

# Legislación Economía

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# Editorial

## What do we have to do to reduce unemployment?

**T**he National Institute of Statistics, a dependency of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic, has revealed alarming figures on the number of unemployed left by the pandemic.

In the same vein, René Quevedo, an expert on the subject, has crudely exposed the number of people who are in informal activities, which means that many of them lack financing, social security, are not taxpayers and don't have a letter of recommendation to enter the world of work formally.

**1. In recent months, different private unions, Ministry of Labor, INADEH, Specialized Higher Technical Institute, the universities have established a technical table to update Decree Law No. 4 of 1997 that regulates dual training in our country.**

**2. Countries such as Germany, Austria, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Europe, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Colombia, have regulations that from the educational field allow middle-level students to travel the educational**

**path by training in schools or institutes and putting this learning into practice in technical establishments and companies, small, medium and large. This is what has been called here "learning by doing".**

**3. In our country, since the birth of the Republic, more than 100 years ago and for practical reasons for that time, we are moving rapidly towards the service economy that depends on foreign investment, geographical position, the principle of territoriality and the low taxation.**

**This country's strategy has successfully led us to depend on business areas that have generated wealth, economic concentration in terminal cities and aberrant inequality.**

**Now, fortunately, we still have a population of just four million, which means that our shortcomings can be solved in a civilized way and with reasonable means.**

**4. For example: One of the problems that has**



bottomed out is low educational level and lack of preparation for work or entrepreneurship and this can be solved by incorporating technology into learning so that no person is excluded from Dual education system or Formal, according to the capacities of each one.

If the country makes the decision that no young person or adult lacks the tools to work, to be an entrepreneur, then Professional Technical Institutes together with INADEH, would update study plans so that they are linked to the world of work (technicians, operators computer science, medical science assistants, metal mining workers, logistics experts, technologists, environmental technicians, plumbers, electricians, bricklayers, carpenters, aviation mechanics, divers, agro-industrial equipment operators among others), all through courses virtual and face-to-face.

**5. Regarding commercial reopening, there are activities related to tourism that in turn depend on the arrival of foreigners to the country, so that hotel facilities, restaurants, museums, theaters, among others, can be reactivated.**

6. The construction of mega public works that require intensive labor hiring in areas outside of Panama City.

**7. Strengthen security measures and the capture of criminals engaged in drug trafficking, money laundering, to give Panamanians and foreigners the confidence to go to entertainment and shopping centers where significant consumption is generated.**

8. Start the activities of the Amador Visitor Center so that the residents of the communities of San Felpe, Santa Ana, El Chorrillo, Calidonia, can find decent employment, since they are trained for tourist, culinary, artistic, sports, and entertainment activities. crafts, environmental and that the Biomuseo be reactivated. Keep in mind that this place has a capacity for twenty thousand attendees and is on banks of Panama Canal, which will also facilitate transfers of these

tourists to the islands of Taboga, Contadora and also to the city center.

**9. In the field of pending contracts, it is necessary to negotiate the Minera Panama contract to set permanent conditions of this important activity, embracing the best international practices in contractual matters, environment, investment, technology transfer, compensation to the country for the extraction of mineral resources, professional training, education and legal stability in this investment. In the same vein, the contract between the National Government and Panama Ports must be fully renegotiated, establishing parameters totally different from those that have been approved by the Panama Maritime Authority, which constitute a huge injury to the Treasury and an improper use of assets. state that have not been redeemed by the country.**

10. The project approved by the Assembly of Deputies, concerning the setting limits in the contracts of the banking and financial sector, regarding interest rates and other contractual charges must be vetoed to restore confidence in the banking system to provide the resources for reactivation of the economy.

**11. The non-consultation project that establishes exorbitant salary increases in favor of workers in the port sector must also be vetoed, since any cost that the maritime sector must bear will be transferred as a price increase in this activity that already carries the increase in international freight.**

12. Finally, the National Government is obliged to a transparent and efficient management of public money and to pursue situations of conflict of interest and corruption that are tarnishing the image of the country and will have an impact on the perception of foreign governments and risk rating agencies, regarding the possibility of increasing foreign direct investment in Panama.

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



# Invited Writer

## AROUND TOURISM AND TAX CREDITS

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In November 2012, under the government of Ricardo Martinelli, Law 80 was approved, "Which dictates incentive regulations for the promotion of tourism in Panama", and "declares tourism as a priority national interest" and, consequently, granted extensive tax benefits in favor of companies that carried out various tourist activities, such as exemption from payment of import, property, income and other similar taxes.

In December 2019, under the government of Nito Cortizo, the National Assembly approved Law 122 that amended Law 80 and granted additional tax benefits "in order to promote investment and financing for the development of new tourism projects or new stages and extensions. of existing tourism projects in both cases outside the district of Panama.

Perhaps due to its technical or specialized nature, or, for some unknown reason, it is not until recently that the existence of this law has received public attention.

The tax benefit provided for in Law 122 consists of granting a tax credit to those people who invest their money in the acquisition of bonds or shares and other financial instruments "issued by companies registered in the National Tourism Registry for up to 100% of the amount. from the investment.

Said slightly differently, through the issuance of these tax credits, the treasury, that is, the government, that is, the citizens, we are going to reimburse investors all of the money they invest to supposedly develop the construction of projects tourism in the interior of the country.

Furthermore, said tax credit can be transferred to third parties who have had nothing to do with original investment, which makes it similar to legal tender. It is worth noting that law itself establishes that "this incentive will be granted ... to investors who are not directly or indirectly linked to tourism

company that issues the financial product.”

It is appropriate to point out that the aforementioned Law 122, which despite having all the characteristics of what the constitution calls an organic law, was presented to the National Assembly by a deputy and not by the Executive Branch as would have corresponded to a project of such magnitude.

