

Legislación y Economía

ISSN 1726-0485 MAY 2020

"Transparency is not in quarantine"

Where is the President of the Republic?

Recycling in times of COVID-19

"It is time to end the cancer of corruption"

Return to the New Normal Work and health protocols

Changes to the Public Procurement Law



In this edition

José Javier Rivera J.
Giovana del C. Miranda Garzola
Rafael Fernández Lara
Augusto García
Milena Vergara

José Javier Rivera J.
Giovana del C. Miranda G.

Diseño y Diagramación:
Gabriela Melgar



Rivera, Bolívar y Castañedas



@rbcabogados

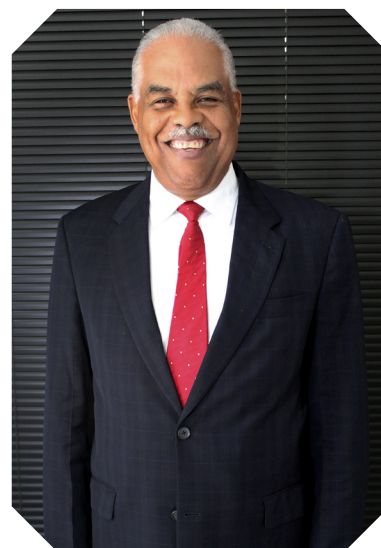


@rbcweb

MAY 2020

Editorial

5



WHERE IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC?

Content

38. Politics

IT'S TIME TO END THE CANCER OF CORRUPTION

42. World Economy

CEPAL: ECONOMIC IMPACT ON LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN OF THE PANDEMIC COVID-19

48. Environmental Capsule

Invited
Writer

7

CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT LAW

Contenido

Norms
of interest



EXECUTIVE BODY MODIFIES
AND ADDS TAX RELIEF
MEASURES

30



José Javier Rivera - Attorney
jj.rivera@rbc.com.pa

Editorial

WHERE IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC?

Almost a month ago was the last time that the President of the Republic went to the country to install the Tripartite Economic Labor Meeting to analyze a series of critical issues on the national agenda.

It is known that as of March 20, a series of broad-spectrum provisions were established in the health, labor, business and security fields.

It would be a long time to repeat each one of the measures that, from that date on, the attentive citizenry heard from their mandatory quarantine, admitting their initial relevance, with special emphasis on the issue of health.

From the orbit of the Executive, it was said categorically that the resources that the State should collect to face the pandemic would be administered with the seriousness of a good parent..

In addition, an institutional team supported by local and foreign experts was presented, who would be attentive to the best practices for managing this disease that has affected all of humanity.

There is no doubt that majority of the population, even with its limitations and inequalities that predate the pandemic, have followed the health recommendations.

This task is not easy, as much has to do with economic, environmental and cultural conditions.

More than two months have passed and there have been many situations that have decreased citizens' confidence in the good management of health aspects, the reactivation of work and therefore employment, as well as the allocation of public resources so that The large national majorities that lack their own resources can meet their basic needs for food, health, transportation and others.

In the same order of ideas, there has been no team that has had the simultaneous responsibility of informing the country about the support that will be provided to micro, small, and medium-sized entrepreneurs to restore their income-generating activities for themselves, their families, and their workers..

Now, National Government has a leader who is the President of the Republic who in his first interventions raised the existence of a team and even a so-called control tower that has not been brought to the fore to render accounts, much less to fix the roadmap to safeguard national interests.

This absence worries because there are multiple pending issues at his desk and it is up to the president to face each and every one of them.

The country demands an urgent response on the course that is needed in the face of a health situation generated by COVID-19 and that is here to stay.

We are in the third month of this situation and if the wheel of the economy cannot be turned in a timely and robust manner, we are very close to a social and economic situation that may increase the loss that we are all suffering.

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



R • B • C

Rivera • Bolívar • Castañedas

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Síguenos en
Instagram como:**

@rbcweb



Invited Writer

CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT LAW

Augusto García - Attorney
augusto.garcia@rbc.com.pa

Law 22 of June 27, 2006 regulates public procurement in our country and it aims to establish rules and basic principles of mandatory observance that will govern public contracts made by the Central Government, autonomous and semi-autonomous entities, municipalities, community boards, financial intermediaries and corporations in which the State owns fifty-one percent (51%) or more of its shares or assets.

Since its issuance, more than 15 modifications have been introduced to said Law by the different government administrations that have elapsed, which shows that it is a Law that over time has been molded in the image and similarity of the projects of the current government, leading to a distortion of the system by sacrificing the obtaining of the best benefit for the State and in many occasions due process, in favor of agility and favoritism in terms of contracting, which it leaves open numerous gaps in terms of supervision that are filled with vices such as misuse of power, overpricing,

influence peddling, payment of commissions, etc..

It is precisely the problem described above that has motivated different sectors, both political and civil society, to demand a new reform to the Public Procurement Law, which was finally approved by Law 153 of May 8, 2020. It is of a Law that introduces 75 changes to Law 22 of 2006, which governs public procurement in the country.

The aforementioned Law 153 introduces novel changes to the public contracting system, such as the introduction of the arbitration clause within the legal order regarding public contracting, the existence of norms aimed at promoting and favoring micro and small companies under specific circumstances, national companies, local (municipal) companies, as well as national products.

However, we consider that there are elements that still

need to be reinforced within the public procurement system, such as transparency through accountability, and for this, the strengthening of the system's audit entities is of cardinal importance. We refer to the Directorate General of Public Procurement (DGCP) and the Administrative Court of Public Procurement (TACP), entities in charge of supervising and applying the corrective measures necessary for the correct operation of the contracting system.

Said strengthening involves providing these entities with specialized human and technical resources, but above all, granting the independence required to do their work without fear of conflicts of interest within the contracts. Until this happens, the system will continue to function poorly to the detriment of the interests of the State..

We consider it of cardinal importance to examine the content of the modifications introduced and to contact your advisor so that they can have a clear picture of how these reforms may impact the opportunities for contracting with the State that may arise in the future. As established in article 77 of Law 153, the changes that are introduced to the Public Procurement Law will take effect from the 4 months of its promulgation, that is, these changes will be applicable to State contracts from from September 8, 2020.

Due to the large number of changes made below we will proceed to examine some of the most significant changes made to Law 22 of 2006:

Arbitration Clause:

It is worth noting that, since January 8, 2014, date that Law 131 of 2013 that regulates National and International Arbitration came into force in Panama, it is established that submission to arbitration agreed with Panamanian State is valid, as well as with Panama Canal Authority, regarding contracts they

sign. Said provision was even the subject of a ruling by Administrative Court of Public Procurement of Panama, which was inhibited from hearing an appeal filed against the administrative resolution of a contract as there is an arbitration clause in force within it.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, said power is not frequently exercised by the common bidding entities as it is a provision outside the public procurement system framed in Law 22 of 2006.

In this order of ideas, one of the main novelties introduced by Law 153 to the public procurement system is the power of bidding entities to introduce arbitration clauses in the bidding documents and / or contracts that they enter into to resolve disputes. that may arise regarding the object and execution of the contract.

As established in the Law, said matter will be subsequently regulated by the Executive Body, however, the essential characteristics that these types of clauses in public procurement must comply with, which we detail below, are established.:

- **The provisions of Law 131 of 2013 that regulates national and international arbitration will be applicable to these arbitration clauses.**

- **The processes must be processed in the Spanish language and their headquarters will be the Republic of Panama.**

The foregoing is an advance in public procurement in light of the fact that it is a figure that will be able to help resolve disputes that arise in the execution phase of public contracts more effectively, allowing, mitigating delays in the execution of said contracts so that the interests of the parties involved are not affected.

About Public Acts:

With the issuance of Law 153 of 2020, changes are introduced within the different modalities of public acts contemplated by the Law.

Firstly, it is worth noting that the DGCP is empowered to request the bidding entities, before the public event is held, to support the steps taken to obtain the reference price set for public events, such as a measure to prevent off-market pricing.

One of the most important changes is the elimination of the Best Value Tender modality with separate evaluation (modality other than the Best Value Tender), a modality that in the past had been strongly criticized as it was a process that divided evaluation into technical and economic aspects, the latter were evaluated separately at the end by revealing envelopes protected in vaults of the national bank, which raised strong criticism regarding the transparency of this type of tender.

On the other hand, with regard to tenders for the best value, a modality reserved for contracts with a high degree of complexity, the minimum amount required to apply to it was increased, this limit being set in public events whose price of reference is over \$ 500,000.00.

In the case of minor contracts, understood as those whose reference price does not exceed \$ 50,000.00, it is established that the bidding entities must give a preference in the award to micro and small companies that are qualified as such in the Panama Purchase system. Said companies must fully comply with the requirements established in the Tender Specifications and the proposed price must not be greater than 5% compared to the lowest price proposal proposed by a company that is not a micro or small company..

For Public Tenders, the most common form of public contracting, the deadlines previously established for the issuance of the report of the evaluating commission, and the formulation of

observations thereon, are shortened. In addition to this, the application of risk margin is eliminated in order to promote competitiveness and obtain the greatest benefit for the State, according to the Law..

It is introduced as a novelty in public acts the fact that Municipalities will notify the DGCP regarding companies that are delinquent in the payment of their respective municipal taxes in order for it to include them in a list that will be published on the portal Panama Buy. In this regard, bidders must consult this list before the award of the public act and in the event that a company is not up to date in the payment of its municipal taxes, it may not be benefited with the award of the public act. In this sense, the company will be granted a period of 5 working days to catch up on the payment of its municipal obligations, in the event of not complying within the stated period, the public act may be awarded to any other proposing company that fully comply with the requirements of the public act.

Legal inability to contract:

This is one of the most critical points in debates carried out in National Assembly of Deputies since there was a sector that was clamoring for the tightening of the rules related to the legal inability to contract for companies linked to corruption scandals, with proposals ranging from a minimum disqualification period of 5 years to other proposals that contemplated the perpetual disqualification of said companies.

Finally, wording of article 19 of Public Procurement Law, as approved in reform contained in Law 153, establishes a period of disqualification from contracting with the State for up to 5 years in case of natural or legal persons who have been convicted. by definitive judicial sentence for crimes against public administration, the economic order (it is worth noting that criminal tax fraud is integrated within this type of crime), collective security,

economic assets and crimes against the public faith.

However, people who enter into collaboration agreements with the Public Ministry recognizing the crimes described above, the legal incapacity to contract will not be more than 3 years. They are exempt from this inability to hire those whose effective collaboration has led to the clarification of the crime, preventing its execution from continuing, to prevent other crimes from being carried out, or when the information provided has been essential to discover its actors or participants..

