but still weak recovery of world trade..

**Europe and Central Asia:** The growth of the region

is expected to be around 2.6% in 2020; This forecast assumes that the prices of the main commodities will stabilize, the euro area will grow and Turkey and Russia will recover (with 3% and 1.6%, respectively). According to projections, the economies of Central Europe will slow down to 3.4% as a result of the weakening of fiscal support and the persistence of demographic pressures, while Central Asian countries will grow at a solid pace driven by progress in structural reforms. In the Western Balkans, growth is expected to consolidate by 3.6% (although it is possible that the consequences of the devastating earthquakes in the region influence the outlook), while in the southern Caucasus region, will slow down to 3.1%.

**Latin America and the Caribbean:** In 2020, regional growth is expected to increase to 1.8% as growth in larger economies consolidates and domestic demand rises throughout the region. In Brazil, it is expected that the increase in trust between investors and the gradual easing of financing and labor market conditions will serve as a basis for growth to accelerate to 2%. In Mexico, growth will increase to 1.2% because the decrease in regulatory uncertainty will contribute to investments rebound, while Argentina is expected to contract at a slower rate of 1.3%. In Colombia, advances in infrastructure projects will support an increase in growth, expected by 3.6%. Likewise, the growth of Central America is expected to consolidate by 3% thanks to the easing of credit conditions in Costa Rica and the relief after problems in construction projects in Panama. In the Caribbean, growth will accelerate to 5.6%, mainly due to offshore oil production in Guyana.



**Middle East and North Africa:** According to forecasts, in 2020 the growth of the region will accelerate at a modest rate of 2.4%, largely due to the increase in investments and the emergence of more favorable business climates. Oil exporters will grow 2%. In the economies that make up the Gulf Cooperation Council, infrastructure investments and climate-related reforms for business will drive a growth of 2.2%. On the other hand, Iran's economy is expected to stabilize after a year of contraction as the impact of the sanctions imposed by the United States is mitigated, and oil production and exports stabilize. In Algeria, a 1.9% increase in growth is expected due to the reduction in regulatory uncertainty and the upturn in investments. Petroleum importing countries, meanwhile, will grow to 4.4%, according to forecasts. It is also expected that the increase in investment and private consumption will serve as a basis for a 5.8% increase in the growth of Egypt in the year 2020.

**South Asia:** According to forecasts, the region's growth will reach 5.5% in 2020, as a result of the modest rebound expected in domestic demand, of the positive effects of policy accommodation in India and Sri Lanka, and of the increased confidence in business and support derived from infrastructure investments in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. In India, where the weakness in credit granted by non-bank financial companies is expected to persist, growth will slow down to 5% in the fiscal year 2019-20 (ending March 31) and recover until it reaches 5.8% in the following year. In Pakistan, growth will increase to 3% during the next fiscal year after having hit bottom with 2.4% in the fiscal year 2019-20, which ends on June 30. In Bangladesh, on the

other hand, growth will be attenuated, according to forecasts, and will be 7.2% in the fiscal year 2019-20 (ending June 30) and 7.3% in the following . Finally, growth in Sri Lanka is expected to increase to 3.3%.

**Africa south of the Sahara:** As expected, the growth of the region will rebound to 2.9% in 2020. In this forecast it is assumed that investor confidence in some of the large economies of the region will improve, energy problems will be mitigated, the increase in oil production will contribute to the recovery of oil-exporting countries and the solid growth rates of agricultural commodity exporters will remain. The projections are less favorable than anticipated as a reflection of the decrease in the demand of the main trading partners, the drop in commodity prices and the adverse events recorded in several countries. In South Africa, growth is expected to increase to 0.9%, as long as the new administration's reform program gains momentum, regulatory uncertainty is eased and investment is gradually recovered. In Nigeria, on the other hand, growth will approach 2.1% as a result of a macroeconomic framework that does not generate trust. Angola's growth, meanwhile, will accelerate to 1.5%, provided that the reforms under way result in greater macroeconomic stability, a better business environment and an increase in private investment. In the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa, meanwhile, growth will remain at 6.4%. In Kenya, finally, it is expected to approach 6%. *L&E*



NACIONES UNIDAS

CEPAL

## THE 2014-2020 PERIOD WOULD BE THE LOWEST GROWTH FOR THE ECONOMIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE LAST SEVEN DECADES: ECLAC

Source: ECLAC

**T**he economic balance of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2019 is presented in a particularly complex context. The region shows a generalized and synchronized economic slowdown at the level of countries and sectors, completing six consecutive years of low growth, ECLAC said today in its latest annual report released at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile.

In its Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2019, the United Nations regional body indicates that the slowdown in domestic demand is accompanied by low external aggregate demand and more fragile international financial markets. To this context are added the growing social demands and the pressures to reduce inequality and increase social inclusion.

In this way, the macroeconomic outlook of recent years shows a tendency of economic activity to

decline, with a decrease in gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, a fall in investment, a decrease in per capita consumption, lower exports and a sustained deterioration in the quality of employment.

All this will lead to 2019 in the region growing just 0.1% on average, while growth projections for 2020 will remain low, around 1.3% for region as a whole. Consequently, the 2014-2020 period would be the one with the lowest growth for the Latin American and Caribbean economies in the last seven decades.

***"Given this scenario, the region does not support adjustment policies and requires policies to stimulate growth and reduce inequality. Current conditions need fiscal policy to focus on reviving growth and responding to growing social demands,"*** said Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and

the Caribbean (ECLAC), in presenting the document.

It is also emphasized that an active fiscal policy requires in the medium-long term a strategy to guarantee its sustainability over time. This implies that it must be linked to the growth capacity and productivity dynamics, together with the strengthening of the State's collection capacity (improving the progressivity of the tax structure by increasing direct taxes; reducing tax evasion, which represents around 6.3% of the region's GDP; reassessing tax expenditures, which represent 3.7% of the region's GDP; and implementing a new generation of taxes related to the digital economy, the environment and public health).

In terms of growth projections, according to report **23 of 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean** (18 of 20 in Latin America) will present a slowdown in their growth during 2019, while **14 nations will register an expansion of 1% or less at end the year**.

Likewise, it is verified that the region's GDP per capita will have contracted **4.0% between 2014 and 2019**. Meanwhile, national unemployment will increase from 8.0% in 2018 to 8.2% in 2019, which implies a increase of one million people, reaching a new maximum of 25.2 million, which adds to a deterioration in the quality of employment due to the growth of self-employment (which exceeded salaried employment) and labor informality.

The Preliminary Balance foresees that in 2019 the country **with the greatest expansion will be Dominica (9.0%), followed by Antigua and Barbuda (6.2%), Dominican Republic (4.8%) and Guyana (4.5%). On the contrary,**

**Venezuela will score the biggest decline, with a contraction of -25.5%, followed by Nicaragua (-5.3%), Argentina (-3.0%) and Haiti (-0.7%). Central America will grow 2.4%, the Caribbean 1.4% and South America will contract -0.1%.**

For next year, ECLAC projections indicate that Caribbean nations will continue to lead regional growth (**with a subregional average of 5.6%**), led by Guyana (85.6%, due to the start of oil production which would take place in 2020), Antigua and Barbuda (6.5%), Dominica (4.9%) and Dominican Republic (4.7%). In the lower part, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Argentina will moderate their economic contraction rates (with -14%, -1.4% and -1.3%, respectively). Meanwhile, Central America will expand 2.6% and South America 1.2%.

According to the report, despite difficulties and limitations that policy spaces currently face, unlike previous times, most countries in the region are today in situations of inflation at historically low levels (**2.6% regional average, without considering Venezuela, Argentina and Haiti**), relatively high international reserves, in general, economies maintain access to international financial markets, and international interest rates are at reduced levels. These conditions favor the ability to implement macroeconomic policies aimed at reversing the current low growth scenario.