In addition, the bill was discussed and approved by the Commerce Commission of the Assembly without the participation of the Economy and Finance Commission, which is responsible for seeing everything related to tax laws according to article 55 Organic Regulation of the assembly.

Worse still, according to the minutes, no feasibility study was presented at these meetings to explain the benefits that these tourism projects could bring to the country in the face of the tax sacrifices that it entails.

It is worth noting that I have nothing against using the figure of tax incentives or other mechanisms as a public policy tool to promote key sectors of the country and promoting tourism projects could well be one of them. But these incentives have to be proportional to the benefits they produce for the community in general.

However, on this occasion, Law 122 is the cause of a disproportionate sacrifice by the State (read the taxpayers) with a very limited benefit for the country but enormous for a small group of so-called investors and tourism promoters.

And the latter is so since law itself establishes as requirements to take advantage of its benefits that issuance of securities is registered in the Superintendency of Securities and in the Panama Stock Exchange, which prevents or hinders its use by a number of entrepreneurs and small investors who are active in the field of tourism development.

Furthermore, the controversial Law 122, as well as its scant and misguided regulation, not only grant tax benefits never before seen in Panama in similar proportions for any other type of investment, but they are drafted in a confusing way and don't foresee any type. of effective control in order to avoid, for example, that the tax benefit that it recognizes is not used by people other than those who would have the right to do so; that the cost of the projects are not overvalued; that the funds received by tourism promoters are effectively invested in the tourist activities for which they were intended, that they are not invested in real estate projects that have little or nothing to do with the promotion of tourism and other similar deficiencies.

It is also not known for sure if these tax benefits will be granted for future projects or will cover investments already made or in the process of construction. Moreover, as far as I know, there is no reliable study or analysis that says that currently the deficiency in tourism activity in Panama is the result of the lack of facilities, be it hotels, swimming pools, sports complexes or other similar ones, and not lack of construction and maintenance of roads and penetration roads; adaptation of beaches and spas; promote the ecological tourist and give good reception and attention to tourists and more recently as a consequence of the crisis caused by the pandemic that afflicts the world and not only Panama.

It is for all of the foregoing that in my opinion, Law 122 should be repealed as soon as possible and instead, if it deems it appropriate, the National Government should present for the consideration of the National Assembly a bill oriented towards the promotion of tourism, an activity whose growth and development is of great importance for Panama, duly analyzed and consulted with the different sectors of national activity interested or that could be directly or indirectly affected.

The author is a lawyer. *L&E*



# Norms of INTEREST

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPANIES ARE REGULATED

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**M** Through Executive Decree No. 93 of August 20, 2021, Law 186 of 2020 is regulated, which regulates entrepreneurship companies in our country.

Executive Decree No. 93, develops what is related to Single Window for entrepreneurship, Procedure before the Public Notary; Processing at single window; Procedure before the Public Registry; Procedure before the General Directorate of Income; Procedure before the Ministry of Commerce and Industries; Procedure before the Superintendency of non-financial subjects the Business Registry.

In this regard, we can comment that the one-stop shop for entrepreneurship will have the function of receiving the standard statutes and other essential documents for the simplified constitution of entrepreneurship companies, which are sent to them electronically or digitally by notaries, lawyers or interested partners. in the constitution of the company as long as they have a digital signature.

Regarding operation, it has been established that the window is governed by the principles of legality, due process, transparency, priority or order of entry, publicity, successive treatment, legitimation, party request, simplicity and unique qualification.

It should be noted that for the constitution of entrepreneurship companies the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Authority, will prepare in Word format, a model bylaws, which will contain the necessary requirements for the constitution of the company, which will be available at the digital portal. In order to distinguish entrepreneurship companies from others, the acronym S.EP will be placed at the end of the name.

On the other hand, the one-stop shop will only receive the standard statutes referring to micro and small businesses and after the statute is received, after coordination with the business registration department, said company will be

assigned a provisional business registration number.

It has been established that once the single window determines that the public deed containing the standard statute complies with the legal requirements, it will send the public deed containing the standard status to the commercial section of the Public Registry for its qualification and assignment of the commercial folio.

Within this context, we have that, once the company has constituted the one-stop shop with the information provided under the gravity of the oath by the legal representative of the company, it will proceed to make the application for registration in the single taxpayer registry before the E-TAX portal of the General Directorate of Income.

In the same way, the sole ventilla after obtaining the sole taxpayer registration, will manage to obtain the notice of operation of the entrepreneurship company, with the notice of operation enabled, the legal representative must keep the notice in the establishment where it will carry out its activities.

Another aspect to highlight is the fact that the subscribers, dignitaries, administrators and the legal representative of an entrepreneurial company cannot be part of another previously registered company. *L&E*



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# REACTIVATION OF CRUISE BOARDING AND LANDING OPERATIONS IN PANAMANIAN PORTS

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The Ministry of Health, through Executive Decree No. 829 of August 24, 2021, repeals Article 3 of Executive Decree No. 472 of March 13, 2020, ordering the reactivation of ports, berths, anchorage areas and marinas in the national territory, of the operation of vessels dedicated to the international transport of passengers, such as cruises, minicruises, deep draft vessels, yachts, mega yachts, yachts

for commercial use or any other maritime vessel.

It has been established that the passengers and crew of the vessels that disembark in national ports must comply with all the norms, protocols and sanitary measures established by the Ministry of Health, in order to safeguard the health of the population, visitors and the crew of said ships. *L&E*

## EXECUTIVE RESTRICTS ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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The Ministry of the Presidency, issued Resolution No. 71 of August 4, 2021, which declares as restricted access information, notes, files, other records of the discussions or activities of the Cabinet Council, the president and Vice President of the Republic and the Secretary of the Cabinet Council, with the exception of those corresponding to discussions or activities related to the approval of State contracts.

From the reading of the recitals, it is understood that the figure of restricted access is for a term

of ten years, counted from its classification as such, so it must be from the entry into force of the resolution, that is, as of August 20, 2021.