We consider that the deadlines established in article 19 of the Public Procurement Law must be more rigorous so that there is an exemplary punishment for natural or legal persons involved in acts of corruption. The fact that it is exempt from inability to hire people with collaboration agreements is a measure that today does not contribute to strengthening the transparency of the public procurement system.

Changes in claims filing:

Law 153 of 2020 introduces changes to the norms that regulate the presentation of claims within public acts held under the Public Procurement Law. Said modifications are aimed at limiting the number of claims that a specific bidder may file in order to prevent delays in holding a public act as a result of the bad faith filing of claims in order to delay the hiring. Below, we will examine some of the newer changes introduced by Law 153 regarding the filing of claims:

1. The claim actions directed against the tender specifications can only be presented by those interested parties who have participated and signed the minutes of the previous meeting and approval.

2. The claim actions directed against the tender specifications can only be presented

before the public act is held according to the terms established in article 153 of the Public Procurement Law.

3. If the claim action is directed against the report of the evaluating commission, the plaintiff must attach, as a requirement for its validity, the proof of previous presentation of observations to the report before the bidding entity within the period provided in the Law.

4. Only one claim action may be filed against the report of the evaluating commission.

5. In the event that a second report is issued by order of the DGCP, no new claims will be accepted against it unless the new report has been issued in violation of the order of the DGCP. The claim action that is intended to be filed against this new report must be accompanied by a deposit of 10% of the reference price of the public act.

6. In the case of public acts under the framework agreement modality, the demand action bond will be established in the statement of charges and it will not be less than \$ 500,000.00.

Although measures introduced regarding claims seek to limit presentation of bad faith claims aimed at preventing progress of contracting processes to the detriment of interests of the State, we consider that limitations introduced are severe and violate the rights of participants in good faith within public acts, who on many occasions are victims of mismanagement within bidding entities and inspection entities themselves, who, by not fulfilling their role as objective inspection entity, allow the award of public acts to companies that don't fully comply with the requirements of statement of objections to the detriment of the interests of the State.

Until measures are implemented to improve

transparency, efficiency and independence by bidding entities in holding public events, the problems that our public procurement system has suffered for many years, which focus on corruption, will persist. through surcharge agreements at the expense of the State's finances.

In this order of ideas, it is worth remembering that this is not the first administration to introduce changes aimed at limiting the filing of claims within the celebration of state contracts, similar initiatives have already been implemented in the past, which had effects on speed with the which public entities carried out the contracting, nevertheless they reflected a disastrous effect on transparency and the prevention of corruption, since in the absence of efficient means of challenge and claim there was a scandalous increase in corruption that subsequently led to the implementation of reforms to return to the original text of Law 22 of 2006.

The foregoing leads us to the conclusion that the best tools to combat corruption and improve the efficiency of contracting is to provide the entities in charge of supervising and resolving the claims presented with independent and robust structures that allow them to be resolved quickly, efficiently and independently. the claims that may arise.

Our office has the experts to support you in this delicate matter. For inquiries you can contact:

- **Augusto Garcia** / augusto.garcia@rbc.com.pa
- **Jose Javier Rivera** / jj.rivera@rbc.com.pa
- **Javier Said Acuña** / said.acuna@rbc.com.pa.*L&E*



R B C
Rivera • Bolívar • Castañedas
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Find us on Facebook:

**Rivera, Bolívar y
Castañedas**

THE FOOTPRINT OF CORONAVIRUSES IN THE MEDIA

David Corrales - Journalist
rbcweb@rbc.com.pa

Summary:

Having free, independent, plural, accessible and responsible media is one of the foundations of democracy and an indicator of its level of quality. The passage of the coronavirus has tested its robustness, and not only for its health impact. At a time when confinement has shot audiences and content consumption to historic levels, the media have demonstrated their enormous usefulness and need, fulfilling their essential functions: to inform, educate and entertain (to which the pandemic has added one more titanic task, the fight against fake news, hoaxes and falsehoods). But the more it is being demanded, in quantity and quality, the worse the sector is with the closure of many head offices, the loss of jobs and the advertising or financing that supported them..

Introduction:

The ravages globally caused by the emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus (COVID-19) are well known. Thousands of victims, more than half of humanity confined, economic damages difficult to estimate,

etc. But his passage has also left positive traces such as the heroic work of multiple professionals, the continuous signs of solidarity and generosity, the environmental respite or the impulse that he has given to telework and to the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its technologies to which the press in any of its formats. With the pandemic, the media has been doubly immersed in an unprecedented transformation. While searching for years for a new business model due to the exhaustion of the current one, the health emergency has forced to overcome a paradox caused by the coronavirus. The confinement has increased the consumption of information and entertainment on televisions, radio, web and networks, with Netflix reigning in OTT (Over-The-Top) services, YouTube in streaming and social networks or WhatsApp testing the resistance of networks with mobile phones, and their wide use, as one of the main protagonists of this crisis.

However, although it may seem inconsistent, this "success" is being a competition full of obstacles that is sending to the bench, or directly

disqualifying, many and very good participants. In addition, in this complicated situation, the use of disinformation as a weapon is favoring the fact that, with the aim of preventing its spread, there are not a few governments that are adopting or considering making all kinds of control legislation that may end up silencing or limiting to the media.

Respect for the right, access and freedoms:

On May 3, World Press Freedom Day was celebrated, a date instituted in 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly following an initiative by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Educational Organization). Culture) to “promote press freedom in the world by recognizing that a free, pluralistic and independent press is an essential component of any society. The footprint of the coronavirus in the media David Corral Opinion Document 74/2020 4 democratic”. In this year so marked by adversity, the Federation of Journalists Associations of Spain (FAPE) has urged governments and political parties, at a time when the coronavirus pandemic makes journalists and their role an essential public good to guarantee the right of citizens to the truthful information contained in our Constitution, to put an end to the obstructions and pressures suffered by press freedom and to commit themselves to the defense and protection of journalism. Even if the coronavirus sends us to our homes, the information should not be confined. The rulers, in a logical exercise of political responsibility, must report with transparency and silence or absence do not serve as answers for citizens to understand pandemic and collaborate in its defeat..

In a similar way, the Information Media Association pronounced that, together with the main media in the country, launched this May 3 a campaign denouncing “the serious situation suffered by the media and which is accentuated as a result of the crisis COVID-19 or external pressures that sometimes hinder the work of the media and the journalist to carry out their work ». His call was very clear: “To support journalism of clarity is to support democracy.”

The International Federation of Journalists has collected in its Global Platform for Quality Journalism, published last April 29, that “too many states take advantage of this crisis to increase their authoritarian power, strengthen their population surveillance systems or imprison journalists when some media companies cut wages without negotiating, cut benefits or lay off staff ».

According to data collected by the International Press Institute (IPI) 4, governments in Europe are increasingly taking advantage of emergency legislation aimed at combating the coronavirus to impose restrictions that seriously erode press freedom. In recent weeks, an alarming number of governments, especially in Eastern and Central Europe, have used the current health crisis as a pretext to restrict the free flow of information and take drastic action against the independent media. The most serious threats so far have been seen in authoritarian-trending states like Hungary and Russia, where the pandemic has been exploited to grab more powers and tighten control over information.

Reporters Without Borders (Reporters sans frontières, RSF), in its annual report on press freedom, warns that the effects of the global health emergency will have a strong impact on the future of journalism, marked by a deterioration of the right to free, independent and plural. Furthermore, it has highlighted the “clear correlation” between the repression of press freedom registered during the coronavirus crisis and the place that countries occupy in the World Classification of Press Freedom, such as China (177 of 180) and Iran (173 of 180), whose governments have increased information control and repression.

The report shows that the next will be “a decisive decade” for press freedom due to the crises that affect the future of journalism:

1. Geopolitical, marked by dictatorial, authoritarian or populist presidents or regimes that limit access and dissemination of plural and independent information while trying to impose their world view.

2. Technological, marked by false news, rumors, trolley armies in the pay of governments, the lack of adequate regulations to bring order and democratic guarantees in the era of digital and globalized communication.

3. Democratic, with an increase in hostility towards journalists that is seen, in certain countries, fueled by political leaders and their followers.

4. Trust, accentuated by the loss of prestige and credibility of citizens in their media and institutions, who are considered to be suspected of spreading "news contaminated by information that is not trustworthy."

5. Economic, weakening the capacities and resources of some of the media that have already been touched a lot after the last crisis and the digital transformation, or favoring, due to weakness, the proliferation of media ownership concentration.

«What will become of freedom, pluralism and the credibility of information between now and 2030? The answer to this question is what is at stake today, "said Christophe Deloire, Secretary General of RSF. Infodemic, omission, saturation, finding the truth to offer certainties. Confinement measures have triggered the consumption of conventional, digital and on-demand platforms. The interest in being informed about the situation caused by COVID-19 has multiplied this demand, but the sources are so broad, the audiences are so fragmented and the market is so saturated with platforms, devices or media that it is not easy to respond. to two major problems, lies or information poisoning and the infodemic (overabundance of information, some rigorous and some false). Fighting them has an enormous cost of personnel, resources and time at a critical moment due to scarcity, although it has an even greater cost if we put on the table a question: how much is a human life worth?

Lying, cheating, confusing, disturbing ... Whatever the outcome and whatever the goal. Undermining

democratic systems, influencing political decisions, economic and stock market activity or the mood of society are some of the possibilities. These actions can even negatively influence the list of human victims or be the direct cause of political, economic and social damage. In this world emergency so complex and in need of clarity, in which even the great world leaders and their proposals have to be denied and in which sometimes the needle of truth is not found among all the haystacks, purposely spreading erroneous information about treatments or statistics, altering official scientific advice, ensuring how to do household tests (useless), communicating miraculous vaccines or magic protocols (invented), speculating that in certain hospitals they attend or not, can become lethal for the gullible and their family environment, neighborhood and virtual (networks, messaging groups, etc.). The lie takes advantage of goodwill, the desire to help and the emergency to run like wildfire in the exponential rebounds of messages.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has described situation as a "poison that is endangering even more lives" and as other new "enemy" of humanity. In its recent reports DISINFODEMIC: Deciphering COVID-19 disinformation and DIS-INFODEMIC: Dissecting responses to COVID-19 disinformation, UNESCO identifies four types of formats in which disinformation takes advantage of health crisis:

1. The construction of emotional narratives and memes, which mix some element of truth with lies, personal opinions and incomplete information, all expressed in very sentimental language.

2. The creation of fake websites of institutions and authorities, which contain information from false or manipulated sources.