Therefore, it is essential to reactivate economic activity through greater public spending on investment and social policies, says ECLAC. Likewise, to account for social demands, short-term redistributive efforts must be complemented by increases in the provision and quality of public goods and services, the Commission emphasizes. *L&E*



Organización  
Internacional  
Del Trabajo

## INSUFFICIENCY OF REMUNERATED EMPLOYMENT AFFECTS ALMOST 500 MILLION PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO A NEW ILO REPORT

Source: ILO

**N**early 500 million people work less paid hours than they would like or do not have enough access to salaried work, according to a new report from the International Labor Organization (ILO).

In addition, [the Social and Employment Outlook in the World - Trends 2020 \(WESO\)](#) report shows that number of unemployed should increase by about 2.5 million by 2020. Global unemployment has remained relatively stable for the past nine years, but the slowdown in economic growth means that while global workforce increases, not enough new jobs are being created to absorb those entering the labor market.

*"It is increasingly difficult for millions of ordinary people to build better lives based on their work,"* said ILO Director General Guy Ryder. *"The persistence*

*and breadth of exclusion and work-related inequalities prevent them from finding decent work and building a better future. This is an extremely worrying conclusion that has serious and alarming repercussions for social cohesion".*

*"It is increasingly difficult for millions of ordinary people to build better lives based on their jobs."* Guy Ryder, ILO Director General

The report shows that the mismatch between labor supply and demand extends beyond unemployment to a wide underutilization of labor. In addition to the worldwide number of unemployed (188 million), 165 million people do not have enough paid work and 120 million have either abandoned active job search or do not have access to the labor market.

In total, more than 470 million people in the world are affected. The report also analyzes labor market inequalities. Based on new data and estimates, it shows that worldwide income inequalities are higher than previously thought, especially in developing countries.

Globally, the share of national income for labor (rather than other factors of production) decreased substantially between 2004 and 2017, from 54 percent to 51 percent. This significant decline from an economic point of view is more pronounced in Europe, Central Asia and the Americas. This is more than previous estimates suggested, as the report shows.

The poverty of workers, moderate or extreme, should increase in 2020-21 in developing countries, making it more difficult to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goal 1** on the eradication of poverty worldwide by 2030. In At present, poverty of workers (defined as earning less than \$ 3.20 a day in terms of purchasing power parity) affects more than 630 million workers, one in five people in the world's active population.

Other significant inequalities - **defined by sex, age and geographic location** - remain relevant factors in current labor markets, the report notes, limiting both individual career opportunities and overall economic growth. In particular, an impressive number of young people, **267 million (between 15 and 24 years old) do not work or study or receive training, and many more have to endure poor working conditions.**

***"We will find the path to sustainable and inclusive development only if we combat this type of***

***inequality in the labor market and facilitate access to decent work."*** Stefan Kühn, lead author.

The report warns that strengthening trade restrictions can have serious direct or indirect repercussions on employment.

With regard to economic growth, the report notes that the current pace and form of growth are hindering efforts to reduce poverty and improve working conditions in low-income countries. The report recommends that it is necessary to change the type of growth to stimulate higher value-added activities through structural transformation, technological modernization and production diversification.

***"The underutilization of labor or low-quality jobs means that our economies are losing the potential benefits of the enormous flow of human talent," said the main author of the report Stefan Kühn. "We will find the path to sustainable and inclusive development only if we combat this type of inequality in the labor market and facilitate access to decent work."***

The annual report **Social and employment perspectives in the world - Trends 2020** analyzes the main challenges of the labor market, such as unemployment, labor underutilization, worker poverty, income inequality, income share aimed at the workforce and the factors that exclude people from decent work. *L&E*



## LABOR LEGISLATION ADVANCES SLOWER THAN THE LABOR MARKET, ACCORDING TO IDB STUDY

Source: IDB

**T**he new forms of regulation must be dynamic and flexible processes that adapt to the speed of the changes. This is stated in the fifth installment of the series *The Future of Work in Latin America and the Caribbean*, entitled **How to guarantee the rights of workers in the digital age?** In this publication, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) raises the urgency of updating labor legislation to address trends posed by the fourth industrial revolution, among which the emergence of different ways of hiring, such as digital platforms of the gig economy, and the consolidation of alternative ways of working, such as distance formulas and flexible hours.

The report highlights different alternatives that countries can take to modernize their labor legislation. One option is to grant a set of rights to workers regardless of their qualification, including the right to form unions and the protection of civil rights such as non-discrimination and equal treatment. Another option is to think of fiscally sustainable solutions to grant universal protection to all workers in the region. Additionally, the publication highlights the importance of legislating to reconcile the differences between the different forms of work and profiles of workers and take advantage of technology to improve

public institutions that exercise regulatory roles.

***“The regulations are slow and take years or decades to adjust to the changes, but the current labor market, and even more so in the future, cannot be governed by a regulation anchored in the past,” says Carmen Pagés, head of the Division of IDB Labor Markets.*** This study analyzes how ***“new trends can help break with the traditional molds of reactive regulation to move towards schemes that combine opportunities for technology, behavioral economics and collaborative schemes to modernize labor legislation in the region,”*** he adds. Pagés.

Through its series on the future of work, the IDB seeks to contribute new data and policy recommendations to the conversion of the impact of the fourth industrial revolution in Latin America and the Caribbean. In its various publications, the series has analyzed the trends that would mark the future of work, the most demanded emerging occupations and skills, and the opportunities to close the gender gap in the labor market. In this fifth installment the IDB highlights the need to break the traditional models of labor regulation. *L&E*

# Environmental CAPSULE



## GREEN TIDE. AN EXAMPLE FOR THE CULTURE OF GARBAGE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

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**M**area Verde is a non-profit association that emerged since 2017 due to the constant concern of a group of citizens of the Costa del Este area who daily observed that, despite the cleaning campaigns, a large mangrove amount of garbage that caused its habitat to deteriorate every day.

**Its main objective is to educate and sensitize citizens to create greater awareness about the need to reduce contamination by solid waste in the rivers and coasts of Panama and also recycle and manage the waste that is deposited there.**

He has been working over these years on three pillar projects, namely:

### 1. Mangrove Cleaning

On the mangroves of the Bay of Panama, passers-by and visitors daily observe the floods of garbage that they throw into rivers and mangroves and that finally rests on these areas of the country.

This situation has negative consequences that affect the aquatic ecosystem.

Marea Verde carries out cleaning days to collect tons of garbage every day, among which **plastic containers, tires, refrigerators, etc. predominate.**

Currently working with BOB barriers, a process that we will explain later and which aims to accumulate floating debris that will then be removed, thus preventing garbage from continuing to accumulate in the mangroves and contaminating the sea.

## 2. Implementation and installation of the B.O.B barrier in Matías Hernández river

countries and has so far been effective in Panama, so it is expected to be replicated in other rivers that present this same problem. On April 6, 2019, B.O.B received its first heavy rain, which brought tons of garbage that were collected in **470 jumbo bags.**

As of September 2019, more than **7,286 garbage bags** had been collected, equivalent to more than **44.12 tons.** Among the garbage that is collected, **refrigerators, tires, cars, suitcases and 2 3m long pipes regularly used for aqueduct and sewer systems abound.**



This project aims to **test the operation of the construction of roads made with asphalt mix and recycled plastic.** Approximately 6 metric tons of plastic were needed for every 500 m of road.