We note that the Resolution in question is based on what is established in Law 6 of 2002, on transparency in public management, establishes the figure of habeas data and dictates other provisions and contemplates the principle of public access, principle of publicity, rendering of accounts and transparency.*L&E*

## FOOD HANDLERS AND DELIVERY MUST BE VACCINATED

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The General Directorate of Public Health of Ministry of Health, issued Resolution No. 2214 of August 16, 2021, which establishes new sanitary measures regarding health cards and the mandatory use of masks and face shield in restaurants, inns or similar.

The Resolution provides that any person who is a food handler and who requires a certificate of good health (white card) or health training card (green card), starting two months from enactment of The Resolution, must be vaccinated with two doses against Covid-19, in order to guarantee protection of health and sanitary safety of consumers.

In the same way, it points out that any person who participates as a driver or home delivery person in food delivery services, using vehicles, motorcycles, scooters, mopeds, quadricycles, motorcycle vans or other similar means of transport throughout the national territory must have good health certificate (white card) and training card (green card).

On the other hand, personnel who handle and prepare food must use a mask on a mandatory basis and personnel serving the public in restaurants, inns or similar, in addition to the mask must use a face screen on a mandatory basis and comply with biosafety guidelines established in resolutions and sanitary guides of Ministry of Health.

It should be noted that the obligation to comply with the requirement to be vaccinated will take effect from October 24, 2021, as established in the Resolution. However, the obligation to have a white and green card, for drivers and delivery people at home, is as of August 24, 2021, as well as the obligation to use masks and a face shield.

Failure to comply with this provision, will entail the application of sanctions through the administrative procedure and with the provisions of Law 66 of November 10, 1947 modified by Law 40 of December 16, 2006 that establishes the Sanitary Code. *L&E*



## MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT ESTABLISHES TERM FOR INFORMATION ON THE OCCURRENCE OF A FOREST INCIDENT OR ACCIDENT

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**T**hrough Resolution No. DM 0427-2021 of August 11, 2021, issued by the Ministry of the Environment, the procedure is established to report the occurrence of environmental incidents and / or accidents.

The Resolution in reference contemplates that all natural or legal personnel who, as a result of the use or exploitation of a natural resource or through the exercise of an activity, work or project, cause an incident and / or environmental accident, will be obliged to immediately inform the Ministry of the Environment. within a period of no more than one hour from its occurrence.

In this order of ideas, the Resolution develops the definition of the terms environmental accident, which is considered as an unexpected and sudden event that occurs in a natural or legal person that can generate serious immediate consequences for its personnel, neighboring populations, goods and / or the environment. Likewise, it is said that an environmental incident is the event that occurs in a company, which indicates that an

accident could have occurred and that, with slightly different circumstances, it could have generated serious consequences for its staff, neighboring populations, property and / or or the environment.

Another term that defines are contingency measures with set of strategies and operating procedures that allow to prepare attention of an event of natural origin or product of the execution of an activity, work or project to control its effect and minimize its impact, protect to its staff, neighboring towns, property and the environment.

We must point out that the Resolution also contains the minimum requirements that the communication must have, as well as it also provides that it must be documented through photography, videos or other means of proof that evidence the date and time of the incident and / or environmental accident.

Finally, it is established that any natural or legal person that is executing an activity, work or project, must comply with the provisions of the Resolution in question. *L&E*

## VIRTUAL ACADEMY OF ETHICS

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The National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information, issued Resolution No. 04-2021 of August 16, 2021, by which the Virtual Academy of Ethics and Transparency is adopted for the entire public service.

It indicates Resolution No. 04-2021 that instructs all the servants of the entities, agencies or dependencies of the State, including those belonging to the Legislative Organ, Judicial Organ, Public Ministry, decentralized, autonomous and semi-autonomous entities, municipalities, local governments, communal boards and mixed capital companies, to take and approve the courses of the Virtual Academy of Ethics

and Transparency, as an effective instrument for the application of preventive measures, within the institutional system, destined to create, maintain and strengthen instructions to the personnel of the public institutions that ensure the adequate understanding of their responsibilities and the ethical standards that govern their activities, in favor of transparency, the timelessness of the government, the improvement and innovation of public services, as well as fulfilling the objective of raising awareness among those who manage public administration, on the importance of ethics and transparency as fundamental indicators of good governance. *L&E*

# NATIONAL THERMOSOLAR PANAMA PROGRAM IS CREATED

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The National Secretariat of Energy, issued Resolution No. MIPRE-2021-0031228 of August 19, 2021, by which it approves the Action Plan for implementation of solar thermal energy in Panama and creates National Program for Termo solar Panama. (PNTP).

Through Resolution in question, the Action Plan for implementation of solar thermal energy in Panama is approved, which establishes as a national goal the installation of one million square meters of solar heating systems, water by the year 2050 and the lines of action to facilitate the development and application of solar thermal technology, as well as the

strengthening of the solar heater market in Panama.

Likewise, National Solar Thermal Program is created to manage measures and actions required within the framework of the Action Plan to develop and strengthen a local solar thermal technology market of trust, quality and safety for users.

It should be noted that the PNTP will be coordinated by the national secretariat and will have an advisory committee in which the institutions that have the technical and managerial skills necessary for the implementation of the program participate. *L&E*



# Consult Doctrine and JURISPRUDENCE

## SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE RULES ON THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ESTIMATED INCOME STATEMENTS

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**B**efore the Supreme Court of Justice, Licdo. Ruiz Navarro, on behalf of Mr. González Bustamante, files a claim of unconstitutionality in which he asks the Supreme Court of Justice to declare the third, fourth, fifth and sixth paragraphs of Article 710 of the Fiscal Code unconstitutional, stating that, Every taxpayer is obliged to present personally or through a legal representative, an affidavit of income they have obtained during previous year, as well as dividends or participations that they have distributed among their shareholders or partners and the interests paid to their creditors.