3. The dissemination of fraudulent videos, either because they have been altered, made ad hoc or decontextualized, to discredit something or someone. What is known as deepfake.

4. Trolls infiltrated into communities to spread misinformation, and massive cybercrime campaigns, such as phishing or phishing.

And, regarding the issues, these are the main ones of the disinformation:

1. Origins and spread of the coronavirus / COVID-19.

2. Medical science: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment.

3. False or misleading statistics.

4. Impacts on society and the environment.

5. Economic impact.

6. Politicization.

7. Discredit journalists and credible media.

8. Fraudulent content.

9. Disinformation related to celebrities.

The pandemic has demonstrated the role of journalism as an essential asset to provide certainties, context and to create informed public opinion that can count on plural, truthful and contrasted sources of information in the face of rumor, lies and disinformation. Without losing sight of its impact and economic value, impoverishing or losing sources of information is not just a business or employment issue, it is depreciating the value we give to information and truth and resulting in a less informed, less educated society, less conscious and critical, weaker, submissive and malleable, with less value as such and with their rights eroded or forgotten.

Business model and income leakage:

The media, public and private, need the same resource as any other company or institution to function: money. Since the crisis of 2008, speaking

of "stability" seems synonymous with "restructuring", a constant to adapt to the reality of consumption, social and economic, how information is reported and through which media or platforms. Throughout the world, adjustments, in personnel and budgets, have been continuous and declining in most public media. Private companies have suffered a gradual loss of sales revenue and the fall of advertising space that, in most cases, has been punished in their stock prices. In this unstable balance, in which conventional and digital media are complemented by podcasts and videos or seek income through pay walls, televisions multiply their presence on social networks and channels such as YouTube or the like. The emergence of the coronavirus has forced young and old to take measures that, it is hoped, are only temporary and not definitive and devastating. The uncertainty of the pandemic makes it extremely difficult to think of concrete long-term plans or financial forecasts.

The parenthesis caused by the confinement and the decrease in income has resulted in the request for million-dollar loans to maintain activity and in the multiplication of workforce adjustments with temporary employment regulation (ERTE) files or in the reduction and precariousness of conditions. work. According to data from the Ministry of Employment, at the end of April there were almost 25,000 professionals in the world of journalism and communication affected by some ERTE, a very considerable figure if we calculate that there are already close to 100,000 Journalism graduates in our country since the first promotion came out in 1975. The fear is that the negative legacy of the coronavirus is worse than that left by the 2008 financial crisis, in which thousands of jobs were destroyed, hundreds of media disappeared and the terms "adjustment" and "optimization" Their meaning was squeezed out to the last point of their definition.

From the different business groups, unions, professional associations, etc. The government has been asked for aid and official mechanisms to ease contingency plans, prevent job destruction and ensure that companies in the sector do not disappear or fall

into the wrong hands. It should not be forgotten that Article 20 of our Constitution recognizes and protects, among others, the right “to freely communicate or receive truthful information by any means of dissemination”, a right whose exercise cannot be restricted by any type of prior censorship. Nor should we neglect that the concentration of ownership of the media or that their ownership is in the hands of funds or companies, “may” mean a great loss of credibility, independence and plurality due to conflicts of interest or to prioritize objectives such as economic or political.

In Brussels, the European Executive does not rule out a Marshall plan that includes actions such as immediate access to financing and credit. The president of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture, Sabien Verheyen, recalled “the fundamental role played by the media in the current context, spreading information about the situation and acting as an antidote to fake news and disinformation.” National proposals are also being offered, such as the one presented by the United Kingdom's National Union of Journalists (NUJ), which has put forth a rescue plan for the British media.

It is still surprising or ironic that companies such as Google, Facebook and the like are the ones that are reaching out and providing help and training. For the media, they are the great rivals, since advertising and its benefits are concentrating on them because they are increasingly a source of information and entertainment compared to professional and conventional offers or due to their low spirits when it comes to paying taxes. impact on a balance. According to the International Federation of Journalists, the world's leading professional organization representing journalists with more than 600,000 members in 146 countries, known as GAFAM (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft) and to which many other similar ones could be added, pay little or no tax in most income-earning countries. The figure estimated by the FIP is \$ 900 billion worldwide, so it proposes to tax this income with 6% (about \$ 54 billion).

So far Google has launched the Journalism

Emergency Relief Fund, a “global aid fund” for local media in crisis for the coronavirus, which will be provided, without compensation, from thousands of dollars for small local newsrooms to dozens of thousands for bigger companies. A similar initiative is the Facebook Journalism Project that will allocate, advised by the European Journalism Center, among others, between 10,000 and 25,000 euros to support the task of more than 200 local media, including five Spaniards. Another example is from the European Journalism Center that has launched the COVID-19 Journalism Aid Fund endowed with three million dollars to support small local media.

Technological adaptation to confinement, personal distance and telework:

To maintain activity and comply with social distance and confinement, health emergency has forced an urgent technological adaptation to telework and communicate from outside different facilities. The “digital transformation”, which was previously a project for future in most companies, is already a strategic need for survival. After transition from analog to digital, now it is time to jump to cloud (Cloud) where we work remotely in our companies and hold videoconferences or enter live (without being surprised by the image), journalists, interviewees or guests from anywhere and with all kinds of helmets, funds, noise and children and pets around.

In any contingency or contingency plan, it was difficult to think that most of the human and technical resources, or all in a majority of cases, should abandon the control and security of the headquarters and offices, disintegrate and operate with relative “normality”. We have never before experienced a pandemic affecting some 200 countries at the same time and sending most of their populations to remain confined. The difficulty and the challenge, but also the opportunity and the great success, have been this dizzying adaptation; and more if it is taken into account that before the measures taken with the state of alarm, according to a LeanFactor survey,

only 5% of Spanish journalists could telework.

Forced by circumstances, by the need to work remotely, something hitherto unusual, technologies and media already available have been activated to make news or entertainment for television, radio, networks or the web. As has happened in almost all public and private media in the world, new tools have had to be used and new workflows have to be developed and refined, many based on distributed and decentralized structures (workers' homes) in order to continue offering the best possible content. Take the BBC as an example, a world reference for its prestige and capabilities. With a workforce of around 22,000 professionals, in less than a week they went from 2,000 remote workers to 16,000.

Common to all public and private media, it has been, as far as possible and with the limitations imposed by the sanitary control measures, to keep the broadcast centers and all the live programs that are possible open. In the case of studios, sets and controls, hygienic distances have been respected, shifts have been activated, cleaning and disinfection processes have become more habitual and profound, there are fewer people participating in the programs and the public, in Generally, it is no longer present.

Remote systems have also been used to carry out these programs, so it has not been anything strange to see many offices, storage rooms, garages, children's rooms, iron rooms, etc. converted into live spots from which we have continued to see, hear or read multiple journalists or guests. The objective was and is to maintain the dissemination of information, education and entertainment content, in addition to sending messages to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (stay home, responsibility, wash your hands, etc.).

Another option, widely used by companies and the media

to continue their activity, has been to use services such as Skype, Zoom or similar ones that have allowed both meetings and tele-training sessions as well as direct connections with journalists, specialists or politicians.

In face of adversity, we have had generosity and camaraderie. Since start of pandemic, multiple companies in the sector, technology firms, and suppliers have provided equipment and services so that media, whether or not they are customers, have been able to maintain their activity and not fail with remote work. Sharing knowledge, experiences, problems and solutions has been habitual and enriching.

Through forums, different channels or at the initiative of organizations such as EBU / UER (the world's largest organization of public media), professionals from different countries and responsibilities have been contacted to exchange information that has allowed them to continue complying with the task of informing, educating and entertaining society.

Let's take advantage of technologies and innovation to be where we should be and not lose the focus of "knowing who we are". And in the face of the threat, risk, or uncertainty of change and what will come after the scourge of the coronavirus passes, we have empathy, talent, and the ability to overcome; technology used with ethics and equality; the need to respond to challenges such as the environment; the fight against the control of geopolitical narratives, disinformation and cyber threats; as well as the duty, as means, to continue informing, entertaining and educating our audiences, wherever they are, with rigor, honesty, responsibility and editorial and economic independence. *L&E*

CORRAL, David. La huella del coronavirus en los medios de comunicación. Documento de Opinión IEEE 74/2020.

http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs_opinion/2020/DIEEEO74_2020DAVCOR_medios.pdf y/o enlace bie3 (consultado 09/06/2020).

RETORNO A LA NUEVA NORMALIDAD LABORAL Y LOS PROTOCOLOS DE SALUD

Por: Giovana del C. Miranda Garzola

R•B•C
Rívera • Bolívar • Castañedas
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DISPOSICIONES LEGALES

1. DECRETO EJECUTIVO NO. 71 DE 13 DE MARZO DE 2020 QUE REGLAMENTA TEMPORALMENTE EL ARTÍCULO 159 DEL CÓDIGO DE TRABAJO.

2. DECRETO EJECUTIVO NO. 78 DE 16 DE MARZO DE 2020 QUE ESTABLECE MEDIDAS DE CARÁCTER LABORAL PARA EVITAR EL CONTAGIO DEL COVID-19 EN LAS EMPRESAS DEL PAÍS.

3. RESOLUCIÓN NO. 137 DE 16 DE MARZO DE 2020 POR LA CUAL SE ADOPTA EN TODAS SUS PARTES EL PROTOCOLO PARA PRESERVAR LA HIGIENE Y SALUD EN EL ÁMBITO LABORAL PARA LA PREVENCIÓN ANTE EL COVID-19.

4. DECRETO EJECUTIVO NO. 500 DE 19 DE MARZO DE 2020 QUE ORDENA EL CIERRE TEMPORAL DE ESTABLECIMIENTOS COMERCIALES Y EMPRESAS DE PERSONA NATURAL O JURÍDICA EN TODO EL TERRITORIO NACIONAL, SE EXCEPTÚAN LAS SIGUIENTES ACTIVIDADES

5. DECRETO EJECUTIVO NO. 85 DE 2 DE ABRIL DE 2020 QUE MODIFICA EL DECRETO EJECUTIVO NO. 71 EN SU ARTÍCULO 2.

6. RESOLUCIÓN NO. 405 DE 11 DE MAYO DE 2020 QUE ESTABLECE LOS LINEAMIENTOS PARA EL RETORNO A LA NORMALIDAD DE LAS EMPRESAS POST COVID-19 EN PANAMÁ

DISPOSICIONES LEGALES

7. DECRETO EJECUTIVO NO. 96 DE 15 DE MAYO DE 2020 QUE ESTABLECE EL PROCESO LABORAL ESPECIAL TEMPORAL PARA LA REAPERTURA GRADUAL DE LAS EMPRESAS.