Some of the plastics collected from the mangrove have been used to test with a crusher from the Red Ecológica company, and explore the possibility of using these crushed plastics in the Cemex co-processing furnaces.

**B.O.B is a floating barrier that traps the debris that the riverbed brings, preventing them from reaching the sea and the mangrove, as well as facilitating their collection.**

As a pilot two roads were paved, one in **Vacamonte and another in Chiriquí.** This project will help reduce the amounts of accumulated plastic in the garbage dumps, using it to build something

This is a system that has been tested in other



productive and functioning for society.

In the month of November of the year 2018 the first pilot was made in which **approximately 500 meters of road were paved in Vacamonte and Arraiján. In every 200m of this section 1% and 2% of the aggregate of the mixture were replaced, respectively.**

In February 2019, the construction of the second section was carried out in **San Carlos, Chiriquí**, in which 600m of road were achieved. **The pilot included, of the 600 m of asphalt poured, that recycled plastic be replaced by aggregate with adhesives between 1.5% and 3%.**

The replacement of 1% of mixture aggregate is equivalent to using approximately **13,000 plastic bottles, and replacing 2% is equivalent to approximately 19,500 plastic bottles.**

With this project, the Green Tide Association has spearheaded a selection of river cleaning programs around the world, which will share a fund of \$ 11 million granted by the Benioff Ocean Initiative and the Coca-Cola Foundation.

The other eight programs chosen for financing are from Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Ecuador, Mexico, Thailand, Jamaica and Kenya.

This call has been opened with the purpose of supporting projects of **"behavior change with respect to recycling"** and **"development of**



**innovative ways to collect and analyze waste from our rivers and oceans and address the plastic crisis,"** said a statement of the Coca-Cola Foundation and Benioff Ocean Initiative at the Institute of Marine Sciences of the University of California, Santa Barbara, United States, responsible for the contest.

In October 2019 Marea Verde concluded the study **"Characterization of the discharge of macro-plastics and other floating solid waste post-consumption in the Bay of Panama by the Matías Hernández River"**.

With this study carried out in the BOB, data on the types of waste thrown by the population in the Matías Hernández river basin were generated and then discharged in the mangrove of Panama Bay and the ocean, specifically, plastics and others floating solid waste, considered the main components of marine litter generated on the mainland, according to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP, 2009).

During the study, **26 fractions were analyzed in 50 samples taken from the BOB, with a total weight of 238.2 kg.** The floating solid residues most captured by the barrier were **PET plastic**

by Panamanian engineers Carol Simons, Nayrobis Rodríguez and Álvaro Quirós, and will serve as a baseline for future measurements of the impact of actions education and recycling in the populations of upper and middle river basins, in addition to being first national reference for similar studies in other rivers.

### **3. Green classrooms program with the Audubon association of Panama**

An education campaign **has been executed in the primary schools, State of Israel and Carlos A. Mendoza, located in the middle basin of the Matías**

**Hernández River,** in which environmental educators visit them once or twice a week to give talks on various topics environmental and organize educational tours, seeking to inform these children about their environment and the importance of keeping it clean for their well-being.

In this way, they are motivated to become actors of change, thus creating a cleaner future for our

country. It is desired to extend these visits to other schools and also involve parents in this process.

Also, as part of this campaign, Marea Verde **also collaborates with Costa Recicla to provide advice to residents of Costa del Este in the creation of clean points.**

**bottles (Polyethylene Terephthalate) with 29.5% of the total weight, followed by the disposable containers of expanded polyethylene (EPS), popularly called "foam", with 17.2%.**

The study was carried out over four (4) months, with support of more than 60 volunteers, and led



Green Classrooms Audubon Panama Program  
Foto: <https://audubonpanama.org>

This initiative aims to receive recyclable materials such as **plastic, glass, metal, paper, cardboard and Tetrapak, which are then collected by a collection company specialized in this matter.**

The problem of garbage in Panama is a responsibility of each of us as citizens responsible for placing the garbage in appropriate places and in turn become aware of the reuse of it.

The Green Tide association has already taken the first step to contribute to garbage collection and with the collaboration of all, we can have a clean country worth appreciating in every corner where we travel daily.

With a little interest we can make garbage collection and recycling a pleasant task.

**Finally, we leave some tips to start the culture of recycling from our homes:**

**Place several identified garbage containers to group inorganic waste in:**

- **Plastic: cartridges, water bottles, juices and sodas.**
- **Glass: bottles, broken glasses or other container**

**of that material.**

- **Metal: aluminum and steel like soda cans.**
- **Paper and cardboard: sheets that you no longer use, container labels and cartons.**
- **Tetra Pak: goes with inorganic garbage, but in a separate bag, since it must be recycled differently because it is made of cardboard, PEBD and aluminum.**

All these materials must be clean.

Remember: **"Garbage is part of your luggage, always carry it with you until you return home."** *L&E*



# Illustrious PEOPLE



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## SINGAPORE MIRACLE: LEE KUAN YEW (1923 - 2015)

Lee Kuan Yew was born on September 16, 1923 in Singapore while still under British rule. He was a lawyer, statesman and politician in his country.

Lee is a descendant of a wealthy family of Chinese ethnicity who had resided in Singapore since the 19th century; His parents were, Lee Chin Koon and Chua Jim Neo. By 1950 he married Kwa

Geok Choo, with whom he had two children, Lee Hsien Loong and Lee Hsien Yang, and a daughter, Lee Wei Ling.

After the end of World War II, Lee Kuan Yew studied law at Fitzwilliam College, in Cambridge, United Kingdom. In 1950, he was admitted to the English bar association, but instead of practicing law there, Lee returned

to Singapore where he began to improve his Mandarin and hokkien, paying more interest to Asian values.

In the early '50s, Singapore was buzzing when talking about constitutional reform and independence, and Lee joined other similar minds to challenge the country's governance structure. He soon separated from this group

and took a more radical stance. Lee co-founded the Popular Action Party (PAP) in 1954 and was his first secretary general, this happened while Singapore was a British colony and had Britain's main naval base in the Far East.

In 1955, a new constitution of Singapore was introduced. With his party represented on the Council, in 1956

Lee headed to London as part of delegation seeking Singapore's self-government. After negotiations failed, Singapore experienced a year of civil unrest, but in 1957, Lee returned to London once more when talks resumed.

The following year, **in 1958 Lee helped negotiate what the State of Singapore would be as an autonomous state, and a new constitution was formed.**

Under this new constitution, national elections were held in June 1959.

Lee campaigned on an anti-colonial and anti-communist platform and called for radical social reforms and eventual federation with neighboring countries.

Lee's party won a decisive victory, with 43 of the 51 seats in the Assembly, and Singapore obtained the status of self-government (except in matters of defense and foreign affairs). **Lee swore as prime minister on June 5, 1959, becoming the prime minister of an independent Singapore.**

Lee is recognized as founding father of the nation, with the country described as the transition from a **"third world country to the first world country in a single generation"**.