### The purpose of the lawsuit:

The lawsuit emanates from the position of the legal representative, where it manifests the violation of articles 30 and 264 of the Political Constitution, under the idea that the taxpayer must calculate the tax for the subsequent fiscal year based on the taxable income obtained in the year above and that results in

the sworn or caused tax. Starting from an economic presumption, since it is probable that the taxpayer will not obtain the same income results in the next year.

The legal representative stated that the violation of the constitutional provision is created, since the taxpayer is obliged to declare an imaginary estimated income equal to or greater than that of the previous year, despite the fact that his real economic capacity in the fiscal year Subsequent may be different and in turn may yield a lower or even zero income. This action causes the taxpayer a situation of injustice because it encourages the payment of the estimated return in the three items to be extracted from the taxpayer's income.

For the fiscal period 2020, it is exposed that, by applying the requirement provided in the defendant paragraphs in conditions where the majority of taxpayers will suffer losses instead of obtaining taxable income due to the current situation of the pandemic, it will be

difficult for the taxpayer manage to comply with this obligation that by advancing the estimated income tax during the year 2020, the funds are committed in order to comply with a non-existent tax obligation.

### Opinion of the Attorney General:

The Attorney General of the Nation pointed out that Article 710 of the Tax Code warns that the amounts that have been delivered by the taxpayer to the Treasury are precisely the product of the relationship of the subject of obligations with the State. Said relationship is not arbitrary, but rather predicts budgets in which, if the balance is favorable for the taxpayer, these can be used to credit other tax debts, and ultimately their return is even expected.

“When referring to favorable balances, this refers to the case in which the balances are lower than the amounts calculated in the estimated return of the previous year.”

The Procurator states that the estimated income statements do not constitute a tax in themselves, since by the legal description it is understood as the act in which the taxable income of the subsequent fiscal year is averaged, which the taxpayer must assume in favor of the Public Treasury .

The Attorney General stated that the estimated returns have been created in the Tax Law to guarantee the payment of the tax on the income of the taxpayers.

In this sense, the Attorney General of the Nation, requests the Supreme Court of Justice not to declare the unconstitutionality of paragraphs, third, fourth, fifth and sixth, of article 710 of the Fiscal Code.

### Considerations of the Tribunal:

The Court states that it doesn't share the opinion of the plaintiff, when it affirms that when the Income Tax is settled and paid in accordance with the estimated income statement, Article 30 of the Magna Carta is violated. However, it is undeniable that the rule

requires an advance payment of an income to be generated, a requirement that in times like the ones we are experiencing, as a result of the pandemic, can represent a heavy burden on the taxpayer, as indicated by the plaintiff. However, it cannot be lost sight of the fact that it is a mechanism that, according to the doctrine, registers benefits as far as collection is concerned.

Regarding the violation of article 264 of the Magna Carta, the plaintiff focused on the third paragraph of the norm, in that he argues that there is a flaw in the constitutional postulate, according to which the tax must tax the taxpayer in a direct proportion to their economic capacity.

The Court expresses the importance of taking into account that the fact of the tax referred to in article 710 of the Tax Code is created each time the taxpayer receives the income. Therefore, the deadline to present the income tax return is until March 15 for natural persons and until March 31 in the case of legal persons.

### Court decision:

The Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice DECLARES THAT THE third, fourth, fifth and sixth paragraphs of article 710 of the Fiscal Code ARE NOT UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

### Opinion:

I consider that the taxpayer shouldn't be forced to present an estimated income statement, since each fiscal year is different from the other, the General Directorate of Revenues states that if the balances are favorable for the taxpayer, may request that they be apply to another tax or as a last option its respective refund, however these two assumptions will generate more expenses for the taxpayer since to request the application of a favorable balance, as well as request a refund, involves a series of procedures and requirements for the taxpayer, as well as a long delay in being approved such requests. *L&E*



## RESOLUTION NO. 201-4845 OF JUNE 3, 2021

“By which the procedure is established to access a differential payment arrangement or agreement by state of national emergency in accordance with the provisions of article 14 of law 208 of April 6, 2021 and provisions are made”

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**T**hrough article 14 of Law 208 of April 6, 2021, the General Directorate of Revenue was authorized to take the necessary measures during the term of the national emergency state to take the necessary measures to guarantee that taxpayers can carry out payment agreements and agreements. that facilitate compliance with their tax obligations allowing flexible initial payment percentages, waiving interest and surcharges and granting terms of up to forty-eight (48) months for the cancellation of these payment arrangements. However, the mode of operation of this differentiated payment arrangement was not addressed in said Law, which is why it was impossible for the Tax Administration to implement it and for taxpayers to process it.

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, Resolution No. 201-4845 of June 3, 2021, was published in Official Gazette No. 29341, which establishes the procedure to benefit from a differentiated payment arrangement or agreement by State of National Emergency In accordance with the provisions of article 14 of Law 208 of April 6, 2021 and

provisions are issued. This option arises in order to provide the best conditions for the taxpayer to comply with their tax obligations in accordance with the principle of tax justice and, in turn, increase collection, collect tax information and boost the national economy.