8. RESOLUCIÓN NO.154-2020 DE 20 DE MAYO DE 2020 QUE ADOPTA EL FORMULARIO DE LOS REQUISITOS BÁSICOS PARA EL CUMPLIMIENTO DE LOS LINEAMIENTOS PARA EL RETORNO A LA NORMALIDAD DE LAS EMPRESAS POST COVID-19

9. RESOLUCIÓN NO. 155-2020 DE 25 DE MAYO DE 2020 QUE MODIFICA EL ARTÍCULO 6 E INTRODUCE DOS ARTÍCULOS A LA RESOLUCIÓN NO.154-2020 DE 20 DE MAYO DE 2020.

10. RESOLUCIÓN NO. 423 DE 13 DE MAYO DE 2020 QUE AUTORIZA LA REACTIVACIÓN, OPERACIÓN Y MOVILIZACIÓN DE ALGUNAS ACTIVIDADES.

RESOLUCIÓN NO. 453 DE 29 DE MAYO DE 2020 QUE AUTORIZA LA REACTIVACIÓN OPERACIÓN Y MOVILIZACIÓN DE ALGUNAS ACTIVIDADES

RIVERA, BOLÍVAR Y CASTAÑEDAS

RIVERA, BOLÍVAR Y CASTAÑEDAS.

DECRETO EJECUTIVO No. 71 DE 13 DE MARZO DE 2020

- Se reglamenta el artículo 159 del Código de Trabajo, el cual en su parte medular nos dice que se permite la modificación o reducción de la jornada laboral.
- Aprobación de la directiva del sindicato que haya negociado la convención colectiva vigente o con la aprobación de todos los trabajadores en las empresas donde no opere un sindicato.
- Acuerdo de Modificación Temporal de la Jornada de Trabajo.

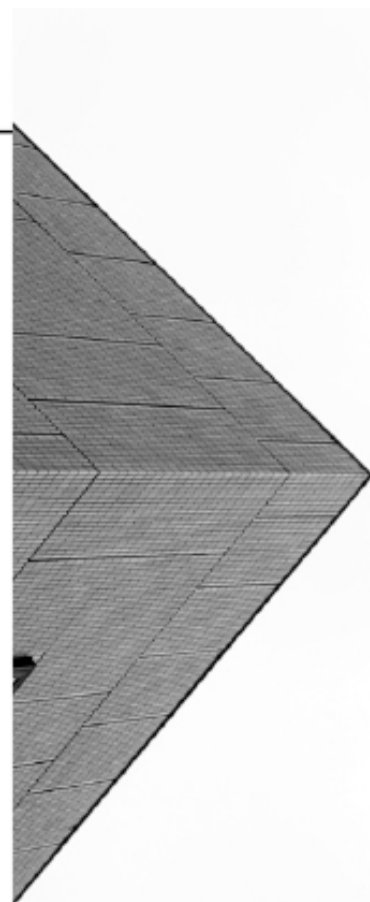
DECRETO EJECUTIVO No. 78 DE 16 DE MARZO DE 2020

- Los empleadores están obligados a contar con un Comité Especial de Salud e Higiene, para la prevención y Atención del COVID-19, el cual estará integrado por representante de los trabajadores y los empleadores.
- Aplicación de los protocolos para asegurar la higiene y la salud en al ámbito laboral para prevención y atención del COVID-19.
- Teletrabajo y el trabajo a disponibilidad.

RESOLUCIÓN No. 137 DE 16 DE MARZO DE 2020

PROTOCOLO PARA PRESERVAR LA HIGIENE Y LA SALUD EN EL ÁMBITO LABORAL PARA LA PREVENCIÓN CONTRA EL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).

- INFORMACIÓN GENERAL SOBRE COVID-19
- CREACIÓN Y RESPONSABILIDADES DEL COMITÉ ESPECIAL DE SALUD E HIGIENE PARA LA PREVENCIÓN Y ATENCIÓN DEL COVID-19.
- MEDIDAS Y ACCIONES GENERALES PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DEL COVID-19 DENTRO DE TODAS LAS EMPRESAS DE PANAMÁ.
- MEDIDAS Y ACCIONES ESPECÍFICAS PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DE COVID-19 POR SECTOR ECONÓMICO.



COMITÉ ESPECIAL

COMITÉ ESPECIAL DE SALUD E HIGIENE PARA LA PREVENCIÓN Y ATENCIÓN DEL COVID-19", CONFORMADA POR UN MÍNIMO DE 2 A 6 TRABAJADORES, DEPENDIENDO DEL TAMAÑO DE LA EMPRESA, DE ACUERDO AL SIGUIENTE CUADRO

Tamaño de la Empresa	Mínimo de integrantes del Comité
2 a 10 trabajadores	2 personas
11 a 40 trabajadores	4 personas
41 o más	6 personas

MEDIDAS Y ACCIONES GENERALES PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DEL COVID-19 DENTRO DE TODAS LAS EMPRESAS DE PANAMÁ.

- LAVADO DE MANOS CONSTANTE
- EVITAR COMPARTIR LOS ÚTILES Y HERRAMIENTAS DE TRABAJO
- ACCESO A AGUA PARA HIDRATARSE
- EQUIPOS DE PROTECCIÓN PARA EL PERSONAL MASCARILLAS, GUANTES, PROTECCIÓN OCULAR, TRABAJADORES DEBERÁN UTILIZARLO EN FORMA RESPONSABLE Y SIN MALGASTAR.

USO DEL COMEDOR EN LAS EMPRESAS:

UTILIZARSE EN DIFERENTES HORAS. LOS ALIMENTOS QUE SE GUARDEN EN LA REFRIGERADORA TIENEN QUE ESTAR COMPLETAMENTE TAPADOS DE FORMA HERMÉTICA. ESPACIO PARA LAVAR LOS UTENSILIOS. LA BRIGADA DE LIMPIEZA REALIZARÁ EL ASEO DEL COMEDOR DESPUÉS DE CADA TURNO DE HORA DE ALMUERZO.

VENTILACIÓN DE ÁREAS DE TRABAJO:

ABRIR PUERTAS Y VENTANAS POR UN MÍNIMO DE 15 MINUTOS. CORTINAS ABIERTAS. LIMPIEZA CONSTANTE DE AIRES ACONDICIONADOS



REUNIONES, CREACIÓN DE EQUIPOS DE TRABAJO Y VIAJES:



- SE PROHÍBE LA CELEBRACIÓN DE REUNIONES DE MÁS DE 10 PERSONAS
- INCENTIVAR LA REALIZACIÓN DE VIDEOCONFERENCIAS
- TRABAJOS EN GRUPO O CUADRILLAS DEBEN SER PEQUEÑOS GRUPOS

RIVERA, BOLÍVAR Y CASTAÑEDAS.

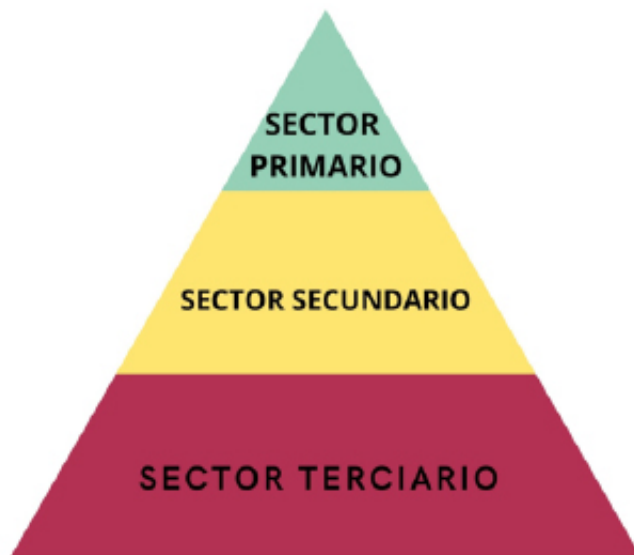
ROTACIÓN DE PERSONAL Y MODALIDAD DE TELETRABAJO:

- HACER USO DE LAS VACACIONES (ACUMULADAS O ADELANTADAS)
- APLICAR LA HERRAMIENTA DE TELETRABAJO,
- MODIFICACIÓN TEMPORAL DE LA JORNADA DE TRABAJO

ESTRÉS LABORAL:

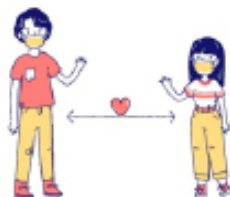
PERMITIR A SUS TRABAJADORES TOMAR PEQUEÑAS PAUSAS DE MÁXIMO 5 MINUTOS POR HORA, CON EL OBJETIVO DE REALIZAR EJERCICIOS DE ESTIRAMIENTO, RESPIRACIÓN, BUSCAR AGUA PARA HIDRATARSE, IR AL BAÑO, ETC.

MEDIDAS Y ACCIONES ESPECÍFICAS PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DE COVID-19 POR SECTOR ECONÓMICO



RESOLUCIÓN No. 405 DE 11 DE MAYO DE 2020 QUE ESTABLECE LOS LINEAMIENTOS PARA EL RETORNO A LA NORMALIDAD DE LAS EMPRESAS POST COVID-19 EN PANAMÁ.

1. Organización del Comité Especial de Salud e Higiene para la Prevención y Atención del Covid-19
2. Medidas de prevención y controles generales para trabajadores, empleadores, clientes, proveedores y visitantes:



3. Establecer horarios especiales y restricción del número de personas de manera tal que se guarde la medida de distanciamiento físico de 2 metros, así como otras modalidades como el teletrabajo.

4. Monitoreo de síntomas de los colaboradores y clientes. Se debe tomar diariamente al inicio de la jornada la temperatura a todos los colaboradores, llevando un registro de la temperatura y que síntomas adicionales presentan relacionados con el Covid-19.