Once in the position of prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew **presented a five-year plan calling for urban renewal and the construction of new public housing, greater rights for women,**

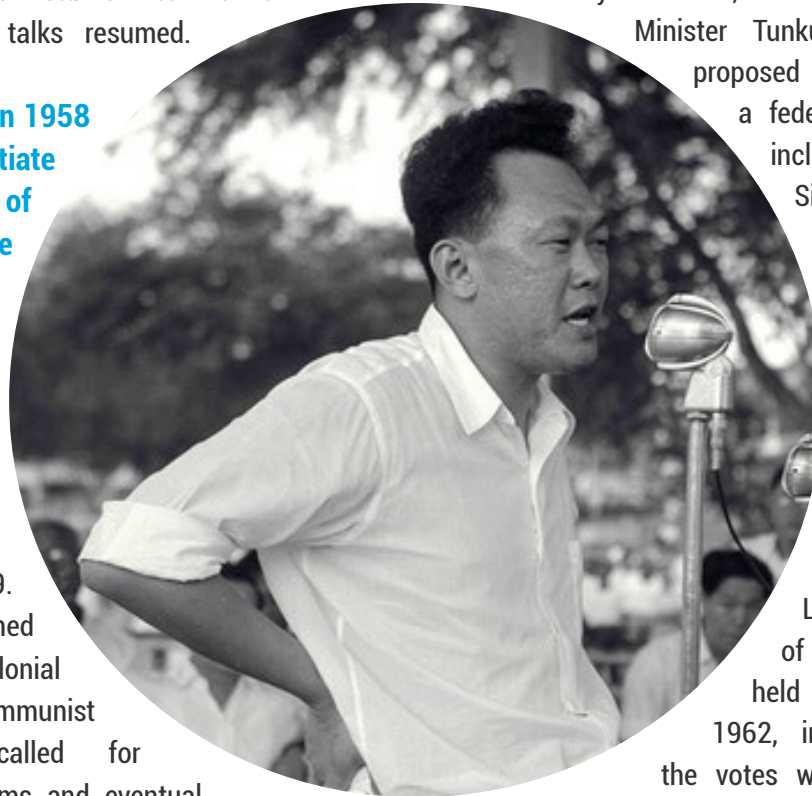
**educational reform and industrialization.**

His plan also required a merger of Singapore with Malaysia in 1962, and after Malaysian Prime

Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman proposed the formation of

a federation that would include Malaysia, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak,

Lee began campaigning for of the effort and end with the British, colonial government for good.



Lee used the results of a referendum held in September 1962, in which 70% of the votes were cast in favor of the proposal. Then, in 1963,

Singapore joined the newly created Federation of Malaysia. In the elections held shortly after, the PAP retained control of the Singapore Parliament, and Lee maintained his post as prime minister.

On August 7, 1965, Lee signed a separation agreement with Malaysia; the failure of this merger was a blow to Lee, who believed that unity was crucial for the survival of Singapore.

Based on this separation, Lee gave a televised press conference in which he delivered the following:

***"For me, it's a moment of anguish," he said. "All my life... I believed in the fusion of Malaysia and the unity of the two territories. They know that we, as a people, are connected by geography, the economy, by kinship ties... Literally broke everything we***

*represent... now Singapore will forever be a sovereign, democratic and independent nation, founded on the principles of freedom and justice and always seeking the well-being and happiness of people in a fair and equitable society”.*

With the broken union, problems arose beyond Lee's personal pain: Singapore's lack of natural resources and limited defensive capacity were important challenges.

Singapore, at that time, needed a strong economy to survive as an independent country, and Lee quickly spearheaded a program to transform it into a major exporter of finished products. It also encouraged foreign investment and made movements to ensure a rising standard of living for workers.

During his tenure, Lee promoted the idea of Asian values, against the concept of Western democracy, as a model of development for East Asian societies. Thus, the government of Singapore independent of the hand of Lee Kuan Yew has been characterized by the rigidity in the application of its regulations, with controversial measures such as the ban on the marketing of chewing gum. Likewise, their attempts at social engineering were sometimes controversial, or the idea of building a Greater China made up of Chinese from around the world.

The government is often criticized by human rights activists. For reasons such as Internet restriction, gay rights and working conditions of migrants cause protests by dissatisfied groups. Some observers said that some of their measures contributed to economic success of Singapore, a place famous for the cleanliness of its streets and low crime rates.

Lee Kuan Yew resigned as prime minister in November 1990, but remained the leader of the PAP until 1992. Despite having left the post of prime minister, Lee remained in government as a minister without a portfolio; first as Senior Minister while Goh Chok Tong was prime minister until 2004; and since then Mentor Minister, because when his son Lee Hsien Loong replaced Goh Chok Tong as prime minister, the latter assumed the position of Senior Minister.

In February 2015 Lee Kuan Yew was admitted to the Singapore General Hospital, due to pneumonia. In early March, he was on a fan, in critical condition, and died shortly after, on March 23.



Lee's ideals went beyond a political or economic change in Singapore. Lee meddled in customs in order to raise the living conditions of citizens and managed to change social habits such as spitting in public, smoking, promoting marriage and procreation.

Perhaps one of the most criticized is the racial integration policy that seeks the four groups (Malay, Indian, Chinese, others) converge into one.

Lee Kuan Yew left a legacy in his country which will be remembered from generation to generation, since he was a leader who brought unprecedented prosperity to his country, he was always efficiently managed. By the 1980s, his country had per capita income that was only surpassed by that of Japan in East Asia, and so Singapore would become a major financial center in Southeast Asia. *L&E*

# CUSTOMS



## Capsule



## SUGAR DRINKS AND TARIFF RESTRUCTURATIONS

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**O**n November 18, 2019, Official Gazette No. 28903-A Law 114 of 2019 was published ***“That creates the Action Plan to Improve Health and dictates other provisions to establish the selective tax on the consumption of sugary drinks and the criteria for its use.”*** The Law amended articles 1 and 9 of Law 45 of 1995, adding sugary beverages produced domestically and imported to the list of goods affected by the selective consumption tax.

According to experts, a 10% increase in the tax of sugary drinks can reduce obesity rates



**from 7% to 18% in the countries that implement it.**

At a meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce on January 7, 2020, Mr. Rodolfo Samuda, deputy general manager of the National Customs Authority, explained to the attendees the changes in the 10 to 12 digit tariff restructuring, taking advantage of the opportunity to clarify the doubts of the participants

regarding the gaps left by Law 114 of 2019, import issues, requests for suspension of the effects of Law 114 unattended and possible changes in tariffs.

In response, the representative of the National Customs Authority clarified that with the tariff restructuring no changes have been made to the tariffs, what has been sought is to grant greater tax certainty. He also indicated that regarding the modifications introduced by Law 114 of 2019, what has been done is to develop these changes in more detail through the modifications made to the tariff structure approved by Cabinet Decree No. 47 of 15 October 2019, which has its limitations.

To understand this issue, it is important to refer to what is established in the National Political Constitution, in relation to the powers that both the legislative and executive bodies have in tariff regulations.

Article 164 of the Constitution states that the laws have their origin in the National Assembly.

Therefore, **Law 114 of 2019 of sugary drinks comes from the Legislative Assembly, an organ that, in accordance with article 159 of the Constitution, is empowered to issue the necessary laws for the fulfillment of the purposes and the exercise of the functions of the State.**

Numeral 11 of the same article even gives special attention to the provisions concerning the rules that

set and modify tariffs, fees and other provisions concerning the customs regime, same to which the Executive Branch, autonomous and semi-autonomous entities, must be subject, State and mixed companies. In this order of ideas, Article 200 of the Magna Carta also grants the Executive Body powers to set and modify tariffs, fees and other provisions concerning the customs regime, but subject to the rules set forth in the Laws to referred to in numeral 11 of article 159.

That is why it could be wrong that the Executive and the National Customs Authority **through Cabinet Decree No. 47 of 2019 suspend, repeal or change the meaning or scope of Law 114 of 2019, as doing so would be an overreach of their faculties.** This point was succinctly clarified during the appointment.