### Important points:

- **The application must be submitted through a memorial, in the Single Registry of Tax Procedures (RUTT) of the General Directorate of Revenues or Provincial Revenue Administrations**

- **The memorial must meet a series of requirements such as:**

- 1. Be directed to the Director General of Income;**
- 2. Contain the generals of the applicant and whoever represents him, data related to the current tax address. email address where you can be notified about the request, and indicate**

the economic activity to which it is dedicated;

**3. In the case of legal persons, it must be signed by a legally constituted attorney-in-fact.**

**4. In the case of natural persons, this may be signed by the applicant or by a legally constituted attorney-in-fact.;**

**5. Statement of the reason why they need to take advantage of this type of arrangement or payment agreement, detailing the condition of the taxpayer, economic activity and the proposed arrangement or payment agreement, which would be in their capacity to comply within a maximum period of 48 months, according to the means of payment established by article 68 of the Tax Procedure Code;**

**6. Legal basis.**

- The memorial must be accompanied by a series of supporting documentation that varies if the subject is a natural person, legal entity or estate, some of these documents are: Ability to pay form, Copy of the last receipt of a basic service, Special power of attorney duly granted (Both signatures must be authenticated and I accept), Original or collated Certification of the Public Registry of Panama where the validity of the company, its directors, dignitaries and legal representative, audited financial statements or certification of authorized public accountant, certification of ownership of the property issued by the Public Registry of Panama, which contains the general information of the real estate and the name of the owner, among others.

- Once the application is submitted, the General Directorate of Revenue has a period of fifteen (15) business days to approve or reject the proposed settlement or payment agreement, without prejudice to the possibility that the taxpayer may present a new proposal or this be amended.

- Some of the points that the DGI will take into account to approve or reject the respective settlement proposal or payment agreement are:

**1. Condition of the taxpayer according to financial statements, certification of authorized public accountant or bank reference letters;**

**2. Economic activity and opening block to which the taxpayer belongs;**

**3. Amount and period to which the debt reflected in the statement of account corresponds;**

**4. History of compliance with tax obligations by the taxpayer, including the obligation to pay and the obligation to report.**

**5. Amount of debt, payment conditions and proposed term.**

**6. Guarantees that the taxpayer can provide.**

The General Directorate of Revenue has the power to verify information provided by taxpayers in the system, in order to determine its veracity, as well as viability of proposal.

- **Taxpayers who maintain amnesty and / or regular payment arrangements that have been concluded as of October 2019, may withdraw from them to avail themselves of this mechanism once it has been approved according to the procedure established in the regulatory resolution. Payments previously made will be considered initial payment of this differentiated payment arrangement.**

- **Taxpayers who maintain amnesty and / or regular payment arrangements that have been concluded before October 2019, may withdraw from them to avail themselves of this mechanism once it has been approved according to the procedure established in the regulatory resolution. In these cases, the taxpayer must make an initial payment between 10% and 25% depending on the amount of the debt.**

- **Taxpayers who maintain a contentious-administrative process before the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice against the administrative act that orders the payment of the debt, and in those that the Director General**

<sup>1</sup> Cash, checks, debit in checking or savings account, debit and credit cards, any other instrument legally enabled for the payment of taxes and exceptionally, dation in kind payment, duly endorsed by the Comptroller General of the Republic.

**of Revenue considers, a lower amount may be set as payment initial based on the condition of the taxpayer, according to the criteria indicated in the sixth article of this resolution.**

- **Taxpayers with payment arrangements made before 2016 will not be able to withdraw via the web. In these cases, they must cancel the balance and arrange a new payment arrangement with the delinquency to the date that was not included in the previous payment arrangement.**

According to the report "The paradox of recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean. Growth with persistent structural problems: inequality, poverty, little investment and low productivity "from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the economic expansion forecast for Latin America and the Caribbean will not be enough to ensure sustained growth since the impacts crisis and structural problems in the region have worsened and will continue during the recovery phase.

"We need policies for a transformative recovery with an emphasis on investment. Industrial and technological policies to promote the growth of sectors that are more intensive in technology and generate quality jobs. Restructure the health and education systems. Sustain transfers, universalize a basic emergency income, implement bonds against hunger, ensure access to a basic digital basket, strengthen support for MSMEs. Promote transversal and sectoral policies to advance towards a new development model" said Alicia

Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, in a virtual press conference. Therefore, ECLAC estimates that tax revenues will require changes to the tax structure to increase the tax burden, progressivity, and have a greater impact on improving income distribution. This is essential to be able to maintain public spending trajectories in a context of fiscal sustainability.

Although at first glance this arrangement mechanism or payment agreement differentiated by State of National Emergency might seem like a simple strategy of the State to help taxpayers, in reality it is part of a package of fiscal measures aimed at increasing collection and eliminating tax evasion. and avoidance, because by allowing this type of facilities to taxpayers, the Treasury not only encourages the payment of tax, which is essential to maintain public spending, but also allows the collection of information from taxpayers which could represent a long-term benefit in future efforts made by the General Directorate of Revenue. Facing two major challenges faced by fiscal policies in the countries of the region: Generating financing to maintain public spending in the face of the pandemic, and strengthening the sustainability of an expansive fiscal policy.

For the moment, we invite all taxpayers in a state of delinquency before the General Directorate of Revenues to consider this attractive alternative, which for a limited time (while State of National Emergency lasts) General Directorate of Revenues offers us. *L&E*

# Politics

## FATHER AND SON PRESIDENTS OF THE REPUBLIC

Rafael Fernández Lara - Abogado Independiente  
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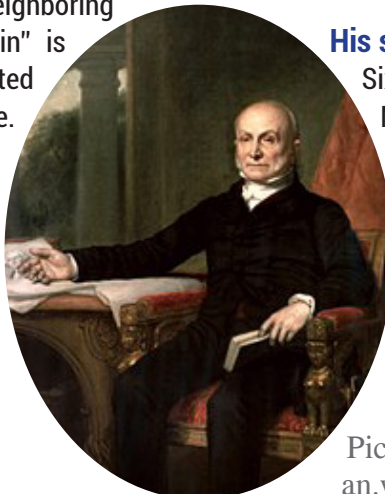
**P**olitics as a practice related to the government of the states, which favors citizen intervention to execute power, guaranteeing the general interest in society, is not alien to the right of kinship succession that we sometimes appreciate from father to son, when both occupy on different occasions the high position of President of the Republic, regardless of his capacity, thus inheriting a political position, thanks in large part to the familiarity with his leader, the father who previously served as president of the nation. In politics, the last name is sometimes considered as if it were an important distinctive and voters prefer to vote for a last name that they remember favorably.