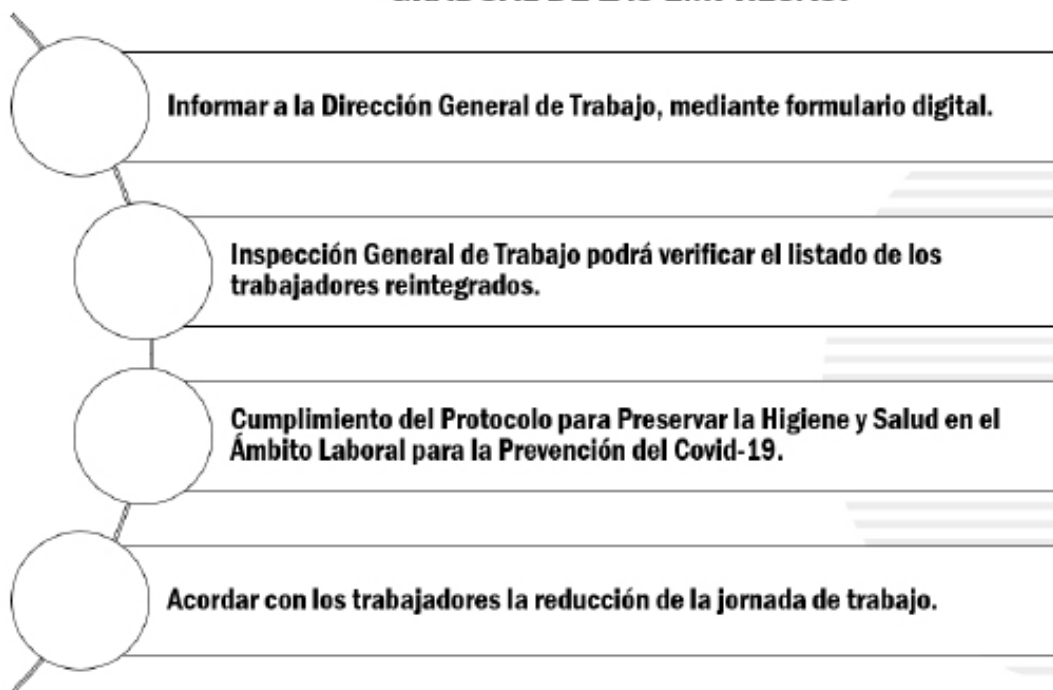
5. Manejo del estrés laboral. Los empleadores permitirán a sus trabajadores tomar pequeñas pausas activas laboral durante la jornada laboral con el objetivo de realizar ejercicios de estiramiento, respiración, buscar agua para hidratarse, ir al baño, etc.

PROPUESTA DE MATRIZ DE LLENADO

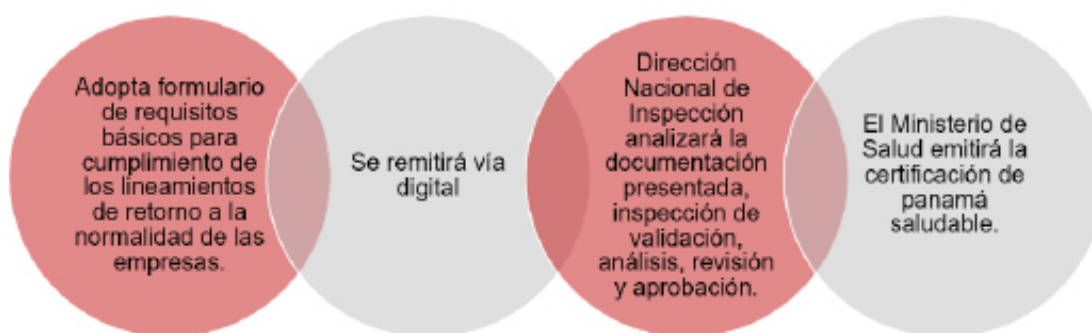
MEDIDAS SANITARIAS PARA LAS OPERACIONES DE EMPRESAS DURANTE Y POST COVID-19

ASPECTOS	MEDIDAS
GENERALES	
COMITE COVID-19	
CUMPLIMIENTO DE LOS PROTOCOLOS Y GUIA SANITARIOS	
HIGIENE DE MANO FRECUENTE	
USO DE MASCARILLAS, ETIQUETAS RESPIRATORIAS Y TRAS MEDIDAS	
DISTANCIAMIENTO FISICO	
USO DE EQUIPO DE PROTECCION PERSONAL	
LIMPIEZA Y DESINFECCION DE SUPERFICIES	
MANEJO DE DESECHOS	
HORARIOS ESPECIALES Y RESTRICCION DE NUMERO DE PERSONAS, TELETRABAJO.	
CONTROL DE SINTOMAS DE LOS COLOBORADORES Y CLIENTES	
COMPROMISO DE LA EMPRESA	

DECRETO EJECUTIVO No. 96 DE 15 DE MAYO DE 2020 QUE ESTABLECE EL PROCESO LABORAL ESPECIAL TEMPORAL PARA LA REAPERTURA GRADUAL DE LAS EMPRESAS.



RESOLUCIÓN No. DM-154-2020 DE 20 DE MAYO DE 2020



II. CONFORMACIÓN DEL COMITÉ

Miembros del Comité

Nombre: _____ N° de cédula: _____
 Representación: _____
 -Teléfono: _____ correo electrónico: _____
 Nombre: _____ N° de cédula: _____
 Representación: _____
 -Teléfono: _____ correo electrónico: _____
 Nombre: _____ N° de cédula: _____
 Representación: _____
 -Teléfono: _____ correo electrónico: _____
 Nombre: _____ N° de cédula: _____
 Representación: _____
 -Teléfono: _____ correo electrónico: _____
 Nombre: _____ N° de cédula: _____
 Representación: _____
 -Teléfono: _____ correo electrónico: _____

III. ADJUNTAR FORMATOS

- Lista de trabajadores en general. Nombre, cédula, cargo, área en donde se desempeña, etc.)
- Bitácora del registro de las acciones del COVID-19 (empresa y trabajadores).
- Registro de capacitaciones.
- Lista de miembros de la Brigada de Primeros Auxilios y Limpieza.
- Registro de reuniones ordinarias.
- Registro de actas de compromiso del Comité.
- Matriz completa de Medidas Sanitarias para las Operaciones de Empresas durante y post COVID-19, conforme al modelo que consta en el Anexo 5, página 24, de la Resolución No.405 de 11 de mayo 2020, Lineamientos para el Retorno a la Normalidad de las Empresas POST COVID-19 en Panamá, del Ministerio de Salud.

IV. MARCO LEGAL.

Código de Trabajo, Artículo 282 - Protección de la vida y la salud en el trabajo.

Decreto Ejecutivo N°78 de 16 de marzo de 2020.

Establece medidas de carácter laboral para evitar contagio del COPVID-19 en las empresas del país.

Decreto Ejecutivo N°2 de 15 de febrero de 2008.

Por el cual se reglamenta la Seguridad, Salud e Higiene en la Industria de la Construcción.

Resolución N° 45,588-2011-JD, Caja de Seguro Social de 17 de febrero de 2011 – Gaceta Oficial 29728.

Reglamento General de Prevención de los Riesgos Profesionales y de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo.

Resolución N° 405 de 11 de mayo de 2020 – Gaceta Oficial N° 29021 – B.

Lineamientos para el Retorno a La normalidad de las Empresas Post- Covid.19 En Panamá. MINSA.

Resolución Ministerio de Trabajo DM-137-2020 de 16 de marzo de 2020- Gaceta Oficial 28982.

Por la cual se Adopta en todas sus partes el Protocolo para Preservar la Higiene y Salud en el Ámbito Laboral para la Prevención ante el Covid – 19, elaborado por el Ministerio de Trabajo y Desarrollo Laboral en conjunto con el Ministerio de Salud, representantes del sector Trabajador y del Sector Empresarial.

GUÍA BÁSICA DE CREACIÓN, REGISTRO Y FUNCIONAMIENTO DEL COMITÉ EMPRESARIAL DE SALUD Y SEGURIDAD EN ESPACIOS LABORALES- MITRADEL.

GUÍAS SANITARIAS – MINSA. <http://www.minsa.gob.pa/busqueda?resultados=protocolos>

Panamá, _____ de _____ de _____.

Firma por la empresa _____.

Nombre _____ Cédula _____ Cargo: _____

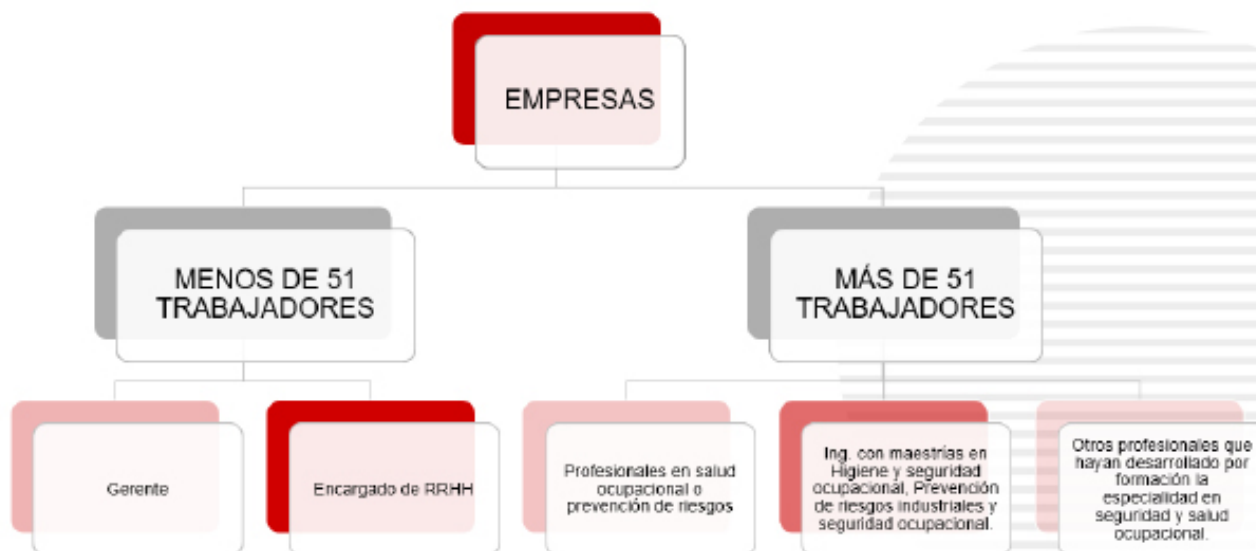
DEBDE ENVIAR ESTA DOCUMENTACIÓN A TRAVÉS DEL CORREO ELECTRÓNICO

dirección_inspeccion@mitradel.gob.pa

OTRAS MEDIDAS QUE DEBE TOMAR EL EMPLEADOR:



RESOLUCIÓN No. DM-155 QUE MODIFICA LA RESOLUCIÓN 154



Todo este proceso debe realizarse tan pronto le sea posible a la empresa y según sus capacidades.

Las inspecciones de las autoridades serán después de 4 meses de la reactivación operativa del bloque del cual forma parte la empresa.

Para las empresas cuyas actividades no fueron suspendidas, el plazo de los 4 meses empieza a contar desde el levantamiento del bloque 1.

RIVERA, BOLÍVAR Y CASTAÑEDAS.