Returning to the issue, Law 114 of 2019 established the selective tax on the consumption of sugary beverages as follows: **7% for soft drinks, 5% for the rest of sugary drinks of national and imported production and 10% for syrups, syrups and concentrates for the production of sugary drinks. The selective tax rate for consumption of sugary drinks of 7% will also be applied to tariff item 22.02. as follows:**



CÓDIGO		DESCRIPCIÓN	DAI %	ITBMS %	ISC %	ICCDP %
22.02		Agua, incluidas el agua mineral y la gaseada, con adición de azúcar u otro edulcorante o aromatizada, y demás bebidas no alcohólicas, excepto los jugos de frutas u otros frutos o de hortalizas de la partida 20.09.				
2202.10	-	Agua, incluidas el agua mineral y la gaseada, con adición de azúcar u otro edulcorante o aromatizada:				
2202.10.10.00	--	Bebidas gaseosas:				
2202.10.10.00.10	---	Agua gaseada con contenido inferior a 7.5 g de azúcar añadida por cada 100 ml de bebida	10	0	0	0
2202.10.10.00.90	---	Las demás	10	0	7	0
2202.10.90.00.00	--	Las demás	10	0	7	0
2202.9	-	Las demás:				
2202.91.00.00.00	--	Cerveza sin alcohol	15	0	7	0
2202.99	--	Las demás:				
2202.99.1	---	Bebidas, incluso dietéticas, a base de leche o cacao:				
2202.99.11.00	----	A base de leche, con o sin cacao:				
2202.99.11.00.10	-----	Únicamente preparaciones alimenticias de los tipos citados en la Nota 1 a) del Capítulo 30, propias para su consumo como bebida	10	0	0	0
2202.99.11.00.90	-----	Las demás	10	0	0	0
2202.99.19.00	----	Las demás:				
2202.99.19.00.10	-----	Únicamente preparaciones alimenticias de los tipos citados en la Nota 1 a) del Capítulo 30, propias para su consumo como bebida	15	0	0	0
2202.99.19.00.90	-----	Las demás	15	0	7	0
2202.99.20.00.00	---	Bebidas dietéticas con sabor a café	15	0	0	0
2202.99.30.00.00	---	Las demás bebidas dietéticas; tónicos reconstituyentes	5	0	0	0
2202.99.40.00.00	---	Soluciones electrolíticas en medio acuoso, a base de diversos productos químicos ("tipo pedialyte"), utilizadas para la recuperación corporal por pérdidas de líquidos y minerales	5	0	0	0
2202.99.90.00	---	Las demás:				
2202.99.90.00.10	----	Únicamente preparaciones alimenticias de los tipos citados en la Nota 1 a) del Capítulo 30, propias para su consumo como bebida	10	0	0	0
2202.99.90.00.20	----	Las demás bebidas con un contenido superior o igual a 7.5 g de azúcar añadida por cada 100 mililitros de bebida	10	0	7	0
2202.99.90.00.90	----	Las demás	10	0	0	0

In the event it was indicated that with the change in the tariff nomenclature from 10 digits to 12 digits, 270 tariff subsections were identified on which openings were made and 641 subsections were created, which have twelve (12) digits. In addition, additional columns are introduced for the Selective Consumption Tax and the Fuel Consumption Tax and Petroleum Derivatives, opening the compass so that in future restructuring other columns are added in which the preferential treatments negotiated in the

TPC and TLC ' Those that Panama is subscribed to.

However, a working table was set up consisting of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama and the Industrial Union of Panama in which both unions would present a unified proposal to the authorities to address this issue.

For the important implications we will continue to follow up on this interesting topic. *L&E*



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**W**e will agree that this beginning of the year 2020 has been loaded. Many events in a very short time.

We must be prepared to face all the challenges that are presented to us this year that has just begun and above all be cautious. May this be a year of growth!

Next Friday, February 7, there will be a boxing day for the International Festival KO to Drugs and it will feature boxers from Panama, Mexico, Cuba, Russia, Colombia, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

The International Chess Federation (FIDE) designated Panama as venue for 2020 World School Championship. The tournament will take place at Vasco Núñez de Balboa Convention Center of the

Panama Hotel, from May 28 to June 7, with the participation of representatives from America, Europe, Asia Africa and Panama.

On the other hand, the Panama Sharks representing the Kiwanis League of American football sang victory at the Dallas Cowboys house. The Sharks U-16 team defeated the United States (US) U-16 (US) score this morning by a score of 45 to 41 to celebrate the victory at its International Bowl premiere in an emotional match at the AT&T stadium in Arlington, Texas.

On the other hand, the Diablas, Panamanian selection of Flag Soccer was second in the International Bowl.

On January 24, he started another season of Women's Soccer Flag. *L&E*

# S C C C E R

## Concacaf Pre-Olympic Tournament

In their first qualifying game in the Premundial, the girls were defeated 6-1 against Costa Rica, which was crucial for their qualification, since on Friday, January 31 they will meet at the BBVA Compass stadium in Houston, Texas with the United States. United, current world champions.

A victory for Costa Ricans, who face Haiti earlier this Friday, coupled with a victory for the Americans, would mean elimination for Panama.

Technician Kenneth Zseremeta asks for more investment in preparation of the girls. *L&E*

## Panamanian Football League (LPF)

The second day of this most competitive league is coming:

J2 CALEND 1/2		
	VIÉ 31 ENE 7:00 PM MARACÓN	
	VIÉ 31 ENE 9:00 PM "MUDUITA" SÁNCHEZ	
	SÁB 1 FEB 3:00 PM VIRGILIO TELCIBRA	
	SÁB 1 FEB 6:00 PM JANIER CRUZ	
	SÁB 1 FEB 6:00 PM RODRIQUEZ TORRES	

J2 CALEND 2/2 RESERVA		
	VIÉ 31 ENE 4:00 PM MARACÓN	
	VIÉ 31 ENE 6:00 PM "MUDUITA" SÁNCHEZ	
	SÁB 1 FEB 12:00 PM VIRGILIO TELCIBRA	
	SÁB 1 FEB 3:00 PM JANIER CRUZ	
	SÁB 1 FEB 3:00 PM "ROSCARITA" TAPIA	

# BASEBALL

## National Youth Baseball Championship

The stars of the National Youth Baseball Championship will face Friday, January 31 in the expected All-Star Game when the Atlantic figures face off against the Pacific at the Roberto Flaco Bala Hernández stadium in Los Santos. Then continue with the round of 8 teams.

## Caribbean Series

Chiriqui Astronauts seek to defend their title in the 62nd edition of the Caribbean Series on Puerto Rican soil will be played from February 1 to 7 at the Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan. *L&E*



**DEL 1 AL 7 DE FEBRERO ESTADIO HIRAM BITHORN**

SÁBADO	DOMINGO	LUNES	MARTES	MIÉRCOLES	JUEVES
DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA
DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA
DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA
DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA	DOMINICANA vs. VENEZUELA

# BASKETBALL

The strong news of the helicopter accident where 9 people lost their lives, including basketball player [Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna](#), has broken the hearts of many fans and players. Putting the world of sport in mourning.

It was a shocking accident, where [baseball coach John Altobelli and his family \(his wife Alyassa and daughter Keri\), Christina Mauser, basketball coach, the pilot Ara Zobayan, Sarah and Payton Chester, mother and daughter also died.](#) *L&E*



On Friday, January 31, prior to the Lakers vs. Portland match, an emotional tribute was made to Kobe Bryant and his daughter, as well as to the other victims of the accident. The seats were covered with shirts and in the

center you could see the player's shirt and that of his daughter. An emotional video was presented and the player LeBron James, very close to Kobe Bryant gave significant words in memory of his friend and mentor.