In the political jargon of the neighboring country, Colombia, the term "dolphin" is used to refer to the person appointed to succeed another in political office. Generally, the family member or son of a president who follows the same trajectory in politics is so called, later occupying the position of President of the Republic.

In such a way that it is not a strange phenomenon, on the contrary, the political history of many countries includes interesting cases and examples that are worth mentioning of parents and children specifically, in which both were elected president of the republic through elections. democratic.

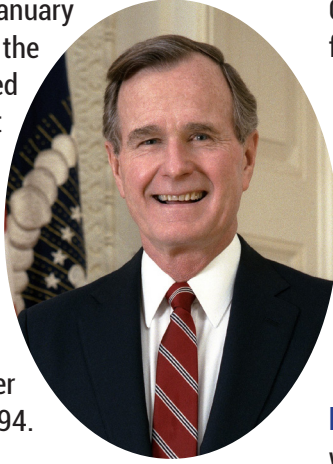
--- **JOHN ADAMS**, leader of the movement for the independence of the United States and was its Second President of the United States from March 4, 1797 to March 4, 1801. He held relevant positions as Vice President of the United States; Ambassador to the United Kingdom; Ambassador to the Netherlands. He passed away on July 4, 1826 at the age of 90.

**His son, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**, was the Sixth President of the United States, from March 4, 1825 to March 4, 1829. He was also Secretary of State; twice member of the House of Representatives; and United States Senator. He passed away on February 23, 1848 at age 80.



Picture: John Quincy Adams (r.i.p): <https://an.wikipedia.org>

--- **GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH** was the 41st President of the United States, from January 20, 1989 to January 20, 1993. He was also the Vice President of the United States twice; President of the Republican Party; Ambassador of the United States to the United Nations; and a member of the United States House of Representatives. He died on November 30, 2018 at the age of 94.



**His son, GEORGE WALKER BUSH** was a President of the United States twice, No. 43, from November 20, 2001 to January 20, 2009. He was Governor of Texas. He is currently 75 years old.

--- **JOSE MARIA HIPOLITO FIGUERES FERRER** held the presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica three times: 1948 to 1949; 1953-1958 and 1970-1974- he was Foreign Minister of Costa Rica and Founder of the National Liberation Party. He passed away on June 8, 1990 at age 83.

**His son, JOSE MARIA FIGUERES OLSEN** was the 42nd President of the Republic of Costa Rica from May 8, 1994 to May 8, 1998. He was Minister of Agriculture and Livestock; Minister of Foreign Trade; Director of the World Economic Forum; President of the National Liberation Party. He is currently 66 years old.

--- **RAFAEL ANGEL CALDERON GUARDIA** was the 29th President of the Republic of Costa Rica from May 8, 1940 to May 8, 1944. He was a Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica; Deputy of the Constitutional Congress of Costa Rica and President of said Constitutional Congress. He died on June 9, 1970 at age 70.

**His son, RAFAEL ANGEL CALDERON FOURNIER** was the 41st President of the

Republic of Costa Rica from May 8, 1990 to May 8, 1994. He held the position of Foreign Minister of Costa Rica and Deputy of the Legislative Assembly from Costa Rica. He is currently 72 years old.

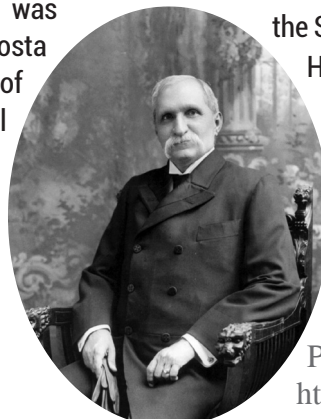
--- **RODOLFO CHIARI ROBLES** was the 13th President of the Republic of Panama from October 1, 1924 to October 1, 1928. He was appointed (Vice President) of the Republic of Panama and temporarily in charge of the executive branch in 1912. He was President of the Liberal Party. He died on August 16, 1937 at the age of 67.

**His son, ROBERTO FRANCISCO CHIARI REMON** was the 33rd President of the Republic of Panama from October 1, 1960 to October 1, 1964. He was temporarily in charge of the Executive Branch in 1949 (four days) in his capacity as Second Vice President of the Republic. He was a Deputy to the Assembly and Minister of State. He died on March 1, 1981, one day after his 76th birthday.

--- **JOSE ARSENIO VICENTE DEL CARMEN DE OBALDIA Y OREJUELA** was vice president and seven times interim president of the Republic of New Granada, when at that time the Isthmus of Panama was united with Colombia- He was the representative of the isthmus before the Legislative Chamber of Congress of the Granadina Confederation in Bogotá. Governor of the Province of Panama. He participated in the legislative chambers of Colombia. The distinguished lawyer passed away on December 28, 1889 at the age of 83.

**His son, JOSE DOMINGO DE OBALDIA GALLEGOS** was the second Constitutional President of the Republic of Panama from October 1, 1908 to March 1, 1910, when he died in presidential office. He was vice president (designated) of the Republic of Panama. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Panama on two occasions.

He Constituent Deputy and Senator on two occasions. He was the last governor that the isthmus had during the union with Colombia. He died of a heart attack on March 1, 1910 at age 65.



Picture: José Domingo De Obaldía (r.i.p.): <https://es.wikipedia.org>



--- In the case of Colombia, **MISAEL EDUARDO PASTRANA BORRERO** was the 31st President of Colombia from August 7, 1970 to August 7, 1974. He held important positions as Minister of Development, later of Public Works and Finance and then Minister of Government. Ambassador of Colombia in Washington. He died on August 21, 1997 aged 73.



His son, **ANDRES PASTRANA ARANGO**, was the 38th President of the Republic of Colombia, in two terms. The first, from August 7, 1998 to August 7, 2002. He held other positions as Senator of the Republic, Mayor of Bogotá and Councilor of Bogotá. He is currently 66 years old.