RESOLUCIÓN 453 DE 29 DE MAYO DE 2020

Reactivación, operación y movilización de algunas actividades, bloque 2.

Lineamientos para el Retorno a la Normalidad

Modifica Resolución 399 operar en horario regular, entregas en el horario regular, no establece un número máximo de trabajadores, venta de materiales de construcción, implementos de bioseguridad.

Modifica la Resolución 423 de 13 de mayo de 2020 que ordena Reactivación, operación y movilización de algunas actividades.

Norms of INTEREST

EXECUTIVE BODY MODIFIES AND ADDS TAX RELIEF MEASURES

Augusto García - Attorney
augusto.garcia@rbc.com.pa

The executive body through the Ministry of Economy and Finance issued Executive Decree 298 of May 27, 2020, which modifies and adds tax relief measures previously contained in Executive Decree 251 of March 24, 2020.

Among the relief measures contemplated in this Decree the following is established:

a) A term is granted until July 17, 2020 for the payment of property tax withheld by the banks corresponding to the first four-month period of 2020.

b) A definitive term is granted until July 17, 2020 for the presentation of the Sworn Declaration of income of natural and legal persons corresponding to the 2019 fiscal period.

c) A deadline is established until September 30, 2020 for the submission of the transfer pricing report for taxpayers with regular fiscal periods

Measures listed above are an integral part of the package of actions implemented by the tax administration to mitigate the effects of the health crisis by COVID-19. *L&E*

DGI EXTENDS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CERTAIN FORMS

Augusto García - Attorney
augusto.garcia@rbc.com.pa

Through this Resolution, the General Directorate of Revenue of the MEF extends until July 31, 2020 the deadline for submission of the following forms whose reporting period corresponds to the months of February, March, April and May 2020:

- a) Report of non-filers.**
- b) Debit card sales report.**
- c) Report on purchases and imports of goods and services.**

Likewise, taxpayers are informed that they will have until July 17, 2020 to present the report of payment made to third parties and the report of donations

received corresponding to the fiscal period 2019.

On the other hand, through resolution No. 201-2752 of May 25, 2020, the DGI extends the deadline until July 31, 2020 to submit the report for Return 03 corresponding to the 2019 fiscal period.

In the case of the Loan Registries and / or Registry of Modifications of Preferential Mortgage Loans, corresponding to the months of September, October, November, December of the year 2019 and January, February, March, April, May, June, July of the year 2020, Resolution No. 201-2753 was issued which extends the deadline for the submission of said reports until September 30, 2020.*L&E*

MINISTRY OF LABOR RAISES THE SUSPENSION OF JUDICIAL TERMS

Augusto García - Attorney
augusto.garcia@rbc.com.pa

Through Resolution No. DM-156-2020 of May 29, 2020, the Minister of Labor and Labor Development orders the authorization of legal procedures and terms contained in the Labor Code and Law 53 of August 28, 1975, which are processed in the General Directorate of Labor and the Regional Directorates of the entire national territory from June 15, 2020.

As established in said Resolution, the hearings of

the judicial processes that are carried out in the General Directorate of Labor and the Regional Directorates throughout the national territory will be rescheduled to be held from July 1, 2020.

For its part, the career guidance services provided by the General Directorate of Labor will continue to be provided through digital means and telephone communication. *L&E*

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF REVENUE WILL MAKE NOTIFICATIONS THROUGH EMAIL

Augusto García - Attorney
augusto.garcia@rbc.com.pa

Through Resolution 201-2419, the General Revenue Directorate of the MEF informs taxpayers that notification of administrative acts emanating from said entity will be made through email. Some administrative acts that may be notified in this way while the state of emergency lasts are the following:

- a) The first Resolution to be issued that affects the interests and rights of taxpayers.**
- b) Resolutions that end an instance or a resource.**
- c) Resolutions ordering the transfer of a petition or request or ordering its correction to recognize a document.**
- d) The first resolution issued in a process that has been paralyzed for six months or more.**
- e) The resolutions that fall on the right of petition**

or general request.

Similarly, it is established that the notification made to the taxpayer's email will be sent from the email notificando.dgi@mef.gob.pa; and will take the effects of a personal notification and it will be understood that the notification has been made five (5) days after the date of sending the email by the General Revenue Office, to which the resolution or administrative act must be attached to notify.

The term to file administrative appeals against the notified administrative act, will begin to be computed once the State of Emergency is lifted.

It is very important that taxpayers who maintain processes pending before DGI periodically review email registered with the Single Taxpayer Registry, in order to be aware of any notification that the tax administration may make under this Resolution. *L&E*

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES MEASURES ON LEASES IN THE MIDST OF THE SANITARY CRISIS BY COVID-19

Augusto García - Attorney
augusto.garcia@rbc.com.pa

By Executive Decree of 125 of May 1, 2020, published in Official Gazette No. 29015, the executive body through the Ministry of Housing and Land Management (MIVIOT) issued a series of provisions applicable to leasing activity nationwide, within the framework of the health emergency situation by COVID 19, among which the prohibition of evictions and launches stands out, however, its content is much more profound as we will see later.

In this order of ideas, the executive decree itself is clear by establishing that those tenants who have not been economically affected in their income by the declared state of emergency must faithfully comply with the payment of the agreed rental fee, otherwise they may be sanctioned in

accordance with the sanctions established in Law 93 of 1973 that regulates the lease in Panama.

Among the main measures contained in this decree, the following stand out:

- **Suspension of all the procedures of the launching and eviction processes of real estate destined for residential, commercial, industrial, professional use, while the State of Emergency decreed by the National Government lasts:**
- **Extension of the lease contracts that end during the period in which the launch and eviction measures are suspended, under the same contractual conditions, for the period of validity**

of said Decree.

- Freezing of leasing fees, increase clauses and / or penalty clauses for unilateral termination of the contract and those related to default interest, while the state of emergency lasts and up to two (2) months after it is lifted.

- Prohibition of the suspension of gas, water and electricity supply as a pressure measure for the eviction of tenants.

In order to settle conflicts that may arise as a result of the application of the provisions contained in executive decree 145, it is established that lessors and lessees may sign agreements aimed at solving conflicts related to fees not paid, which must be registered with the MIVIOT general leasing directorate and will be valid for up to 2 years from their respective registration, as long as the lessee does not breach the agreement.

In this sense, through Resolution No. 247 of May 14, 2020, MIVIOT exempted from the obligation to deposit the security deposit required by Law 93 of 1973 to those lessors and lessees who avail themselves of the conflict resolution agreements described in previous lines. *L&E*



R B C
Rivera • Bolívar • Castañedas
ATTORNEYS AT LAW





Follow us on Twitter:

@rbcabogados

MICI ISSUES TEMPORARY MEASURES ON THE GARMENT CONTRACTS CONCLUDED BY THE HOUSEHOLD

Augusto García - Attorney
augusto.garcia@rbc.com.pa

Through Executive Decree 154 of May 13, 2020, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry decreed a series of temporary measures applicable to pledge contracts entered into by the Pawnbrokers. Subsequently, the content of said decree was modified by Executive Decree 155 of May 27, 2020. The measures contained in said decree are applicable to those debtors affected by the economic crisis of COVID 19, understood as such workers who have had their labor contracts suspended and independent workers who prove that they do not receive income. Next, we will review the main measures adopted by said decree in accordance with the modifications introduced:

a) Suspend while the national state of emergency

lasts, the terms established in the loan contracts with collateral, as well as the collection of interest for those in force on the date on which the aforementioned Decree 154 was issued and those subscribed during the validity thereof.

b) The agreed interest rates may not be modified while the State of Emergency lasts, nor as a consequence of agreements reached between the pawnshops and the debtors.

c) Once the State of Emergency has ceased, pawn shops must extend the effects of existing contracts for the same term originally agreed, without such extension exceeding in any case on December 31, 2020. *L&E*

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN ATTENTION TO THE STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Augusto García - Attorney
augusto.garcia@rbc.com.pa

Through Law 152 of May 4, 2020, special social measures were adopted in response to the state of sanitary emergency decreed by the Executive Branch.

The aforementioned Law establishes a four-month moratorium on the payment of telephone,

mobile, internet and electricity services for all those affected by the coronavirus as of March 1, 2020.

Below, we summarize the benefits contemplated in this Law, as well as the people who can access said benefits:

People who can avail themselves of the benefits of this Law:	Benefits contemplated in the Law:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Those whose perceived family income is less than two thousand balboas (B/.2,000.00) per month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Payment of the aforementioned public services will resume when the four-month term expires, but will be prorated over a period of three years. ▪ Suspension measures will not generate any interest or affect the credit history.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Those whose family income has been reduced. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People whose employment contract has been suspended. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People who have been dismissed or who are not working due to the declaration of national urgency. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retirees and pensioners. 	

Politics



IT'S TIME TO END THE CANCER OF CORRUPTION

Rafael Fernández Lara - Independent Lawyer
rbcweb@rbc.com.pa

Recently a young politician, who in my opinion and that of many others is part of that political minority that exists and that we can describe as honest, expressed the phrase of the title, which motivated me to write about the subject at hand, specifically directed towards political corruption.

A simple definition of political corruption would be the "misuse of public power to obtain an illegitimate advantage." The different media in many countries constantly give us examples, exposing more and more cases of corruption by the political class in conjunction with some businessmen, important protagonists in the practice of corruption, such as trafficking influences, bribery, extortion and fraud to achieve their unhealthy goals, which also link

other crimes, including theft, bribery and others.

It is interesting that most of the time the candidates to govern their respective countries emphasize that the most important problems to be solved are those related to security, the country's economy, unemployment, water scarcity in some sectors of the country, the construction of large works-bridges, roads-, the problem of educational institutions and their derivatives, those concerning climate change, deforestation, the lack of housing for low-income citizens, in short, these and other needs that populations want to satisfy.

However, the biggest obstacle that every future ruler and his collaborators must face and finish in his administration is that of the cancer of corruption,

as the young but experienced politician said just recently. This cancer of corruption has unfortunately been present in all governments practically at all times in all world economies, consolidating itself in all spheres of the country, causing enormous damage to the work of remedying the infinity of problems that society has. Hence, we wonder what measures we could advise to counteract as much as possible these criminal behaviors carried out by public officials and employees who go beyond their powers and infect others to make a harmful intentional use of the economic assets they have at their disposal. willingness, putting your own profit and those of your close group before you to obtain an illegal profit.

The scourge of corruption is not a story, it is real and it is present in practically all the countries of the world, constituting a nightmare that causes deep frustration for those who intend to face it. It is also worth asking whether a country, faced with the multiple acts of corruption, fraud and looting it has, can aspire to have a better country, progressing and benefiting not only a privileged group that constitutes the elite that continues to promote and fuel fraud. and the influence with concessions to its political accomplices and its business partners. The answer, obviously, is NO.