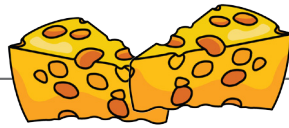
### Professional Women's Basketball League (LPBF)

Making a good season, the Panthers have remained undefeated and are looking for more, below the calendar of the next games:

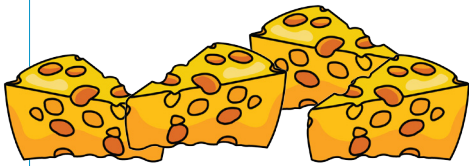
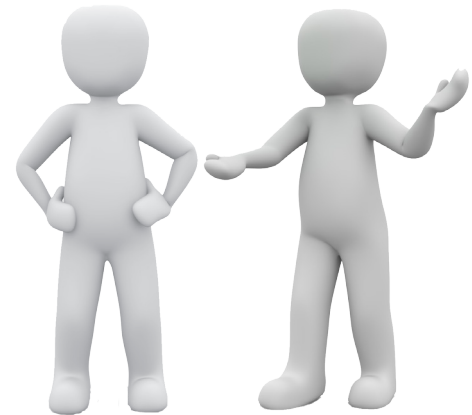


On the other hand, the Professional Men's Basketball League, we leave the calendar of the following games:





# THE CURRENT



## WHO HAS TAKEN MY CHEESE? - SPENCER JOHNSON

A surprising way to face change at work, in private life and in all areas.

Ayeisha Williams - Assistant  
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**W**ho has taken my cheese, written by Spencer Johnson, became one of the best-selling books in 1998 when it came to light, then in 2003 he published two books, one for children and others for young people, with the same title, all in order to provide reflections and tools around the solution of the concerns of each age and how to face and manage them.

In *Who has taken my cheese* from 1998, he gives us lessons on the persistence, sacrifices and management of our own lives, of the changes and how to reinvent ourselves when they occur, facing everything with positivism and courage.



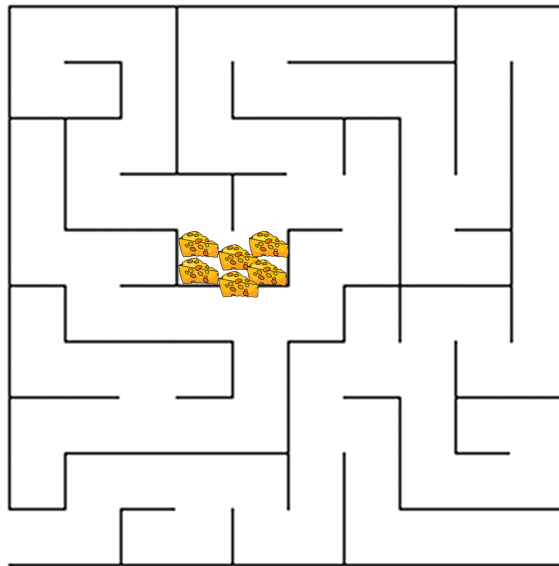
Spencer Johnson was born on November 24, 1938 in Mitchell, South Dakota, United States, in the midst of a middle class family and his childhood spent in this city. In 1957 he graduated from the "Notre Dame High School" of Sherman Oaks (California), in 1957 he entered the University of Southern California to study psychology, receiving in 1963. Later he moved to Ireland to specialize in the **"Royal College" of Surgeons**.

He was medical director of Medtronic, the company that invented the mark-steps, and researcher for the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies, among many other positions, and his books have appeared in various media, from CNN to publications like USA Today or New York Times. It has been translated into more than twenty different languages.

Johnson passed away on July 3, 2017. (Wikipedia) Who has taken my cheese is the story of 4 characters that ran inside a maze in search of a cheese which fed them and made them happy. **Two of them were mice called Snoop and Sneaky, and the other two were little people the size of mice whose names were Hem and Haw.**

The four spent all day inside the maze in search of their favorite cheese

Snoopy and elusive, the mice, although they only had rodent brains, **had a very good instinct** and were looking for the dry cheese that these little animals like so much. Hem and Haw, the little people, **used a brain full of beliefs to look for a very different type of Cheese, which they believed would make them happy and succeed.**



The labyrinth had several halls and rooms that could be found in one of them the delicious cheese; but there were also dark corners and dead ends that made the maze a very easy place to miss.

To look for cheese, Snoop and Sneaky, the mice **used the simple but inefficient method of scoring.** They walked a corridor and if it was empty, they turned and walked the next.

Fisgon used his magnificent nose to Snoop around the general direction where the smell of cheese came from while Elusive threw himself forward. They were lost more than once, how could it be otherwise, they followed wrong directions and often stumbled upon the walls, but after a while they found their way.

However, Hem and Haw, the two-little people, **used a**

**different method that was based on their ability to think and learn from past experiences,** although sometimes their beliefs and emotions confused them.

And so, day after day the four got up very early, put on their sports clothes and ran in search of cheese, which had already become custom.

Snoopy and Sneaky got up early and followed the same route, until they found the "Q" cheese warehouse, once they arrived, they took off their shoes and put them on their necks, always alert in case they needed it again.

At first Hem and Haw got up early to run for their cheese, but after a while they changed their customs, they already knew where the cheese was, so they woke up later and walked towards it.

The little people felt happy, thinking they were safe forever. It was not long before they considered the cheese they had found in the "Q"

cheese warehouse and there was such an amount stored there that, shortly thereafter, they moved their home near the plant and built a social life around it.

To feel more at ease, Hem and Haw decorated the walls with phrases and even painted pieces of cheese that made them smile. One of the phrases said: **"Having Cheese Makes Happy".**

Time passed, and Snoopy and Sneaky kept doing the same thing every day. In the morning, they arrived early at the cheese warehouse and sniffed, dug and inspected the area to see if there had been changes from the previous day. Then they would sit and chew on cheese.

One morning, they arrived at the "Q" cheese warehouse and discovered that there was no Cheese.

They were not surprised. **As they had noticed that the cheese reserves had been decreasing little by little, Fisgón and Ecurridizo were prepared for the inevitable and instinctively, they immediately knew what they had to do.** They looked at each other, took the sneakers that were tied around their neck, put on their shoes and knotted them.

They had already set off in search of new cheese, that same day, later, Hem and Haw made their appearance in the "Q" cheese warehouse. **They had not paid attention to the small changes that had taken place and, therefore, made sense that their cheese would still be there.**

**- What? There's no cheese? shouted Hem. There's no cheese?** he repeated very angry, as if shouting was going to get someone to give it back to him. **Who has taken my cheese?** he bellowed indignantly. Finally, with his arms in jugs and his face flushed with anger, he shouted: **This is not fair!** Haw shook his head in disbelief. He had also assumed that, in the "Q" cheese warehouse, there would be cheese, and he was paralyzed with surprise. I wasn't prepared for that.

The next day, Hem and Haw left their respective homes and returned to the "Q" cheese warehouse, where they hoped to find their cheese in one way or another. But the situation had not changed: the cheese was still not there. The little people did not know what to do. Hem and Haw froze, motionless as statues. Haw closed his eyes as hard as he could and covered his ears with his hands. I wanted to disconnect from everything. He refused to acknowledge that cheese stocks had been gradually decreasing. He was convinced that they had suddenly disappeared.

He didn't want to know that the provision of Cheese had been gradually decreasing. He was convinced that Hem had suddenly disappeared.

Hem analyzed the situation over and over again and finally his complicated brain with his enormous belief system became entrenched in his logic.

While Hem and Haw kept trying to decide what to do, Snoop and Sneaky had long since turned to work. They went further than ever in the labyrinth recesses, they toured new passages and searched for cheese in all the Cheese deposits they found. They didn't think of anything other than finding New Cheese. They found nothing for some time until they finally reached an area of the maze where they had never been before the "N" Cheese warehouse. They shouted for joy, they had found what they were looking for a large reserve of New Cheese.