--- **ALFONSO LOPEZ PUMAJERO** was 19th President of the Republic of Colombia in two terms. The first, from August 7, 1934 to August 7, 1938 and the second as Constitutional President No. 21 from August 7, 1942 to August 7, 1945. He was Ambassador of Colombia to the United Kingdom, Minister of the Treasury of Colombia and Representative to the House. He died on November 20, 1959 at the age of 73.



His son, **ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN** was 32nd President of the Republic of Colombia from August 7, 1974 to August 7, 1978. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Governor of César, Senator of the Republic of Colombia, Member of the House of Representatives of Colombia. He passed away on July 11, 2007. He was 94 years old.

--- **MARIANO OSPINA RODRIGUEZ**, founder of the Colombian Conservative Party, was President of the Republic on two consecutive occasions, 1857-1858 and 1858-1861. He was Deputy of the Departmental Assembly of Antioquia in six terms, Prefect of the Province of Antioquia on three occasions, Governor of the Province of Santa Fé

de Bogotá on three occasions, he was Secretary of Foreign Relations of the Republic of New Granada. Mariano Ospina died on January 11, 1885 at age of 79.

His son, **PEDRO NEL IGNACIO DE VILLANUEVA OSPINA VASQUEZ**, was President No. 16 of the Republic of Colombia from August 7, 1922 to August 7, 1926. He was a House Representative and member of the National Constituent Assembly of 1910, Governor of Antioquia, Minister of War of Colombia, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Colombia in the United States. He died on June 1, 1927, at the age of 68.

--- **LORENZO CRISTOBAL MANUEL BATLLE Y GRAU** was the Constitutional President No. 8 of Uruguay, from March 1, 1868 to March 1, 1872. He was Minister of War and Navy, Member of the House of Representatives for the Department of Montevideo. He passed away on May 8, 1887 at the age of 76.

His son, **JOSE PABLO TORCUATO BATLLE Y ORDOÑEZ** was the 21st Constitutional President of Uruguay from March 1, 1911 to March 1, 1915 and held the interim Presidency of the Republic between February 14 and 10 March 1899. He was a Deputy for the Department of Salto, Senator and President of the Senate. He passed away on October 20, 1929 at age 73.

His son, **CONRADO BATLLE BERRES** was the Constitutional President No. 30 of Uruguay, from August 2, 1947 to March 1, 1951. He was Vice President of Uruguay, Deputy and President of the Chamber of Deputies, Senator, President of the National Council of government. He died on July 15, 1964 at the age of 66.

His son, **LUIS BATLLE IBAÑEZ** was the 38th President of the Republic of Uruguay from March 1, 2000 to March 1, 2005. He was a Senator of the Republic and National Deputy. He passed away on October 24, 2016 at the age of 88.

--- **LUIS ALBERTO LACALLE HERRERA** was the 36th President of the Republic of Uruguay from March 1, 1990 to March 1, 1995. He was also a national representative and Senator. He is currently 80 years old.

**His son, LUIS ALBERTO APARICIO ALEJANDRO LACALLE POU** is the 42nd President of the Republic of Uruguay, from March 1, 2020 to date. He held the position of Senator of the Republic, National Representative, President of the House of Representatives of Uruguay. He is currently 47 years old.



--- **JUAN JOSE FLORES Y ARAMBURU** was President of the Republic of Ecuador from May 13, 1830 to September 10, 1834 and also twice more from 1839 to 1843 and from 1843 to 1845. He died on October 1, 1864 at 64 years of age.

**His son, JUAN ANTONIO MARIA FLORES Y JIJON DE VIVANCO**, was President of the Republic of Ecuador from July 1, 1888 to June 30, 1892. He was a Deputy, Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, Minister Plenipotentiary in Europe. He passed away on August 30, 1915 at the age of 82.

--- **LEONIDAS PLAZA GUTIERREZ DE CAVIEDES**, was President of the Republic of Ecuador from September 1, 1901 to August 31, 1905. His second term as President of the Republic was from September 1, 1912 to September 31, August 1916. He was a Deputy to the Chamber, Procurator and Representative of Congress. He passed away on November 17, 1932, he was 67 years old.

**His son, GALO LINCOLN PLAZA LASSO DE LA VEGA** was President of the Republic of Ecuador from September 1, 1948 to September 1, 1952. He was also Secretary General of the Organization of American States, President of the Municipal Council of Quito, Minister of Defense, Deputy. He passed away on January 28, 1987 at age 80.

--- **EDUARDO NICANOR FREI MONTALVA** was President of the Republic of Chile from November 3,

1964 to November 3, 1970. He held the Presidency of the Senate of Chile, Senator of the Republic of Chile on several occasions, Minister of Public Works and Vías de Comunicación de Chile. He passed away on January 22, 1982 at age 71.

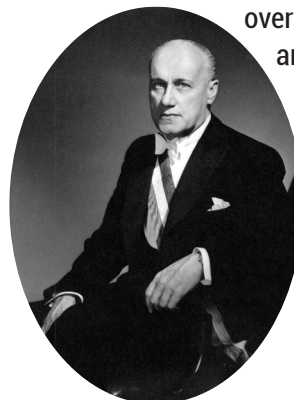
**His son, EDUARDO FREI RUIZ-TAGLE** was President of the Republic of Chile from March 11, 1994 to March 11, 2000. He was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Chile in Asia-Pacific, Senator and President of the Senate of Chile, President of the Christian Democratic Party. He is currently 79 years old.

--- **ARTURO FORTUNATO ALESSANDRI PALMA** held the position of President of the Republic of Chile in the periods 1920-1925 and 1932-1938. He was President of the Senate, Minister of Finance, Minister of Industries and Public Works of Chile. He passed away at age 81, on August 24, 1950.