Corruption in a country reduces development, produces inefficiency and price premiums, resulting in poorly planned, poorly built, exaggerated and colossal works, squandering our resources, delivering works in public acts to companies without preparation or economic means in an unjustifiable way. The presence of corruption represents substantial losses in economic matters and something that is extremely damaging

and negative, citizens with justifiable reason are losing security and trust in the different state institutions, causing inequality because we affect the dispossessed, the level of state ineffectiveness in which the activity of the institutions is carried out, that is to say that the quality of the service that the institutions provide to the public deteriorates and this inefficiency is related to the lack of a good control system, which causes corrupt actions their relevant punishments are not applied depending on the respective responsibilities.

Thus, in an effort to combat the problem of corruption as a priority on the countries' agenda, different proposals have been suggested that in some way help to promote the competence of nations to achieve firm progress in confronting this misfortune.

. One of these objectives is transparency in all the activities and affairs of the state, mainly in the processes of public acts and disbursement of public resources. If there is true transparency in all acts of the government, the citizenry will have knowledge of the origin and destination of public resources and thus will be able to discover and punish cases of ineptitude and political and business corruption. From the foregoing, it is established that transparency and general capacity to access all information related to public administration is necessary, seeking to achieve a relationship of trust between citizens and public powers since, in a democratic state, the latter have the duty to account to the citizens for all their actions.

The need to enact laws that provide protection to individuals who report acts of corruption must not only be protected by retaliation by public security agencies, but must also be financially gratified, which also serves

as a stimulus to promote democracy. Hence, it would be advisable to promote the culture of reporting against all those who are public servants or civil citizens who commit acts of corruption, and for this it is necessary for corruption reports to prosper so that citizens do not lose interest in monitoring the use of the public treasury and feel protected when they know the facts and want to make complaints about fraud and corruption.

It is an unavoidable and vital necessity to have an honest and balanced judicial system that doesn't house judges who take advantage of their positions. We cannot live in a country where justice is bought and sold. It is imperative that there be genuine judicial independence and integrity, crucial to combat corruption and ensure the existence of peaceful coexistence.

Greater control of dirty money that penetrates electoral processes. Not a few cases of election campaigns have been financed by dirty money, including drug trafficking, which has represented corruption scandals in electoral processes, thus damaging democracy. Some measures have been applied in the electoral rules to lessen this penetration through electoral subsidies with public funds to finance the campaigns of the political parties, but it has not been sufficient. It is vital that all political campaigns vigorously monitor where the contributions and donations with which political campaigns are financed come from. Punish those who make statements or give false or rigged information about the resources that political groups receive. Greater control and severe sanctions must be applied to political parties and candidates that are financed or sponsored by organized crime. The same applies to public officials

who use state resources under their responsibility to use it in support of a political party or candidate.

The prohibition of applying pardons to those who have been convicted of serious and serious acts of corruption. This cause of extinction of criminal responsibility, would make that only the fact of prohibiting it would produce that whoever intends to commit an act of corruption would think twice before committing it and that the corrupt know that they are not going to have any opportunity of any legal exemption from their acts of corruption through pardon.

It is necessary a sanctioning state that penalizes acts of corruption, that serves as an example for those who want to commit crimes. The pardon should not be applied for common crimes because it would be declared unconstitutional.

Other corruption scandals that have occurred in many countries have been the participation of companies with a history of corruption who attend public tenders. All companies, both national and international, which have previously been convicted, as well as their senior officials, of acts of corruption, must be strictly prohibited from competing in public events. The participation of these corrupt companies produces considerable losses in economic matters for the country and destroys faith in government entities.

Just as there are other more proposals that could help to eradicate or reduce corruption, in our opinion the most important, the one that would cause the greatest effectiveness of all, is the election of a truly honest and correct ruler and who has precisely

demonstrated it during all his public life, moving away from influence peddling, extortion, bribery, demonstrating honesty, transparency and away from corruption. If ruler is honest, the other officials will hardly be dishonest. If the ruler is not a thief, the others in his government will not dare. Hence the need to have a ruler willing to end the cancer of corruption that has caused so much damage to countries.

We know that it is extremely difficult for a new ruler to end the cancer of corruption, although we know that it is the most important priority to solve all the problems of a country, because criminal groups of corruption and their accomplices are not only inserted in governments, in political parties, in companies and criminal organizations that execute orders in exchange for bad money, seeking to defame, slander and discredit, promoting the circulation of false and unscrupulous messages that involve the private and political life of the applicant and all those that surround him.

For the above, we insist that biggest problem that a future ruler has to solve is that of corruption because eliminating it we will have greater economic development in the country in all aspects. The politician who has these good intentions, without a doubt, for future of his country and that of the new generations, must be supported!.*L&E*

R B C

Rivera • Bolívar • Castañedas

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



**Follow us on
Instagram:**

@rbcweb





NACIONES UNIDAS

World ECONOMY



CEPAL: ECONOMIC IMPACT ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN OF THE PANDEMIC COVID-19

Source: ECLAC

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean prepared a comprehensive report on the economic impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This report analyzes the situation of the countries of the region before the pandemic, and then develops its effects on the economic prospects during and after the health crisis faced by these countries.

As detailed in the ECLAC study, the current pandemic will be the cause of the greatest economic and social crisis in the region in decades, with very negative effects on employment, the fight against poverty and the reduction of inequality, for what to measure the fall of the economic activity allows to begin to determine the magnitude of the effort for a return to normality.

But that return will not be and should not be, according to ECLAC, a return to the situation that existed before the pandemic. Therefore, it is also necessary to make medium-term considerations to understand the structural changes in the organization of productive activity that are in process and that will intensify. This will also have impacts, sometimes irreversible, on the labor structure, employment and well-being..

As this is a very broad and complete document, below, we will present a detail of some of the highlights within it, however, you can access the complete document on the ECLAC website.

A. Situation of Latin America and the Caribbean before the pandemic:

The region had slowest economic growth in decades and limited fiscal policy space.

In the decade following the global financial crisis (2010-2019), the regional GDP growth rate decreased from 6% to 0.2%; Furthermore, the period 2014-2019 was the period with the lowest growth since the 1950s (0.4%). As the pandemic spreads in the region, its characterization as a health, economic and social crisis is increasingly evident.

Despite the fact that in the last decade the countries of Central America have sought to reduce the burden of their debt through fiscal reforms (Costa Rica, Honduras) or the generation of primary surpluses (El Salvador), the public debt of the central governments increased by an average from 33.2% of GDP in 2010 to one of 44.0% of GDP in 2019; at the same time, interest payments grew from 1.8% of GDP to 2.5% of GDP. To maintain the sustainability of public debt, capital expenditures were reduced to accommodate increased interest payments, which are greater than spending in areas such as health, education, and social protection. For example, health spending by the central governments of El Salvador (2.4% of GDP), Guatemala (1.1% of GDP), Honduras (2.4% of GDP), Panama (1.7% of GDP) or the Dominican Republic (1.7% of GDP) is less than the interest payments on the debt.

In Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole, the fiscal space is limited and public revenues are limited. During the last decade, the total public revenues of Latin American central governments averaged 18.2%

of GDP. This stagnation was due to the slowdown in economic activity, tax evasion, the fall in international prices of raw materials –which especially affects South America and Mexico–, the reduction of tariffs due to trade liberalization and the increasing resignation prosecutor for concessions to free zones and the maquila. At the current juncture, public revenues will be further affected by the sharp contraction in economic activity and depressed raw material prices..

Impact of the pandemic on social protection systems:

In this framework of fiscal tightness, four sets of problems related to social protection systems accentuate the effects of the pandemic:

i) High informality rates, increase in self-employment and gaps in access to contributory social protection.

ii) Few countries have unemployment benefits; In 2019, only in eight countries in Latin America and the Caribbean did formal sector workers have unemployment insurance.

iii) Contributory social protection systems will be financially affected by the increased demand for sick leave benefits by workers in the formal sector.

iv) It will be necessary to expand non-contributory social protection programs that are financed

by taxes and support the poorest to other low-income families at risk of falling into poverty.

The health crisis generates conditions that exacerbate gender violence, while highlighting unjust social organization of care in the region where it is considered an externality and not a fundamental component for development. Children who cannot attend school require care that overloads the time of families, particularly women, who spend three times as much time on domestic work and unpaid care on a daily basis compared to the time spent by children. men to the same tasks. Furthermore, gender inequalities are accentuated in lower income households where the demands for care are greater as they have more dependents per household..

B. The pandemic will lead to the largest contraction of economic activity in the history of the region:

The fall in world economic activity, particularly in the United States, China and Europe, has a negative impact on Latin America and the Caribbean through trade, in terms of volume and price, especially of raw materials. Some important productive sectors of countries in the region are inserted in global value chains in which the United States and China play a fundamental role. In addition, Mexico and Central America are exposed to the contraction of the United States economy also through the reduction of migrant remittances; In the case of Mexico, the fall in the price of oil is added. Given the new economic outlook of the

region's main partners and an increase in the collapse of export prices, the value of the region's exports would drop by around 15%, with a decrease in prices of 8.8% and a 6% contraction in volume, mainly due to a sharpening of the contraction in world demand.

Impact on trade in raw materials:

On average, low prices are expected to continue over time, even for products that have not experienced declines. For example, recently, the price quotation for agricultural products that had not fallen as much as oil and metals have started to decrease due to the contraction in demand. Soybean, corn, and wheat prices fell by up to 4%, and beef and chicken prices decreased by 6% in the last two months. In the case of oil, the region's main export product, the significant drop in demand, estimated at 30%, cannot be offset by the latest agreement of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that cuts production 20% of the organization's member countries (up to 9.7 million barrels per day).

The greatest repercussions would be observed in the countries of South America, which specialize in the export of primary goods and, therefore, are more vulnerable to the decrease in their prices. For its part, the value of exports from Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico will suffer the effect of the slowdown in the United States economy. As mentioned, Mexico will also suffer a strong impact from the drop in the price of oil. Regional exports to China would decrease the most in 2020 (24.4%).

Financial markets:

Financial conditions worldwide suffered a deterioration comparable - even greater in some indicators - to that observed during the 2008-2009 global financial crisis.

Volatility increased to historical levels, there were massive capital outflows from emerging markets, a depreciation of most currencies against the dollar, and considerable increases in sovereign risk levels, except in countries considered as safe havens, to that investors "flee" in search of security, and where, on the contrary, they reached historic lows. Stock markets around the world suffered sharp falls reflecting concern about effects of pandemic on the financial situation of companies.