Haw didn't like the idea of having to launch again to explore the maze, because he knew he would be lost and had no idea where he could find Cheese. But he couldn't help laughing at his stupidity, understanding what his fear was doing to him.

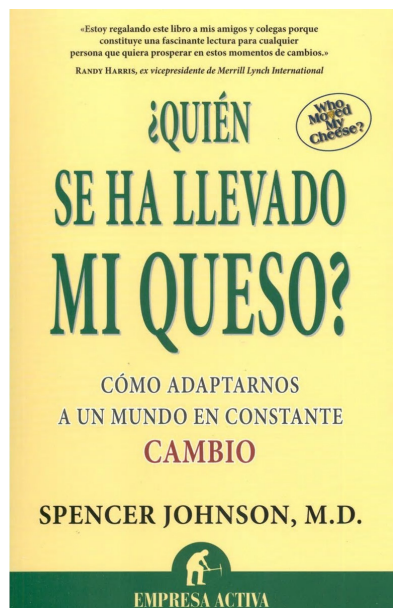
**- Where do we leave the running shoes? He asked Hem.**

It took them a long time to find them, because when they had found Cheese in the Q Cheese warehouse, they had been cornered anywhere believing that they would no longer need them again.

When Hem saw his friend wearing his shoes, he asked:

**- You will not seriously think about going back into that maze, right? By why don't you just wait here with me until the Cheese is returned?**

**"I see you don't understand anything," Haw replied. I didn't want to see it that way either, but**





*Now I realize that nobody is going to return the Cheese to us yesterday. It's time to find New Cheese.*

*- But what if it turns out that there is no Cheese? Hem replied. And even if there were, what if you can't find it?*

*"Well, I don't know,"* Haw replied.

He had also asked himself those same questions many times and experienced again the fears that kept him where he was.

*"Where am I more likely to find Cheese, here or in the maze?"* He asked himself.

*- Sometimes, things change and never again be as before* -Said Haw-. And this seems to be one of those occasions. ***This is life!*** Go ahead, and we should do the same.

Hem kept asking himself, ***"Who took my cheese?"*** ...

On this occasion I have brought you this summary to show that people are not prepared to live the change. **What to do with the change?** Accept it, put on your shoes and adapt to it, do not expect the change to affect you to realize how valuable it is to be aware of any adversity. This book clearly shows us that we should not be comfortable with the things that we have easily obtained, we must always be prevented if things do not go as we think, or, if the environment varies so that we also have to modify schemes to Overcome the changes. We can easily accommodate what we have already obtained without thinking that it can end, change or leave. Those who want or what makes us happy is represented as the cheese that is narrated in the book. We must be clear that:

**1. Change is a fact. The cheese moves constantly.**

**2. Anticipate the change. Stay alert to cheese movements.**

**3. Control the change. Smell the cheese often to see if it is moldy.**

**4. Adapt quickly to change. The sooner the old cheese is forgotten, the sooner the new one is enjoyed.**

**5. Change! Move when the cheese moves.**

**6. Enjoy the change! Savor the adventure and enjoy the new cheese.**

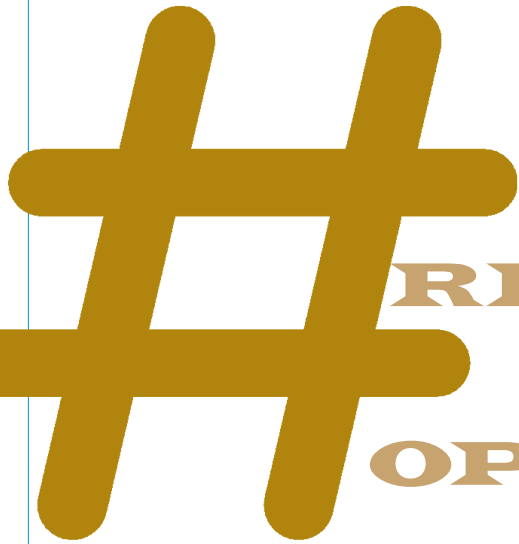
**7. Prepare to change quickly and enjoy again. The cheese moves constantly.**

Now, we are all aware that all changes do not see them as something positive and we always try to see the negative side and pretend that we will not like it. I remember in 2010 when it was proposed to change the "red devils" buses to metro buses. There were conflicts, discords, manifestations and countless negative comments; After all, I have no choice but to adapt and enjoy the change.

**The only constant in life is change.**

Generally, the changes occur as there are objectives to be achieved and the way we are doing it should be improved either because we were doing it wrong or were simply poorly projected. That is a cause of greater force by which change arises. Once the change occurs, we will find allies or obstacles which will drive us or sink us in the whole process of change and what we should and this will depend on the way we decide to face it.

The changes are scary, but you may regret not having done so, experimenting and evolving. Let us have the courage to face change, the strength to carry it out and faith to believe that everything will be fine. *L&E*



RENDAING  
OPIC



## THE REAL SCANDAL: MEGXIT

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**T**his 2020 has surprised us with many events with the few days we have of it, one of them has been the decision by the Dukes of Sussex to resign as members of the Royal Family of England and work to be financially independent

It is not the first time that the Royal family has been in the middle of a scandal, however, it is setting a new precedent.

After the statement by the Dukes of Sussex, he has been left with the question of what it really means for the royal family.

Queen Elizabeth of England stated that she would have preferred that they had continued to work as members

of the Royal Family full time, but that she respected and understood her desire to live a more independent life as a family, while remaining an important part of her family.

In the statement the queen made it clear that she understands that the Dukes of Sussex don't want to depend on public funds for their new lives and a transition period has been agreed in which the dukes will spend time in Canada and the United Kingdom.



The sovereign said that these are complex issues that her family must solve and there is work to be done, but I have asked for a final decision in the next few days.

The most important issue

of the monetary factor is who would pay for the personal security of the Dukes of Sussex and, although Interior Minister Priti Patel refused to comment on whether it should be financed by taxpayers, **said security is a "priority"**

Since 2012, the queen's official duties are partly financed through a **system known as the Sovereign Grant ("Sovereign Grant"), which gives the monarch a quarter of the profits of the "Crown Estate", which are the real public properties of England, such as London, the seabed of the United Kingdom, in addition to forests, wind farms and the Windsor Estate property.**

The "Crown Estate" (a fund of about 19 million dollars) is used to cover the maintenance of the palaces, wages and other costs of the royal family, including Prince Harry. "Even if the Dukes of Sussex cut those ties, their management will hardly be independent of the monarchy in economic terms," said Bloomberg News.

Only 5% of the costs of official Sussex duties are financed with payments of the Sovereign Grant. The rest is covered by the Duchy of Cornwall, a real estate that finances the private and official expenses of Prince Charles. According to the British press, the heir to the throne wouldn't be willing to continue giving money to his son if he abandons his official duties.

Forbes magazine estimates that the British royal family contributes annually with almost 2.4 billion dollars to the UK economy, including 720 million dollars in tourism.

**On January 18, 2020, a statement was given by Queen Elizabeth II, in which it was announced that an agreement had been reached between the Royal Members of the Royals and the Dukes of Sussex where they agreed to stop formally represent the monarch.**

The statement stated that **"With the queen's blessing, the Dukes of Sussex will continue to maintain their sponsorships and private partnerships."**

This leads to the couple losing their **Royal Highness title** and withdrawing from their royal duties, including military acts. Upon leaving their duties at the Windsor House, the Dukes of Sussex **"will no longer receive public funds for royal duties,"** according to the note released this Saturday, that is, they will no longer be defrayed by the **"Crown Estate."** An agreement was reached in which they have achieved their objective of being able to have trade agreements and charge for the work they do, at least in the short term, while they work to achieve it, they will continue to be supported privately by Prince Charles of Wales.