In Latin America, the lower availability of financing flows to emerging economies translates into a slowdown in capital flows from abroad (a decrease of almost 80,000 million dollars compared to 2019) and net outflows in portfolio flows and other investment by non-residents (IFF, 2020b). Remittance flows to Latin America and the Caribbean could contract between 10% and 15% in 2020 and it could take 4-8 years for them to return to the amount reached in 2019. In several countries in the region, the contribution of this flow to economic activity is very significant. In Haiti it represented more than 30% of GDP, in El Salvador and Honduras it was around 20%, and in Jamaica, Guatemala and Nicaragua its weight was over 10%. Between 80% and 90% of remittances are used to cover the basic needs of receiving households (food, health

and housing), so their contraction will have strong effects on consumption and the incidence of poverty.

Tourism:

Tourism is one of the most affected sectors and its recovery depends on the opening of borders worldwide. In 2020 there would be a reduction of between 20% and 30% in the number of tourist arrivals in the world, a much greater drop than that observed in 2009 (4%) (UNWTO, 2020). In a scenario in which tourism revenues decreased by 30% in 2020, GDP would decrease 2.5, 0.8 and 0.3 percentage points in the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America, and South America, respectively. The impact on employment, household income and government income would be greater in the Caribbean, where that sector employs about 2.4 million people and represents 15.5% of GDP. The effects of the retraction of tourism will be felt in particular in micro and small companies, whose weight in the hotel and restaurant sector is very large: 99% of companies and 77% of employment.

C. Policies to continue making progress in mitigating the effects of the crisis:

The fiscal packages announced in the region were the first response to the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. Additional efforts will be required as the magnitude of the crisis increases. Therefore, it is necessary to expand the fiscal space, which requires access to favorable financing conditions.

An increasing number of countries in the region have requested emergency financing from international financial institutions, such as the

International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), which have expanded access to credit to member countries. It is important that these institutions continue to facilitate credit lines at low cost and in an agile way, in addition to reviewing the conditionalities in emergency financing and making the graduation and concessional loan policies of middle-income countries more flexible.

Debt relief and debt relief, which includes middle-income countries in the region that require it, would significantly increase their fiscal space. Highly indebted economies must benefit from official debt reliefs or generous suspensions of their obligations, as well as debt restructuring. Addressing the debt issue is urgent, and must begin with official creditors and then attract private creditors. Debt reliefs should be combined with innovative financing mechanisms when debt is a structural feature of economies. Since for many countries part of the creditors belong to the private sector, it is necessary to establish an international mechanism for sovereign debt restructuring.

Other measures to expand the fiscal space and improve the conditions of access to financing are the revision of the procyclical laws of responsibility and fiscal rules –which only focus on spending and not on income– and have rating agencies consider their risk assessment methodologies that the deterioration of the countries' fiscal positions to face the crisis is extraordinary and temporary.

D. Policies for structural change: creation of the post-COVID world:

The pandemic has radically altered economic and social relations and its consequences will transcend its duration. It is highly likely that it is a catalyst

for the changes observed in the configuration of production and trade worldwide in the last decade. The globalization model based on international production networks with a high geographic dispersion showed visible signs of exhaustion in the secular stagnation of many economies, the loss of dynamism in trade and high volatility since the global financial crisis. More recently, the unprecedented restrictions on international transport adopted by many countries have caused massive disruptions in global value chains.

The expansion of the productive crisis has highlighted the vulnerabilities of interdependence, at the country and company level, and can lead to significant changes in the organization of production at the global level.

Firstly, vulnerability of international production networks to unforeseen phenomena of great magnitude and the consequent need to provide them with greater resilience have been highlighted. From the point of view of the multinational companies that lead these networks, this implies diversifying their supplier network in terms of countries and companies, privileging locations closer to the final consumer markets (nearshoring) and relocating critical processes when it is economically feasible through the use of technologies such as additive manufacturing.

Secondly, the crisis has forced companies to adapt their internal operations to measures of social distancing. As robotics, automation, and the massive use of teleworking platforms become more efficient, cheaper, and easier to implement, the automation of some sectors and production processes is likely to accelerate, with impacts on employment.

Thirdly, in terms of the governance of world trade, COVID-19 has deepened the weakening of international cooperation and multilateralism that has

been observed for some years now. In this context, and consistent with a scenario of shortening international supply networks, it is likely that the efforts of the main world trade actors will turn towards regional agreements to the detriment of multilateral ones. Such a scenario would lead to more fragmented world trade with more conflicts, at a time when the capacity of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to resolve disputes among its members is reduced to a minimum.

For Latin America and the Caribbean, the magnitude of the impact and the capacity to react will largely depend on the productive structure of each economy, on the participation of its companies in value chains and on existing productive capacities.

E. Conclusions:

- The crisis in the region in 2020, with a 5.3% drop in GDP, will be the worst in its entire history.
- Medium-term effects in terms of reorganization of production and international trade in terms of location and technology are significant. There are at least three possible scenarios that are still open: continuation of globalization, but based on new governance models that are more receptive to multilateralism and the correction of inequalities between countries, solutions that are exclusively national in scope, or an accentuation of regionalization.
- For the vast majority of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, solutions that are exclusively national in scope would not be viable for reasons of economies of scale, technology and learning.
- It is possible that the best solution is a new globalization with a governance prone to

inclusion and sustainability, but to actively participate in this new globalization, Latin America and the Caribbean must integrate productively, commercially and socially. For this, the coordination of the countries of the region in macroeconomic and productive matters is crucial to negotiate the conditions of the new normality, particularly with the urgency of the current crisis and in the medium term: those of financing for a new style of development. with equality and environmental sustainability.

F. Recommendations:

- Provide a fiscal stimulus of an amount sufficient to support health services and protect income and jobs.
- Strengthen social protection systems to support vulnerable populations. At this juncture, ECLAC calls for the implementation of an emergency basic income for six months for an amount equivalent to a poverty line for the entire population in poverty. The medium and long-term strategy should lead to a welfare state with universal social protection. Centrales Central banks must ensure the liquidity of companies to guarantee their operation and the stability of the financial system.
- International cooperation and multilateral organizations must design new technical and financial instruments to support countries facing fiscal pressure. They should also consider low-interest loans and offer debt relief and deferrals to increase the fiscal space. *L&E*

ENVIRONMENTAL

Capsule



RECYCLING IN COVID-19 TIMES

Milena Vergara - Assistant
milena.vergara@rbc.com.pa

The World Recycling Day 2020 was celebrated on May 17th. A date of great interest that seeks to raise awareness among the population about the importance of properly treating waste to protect the environment.

This year this date coincided with the quarantine times that we are experiencing due to the health crisis caused by the virus called COVID-19.

Despite the fact that since the beginning of the quarantine, a significant change has been observed in the decrease in pollution, wildlife and the planet have had a favorable respite, however, recycling should be everyone's duty.

The quarantine has generated a considerable decrease in the recycling levels since the collection centers are not active, however, we can make it the ideal time to put into practice the recycling culture in each of our homes as it accumulates a lot of trash and it can sometimes be reused.

Likewise, in these times of quarantine and the COVID-19, the use of gloves and masks has increased to avoid contagion, however, these products are added to the list of disposable plastic waste that, if not handled correctly, increase the pollution problem in our country.

Properly disposing of these products will not only help us avoid the virus, but we will also help protect the environment.

The pandemic is not yet over, however, little by little, the work in some sectors has been reactivated, and with it the mandatory use of masks recently decreed by Resolution 1420 of June 1, 2020, which must be appropriately managed. Disposal time to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and contamination to the environment.

For a good management of the use of the mask it is advisable to use cloth since they are reusable and it reduces costs and contributes to the environment,

as well as trying to use gloves as little as possible. Our daily actions and our consumption habits are very important, we are all responsible when taking care of the environment, therefore it is important to always keep in mind the three steps of Reduce, reuse and recycle..

REDUCE

Reducing the problem and environmental impact should be first step. As we reduce single-use materials, we correctly use electronic devices, proper use of water, among others; We help reduce energy and water resources.

REUSE

Try to take advantage of all the products that can give it a new useful life. In these times that in many homes the modality of Telework and virtual classes has been implemented, print only if necessary and use both sides of paper. With this we reduce the use of paper and contribute to the use of electrical energy.

RECYCLE

One of the most important and that has increased its importance in these times of quarantine since we contribute to cleaning in our homes and in the country.

Some recommendations that we must keep in mind on a daily basis and with greater emphasis in these times that our stay in homes has increased are the following:

Use glass dishes and metal cutlery with permanent disinfection management, maintaining the proper use of water.

Although it is true, cleaning routines in our homes should be carried out more frequently, we must do it in a responsible way with the use of water.

Disconnect chargers from your electronic devices

in periods when they are not receiving power.

Separate sanitary waste that may contain contaminated elements (flu care tissues, etc..).

The COVID-19 pandemic has strongly impacted the recycling process, the creation of an emergency plan is required to deal with these cases and thus be able to carry out the recycling process more frequently even when in a mandatory quarantine. With this, more jobs would be opened to those people who would responsibly carry out the recycling process of all products that cause damage to the environment and that can give them a new life.

In our country, programs should be created to incentivize community cleaning and reforestation brigades at the level of the townships and municipalities in exchange for the delivery of food, medicines and subsistence bonds.

In these cases, the program would also include making reusable cloth masks, cloth gloves that can be reused, and with this, the exchange of rapid sewing courses and sewing machines both in the communities and in public and commercial establishments.

The planting of ornamental, fruit, timber, wildlife, bird, community and school gardens could be added to the program and with them the incentive for family training and the provision of tools to carry them out.

Promote contests for clean areas and landscape effects in schools, parks, sidewalks, monuments, etc. Let's take advantage of these to contribute to reforestation, which greatly helps our rivers, lakes and watersheds, since it improves their performance and at the same time protects the soil from erosion.

Let's continue taking care of ourselves, others and our planet, respecting the established measures and recycling correctly. *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

Lawnetworker S.A. Asesores Legales- ECUADOR

Peter Byrne & Associates- ESTADOS UNIDOS

Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- ESTADOS UNIDOS

Ortiz, Sosa, Ysusi y Cía., S.C.- MÉXICO

Estudio Rubio Leguía Normand & Asociados- PERU

Adsuar Muñoz Goyco Seda & Pérez-Ochoa, P.S.C.- PUERTO RICO

Pellerano & Herrera- REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Alvarado & Asociados- NICARAGUA

Torres, Plaz & Araujo- VENEZUELA

Facio & Cañas- COSTA RICA