On Sunday, January 19, 2020, the Instagram account of the Dukes of Sussex posted a video of the dinner in London of his organization Sentebale (Organization that helps people with low resources who have HIV in Africa) where the Duke said that The United Kingdom will always be your home and you **have made it clear that everything you do will continue to maintain your majesty's values.**

**The couple also decided to reimburse 2.4 million pounds of taxpayers' money, some US \$ 3.1 million, which was used in the renovation of their residence, Frogmore Cottage, which will remain their family home in the United Kingdom.**

The royal palace reported that it wouldn't comment on how the couple's safety management will operate in their new life.

BBC royal family correspondent, Nicholas Witchell, said several questions remain unanswered in the statement, including couple's tax and immigration status in United Kingdom and Canada. He explained that royal officials haven't given a clear answer as to whether Duchess Meghan still intended to obtain British citizenship, which would imply spending a certain amount of time in the United Kingdom.. Although they have already taken a step back in the Royal Family, the agreement will be audited once a year to verify that the Dukes of Sussex have not used their mark to fill their pockets. *L&E*

# Cultural Capsule

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## THEATER

- Aba Theater: The King of the Jungle until January 26.
- Aba Theater: You want to marry me from February 1 to 16.
- Pacific Theater : My mother is younger from January 15 to February 2.
- Pacific Theater: One week from January 24 to February 20.
- Pacific Theater: Kiros The Musical "The Lion that did not want to be king" from January 11 to February 16.
- Pacific Theater: Paco's house from January 11 to March 22.
- Pacific Theater: Climax from February 5 to 12.
- La Estación Theater: Catholic, Apostolic and Roman boys until February 13
- La Estación Theater: Super detective mouse until March 15.
- El Ángel Theater: Single and successful looking for the perfect boyfriend until Feb 16.
- El Ángel Theater: Two Crazy families until February 2.
- El Ángel Theater: Under the sleeve on February 16.
- La Plaza Theater: A couple of single girls until February 7.
- La Plaza Theater: Rock from February 11 to 15.
- National Theater: The Historical Adventures of the Comején and the Librarian: The War of a Thousand days on February 7 and 8.
- National Theater: I know what your vagina thinks on February 14.
- National theater: Pascal Gallet piano concert on February 28.
- Old Panama Tower: The stone city on February 1 and 2.

## CINEMA

- Premieres:
  - o Deep threat on February 6.
  - o A good day in the neighborhood on February 6.
  - o Metamorphosis, the faces of the devil on February 6.
  - o Jexi: a cell phone without a filter on February 13.
  - o Sonic the movie on February 13.
  - o Los Rodriguez and beyond.

## MUSEUMS

- MAC:
  - o The exhibition "An Invasion In 4 Times" and the exhibition "The Invasion: A Story Told to Pieces" guided tour with Gladys Turner Bosso, (one of its curators) on February 1 at 11:00 a.m.
  - o You can also request the Mini Detectives del Arte guide for children for free, at the reception.
- Panama Canal Interoceanic Museum:
  - o Basic workshop of manufacture of tembleques on February 8.
- Biomuseum:
  - o Free admission on February 1 and 2.

## FESTIVALS AND CONCERTS

- We camped at the Summit Municipal Park on February 4.
- BBQ Fest at AlbrookMall on February 4 and 5 parking lots in the Dinosaur hall.
- Micro Brew Fest Panama from February 11 to 30 in the City of Knowledge.
- Drums full moon: February 23,

headquarters to be defined.

- Musicalion: from February 11 to 16 at Omar Park from 7:00 p.m.
  - o Thursday 13: Delighted
  - o Friday 14: More than love.
  - o Saturday 15: Sunset Bash
  - o Sunday 16: Panama Symphonic Flavor.
- Poor Film Festival (Panalandia): from February 23 to 24 at the Omar Torrijos Foundation.
- Barro Fest in Pedasí from February 25 to 27.
- Festival of Kites and Panderos (Aprochipa): February 9 from 11:00 a.m. at 6.00 p.m. in the Boulevard Panamá - Pacifico, in Arraiján-Howard.
- Perales 2020: Songs for a farewell at the Anayansi / Atlapa Theater on February 27.
- Carlos Vives: Concert not to sit in Plaza Amador on February 14.
- World Music Panama: Violentango at the Athenaeum of the City of Knowledge on February 13.

## EXHIBITIONS, TALKS AND EVENTS

- Sogno circus in Atlapa on February 8 and 8.
- Tournament of the three magicians (Harry Potter Book Night) at Clayton Square on February 1.
- Women artists in history at Plaza Bolívar on February 1.
- Celebrate the arrival of the Chinese New Year in Multiplaza until February 2.
- Forum: Climate crisis and water: The challenge of all (ACP) in the Auditorium of the Central Campus of the UTP on February 6 at 8.00 a.m.
- Technology and law: A possible agenda, in Aula magna Dr. Victor F. Goytía (Building B / first floor) USMA on February 7.
- CECAP training for arbitral tribunal secretaries at CECAP on February 11 and 12.
- Lunar Observation at Explora Science and Arts Center on February 8.
- Machine Expo 2020 in ATLAPA from February 5 to 7.
- Farmer & Artisan Market in The Village, Coronado on February 1.

## FAIRS AND IMPORTANT PARTIES

- Lantern Festival and 3rd night market of Chung Sir in the Rogelio Arango Chiari Park (Paseo del Norte / Brisas del Golf) on February 7
- Parade of the Basquiña in Bugaba, Chiriquí on February 1.
- Carnivals from February 22 to 25.
- Chorrera Fair: until February 2 in La Chorrera, Panamá Oeste Province.
- La Naranja Fair: until February 23 in Churuquita Grande, Coclé Province.
- La Candelaria Fair: until February 3 in Bugabá, Chiriqui Province.
- Santa Fé de Veraguas Fair: until February 3 in the District of Santa Fé, Province of Veraguas.
- Veraguas Fair: from 7 to 16 in the Soná District, Province of Veraguas.
- International Folk Festival of Almojábano with Cheese: from February 12 to 16 in Dolega in the Province of Chiriquí.
- Acobir Real Estate Expo: from January 29 to February 2 at the ATLAPA Convention Center.
- Great Afro-Antillean Fair from February 22 to 23 in ATLAPA.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- February 2: Candlemas Day
- Feb 2: World Wetlands Day
  - Feb 4: World Cancer Day
  - Feb 6: Photographer and cameraman Day
  - Feb 9: Dentist Day
  - Feb 10: Medical Technologist Day
  - Feb 11: Our Lady of Lourdes
  - Feb 11: World Day of the Sick
  - Feb 13: Birth of General Omar Torrijos (1929)
  - Feb 13: World Radio Day
  - Feb 14: Valentine's Day, love and friendship day
  - Feb 15: Day of the fight against childhood cancer
  - Feb 20: World Social Justice Day
  - Feb 25: Dule Revolution Day (1925) (Law No. 29 of May 12, 1998).*L&E*

## *Alianzas alrededor del Mundo*

Mitrani, Caballero, Rosso Alba, Francia, Ojam & Ruiz Moreno- ARGENTINA

Guevara & Gutiérrez S. C. Servicios Legales- BOLIVIA

Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- BRASIL

DSN Consultants Inc- CANADÁ

Lewin & Wills Abogados- COLOMBIA

Rivera, Bolívar y Castañedas- PANAMÁ

Espinosa & Asociados- CHILE

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Peter Byrne & Associates- ESTADOS UNIDOS

Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- ESTADOS UNIDOS

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