**His son, JORGE EDUARDO ALESSANDRI RODRIGUEZ**, served as President of the Republic of Chile from November 3, 1958 to November 3, 1964. He was a Senator, Minister of Finance, and Deputy of the Republic of Chile. He died on August 31, 1986 at age 90.

--- **In Bolivia, HERNANDO SILES REYES** was the 31st President of Bolivia from January 10, 1926 to May 27, 1930. He was the Bolivian Ambassador to Peru. He passed away on November 25, 1942.

**His son, LUIS ADOLFO SILES SALINAS** was the Constitutional President of Bolivia from April 27, 1969 until September 26, 1969, when he was overthrown. He was Vice President and Magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice. He died on October 19, 2005 at age 80.



**His other son, HERNAN SILES ZUAZO** was

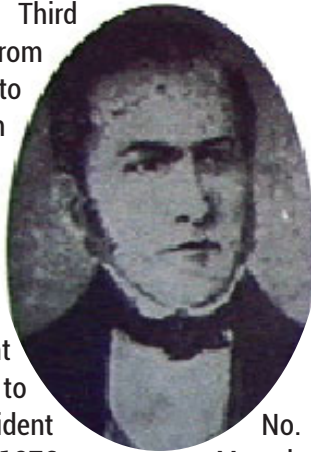
Picture: Jorge Eduardo Alessandri (r.i.p.): <https://es.wikipedia.org>

Constitutional President of Bolivia in two terms, the first from August 6, 1956 to August 6, 1960, and the second from October 10, 1982 to August 6, 1985. He was Vice President and Deputy on several occasions. He died on August 6, 1996 at the age of 83.

--- **MANUEL JOSE JIMENES GONZALEZ** was the second President of the Dominican Republic, from September 8, 1848 to May 29, 1849. He was Minister of War and Navy. He passed away on December 22, 1854 at the age of 46.

**His son, JUAN ISIGRO JIMENES Y PEREYRA** was the 36th and 45th President of the Dominican Republic from November 15, 1899 to May 2, 1902. His second presidency was from December 6, 1914 to May 7, 1916. He died on May 9, 1919 at the age of 72.

--- **RAMON BUENAVENTURA BAEZ MENDEZ** was President of the Dominican Republic on five occasions in a constitutional manner and on one occasion unofficially. As Third President his term was from September 24, 1849 to February 15, 1853. As Sixth President he ruled from October 8, 1856 to June 12, 1858. As President No. 15, his term was from December 8, 1865 to May 29, 1866. As President No. 17, from May 2, 1868 to January 2, 1874. As President No. 22, from December 26, 1876 to March 2, 1878. He was vice president too. He passed away on March 14, 1884 at age 71.



**RAMON BAEZ MACHADO** was the 44th President of the Dominican Republic from August 28, 1914 to December 5, 1914 upon being appointed as Provisional President. He passed away on March 4, 1929 at age 71.

--- **MANUEL ALTAGRACIA CACERES Y FERNANDEZ** was Provisional President of the

Dominican Republic from January 31, 1868 to February 13, 1868. He died at the age of 41.

**His son, RAMON ARTURO CACERES VASQUEZ** was the 40th President of the Dominican Republic from January 12, 1906 to November 19, 1911. He was Minister of War and Navy and Governor of Santiago. He was assassinated on November 19, 1911 at age 44.

--- **PEDRO GUILLERMO GUERRERO** was the President No. 14, Provisional, of the Dominican Republic from November 15, 1865 to December 8, 1865. He was shot on February 18, 1867 at age 52.

**His son, CESAREO GUILLERMO Y BASTARDO** was first President of the Provisional Government and later Constitutional President No. 24 and 27 of the Dominican Republic from March 5, 1878 to July 6, 1878 and from February 27, 1879 to February 6, December 1879. He was a Deputy in the National Congress and Minister of the Interior and Police. He died on November 8, 1885 at age 38.

--- **LUIS SAENZ PEÑA** was President of the Argentine Nation from October 12, 1892 to January 23, 1895. He was Deputy Governor of Buenos Aires, Senator, Minister of the Supreme Court of Justice, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Nation. He died on December 4, 1907 at the age of 85.

**His son, ROQUE SAENZ PEÑA** was President of Argentina from October 12, 1910 to August 9, 1914 (on sick leave since 1913). He was Deputy, Minister of Foreign Relations of Argentina. He passed away on August 9, 1914 at age 63.

--- **MARIANO IGNACIO PADRO OCHOA** was the Constitutional President No. 17 and 22 of the Republic of Peru from August 31, 1867 to January 5, 1868 (Provisional President). His second term began on August 2, 1876 to December 18, 1879. He was Provisional President of Peru from February 15, 1867 to August 31, 1867. Supreme Chief of Peru from November 28, 1865 to November 15, February 1867. He was also President of Chamber of Deputies of Peru. He died on May 5, 1901 at age 75.



**His son, MANUEL CARLOS PRADO Y UGARTECHE** was President of Peru on two occasions, from December 8, 1939 to July 28, 1945 and from July 28, 1956 to July 18, 1962. He died on August 5, 1967 at age 78.



--- **JOSEPH PHILIPPE PIERRE YVES ELLIOT TRUDEAU** was the

15th Prime Minister of Canada. He served from 1968 to 1979, was re-elected in 1980, and resigned from his position in 1984. He was a leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, Member of the House of Commons of Canada, Minister of Justice, Attorney General of Canada. He passed away on September 28, 2000 at age 80.

**His son, JUSTIN PIERRE JAMES TRUDEAU**, has been the Prime Minister of Canada since November 4, 2015 and is currently in office. He is the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada from 2013 to date. He is currently 49 years old.

When observing by way of political teaching all these examples of parents and children who democratically assumed the first magistracy of their respective countries in our American continent, we note that in addition to the family bond that unites them, it is also perceived that generally in their political behavior children are They are inclined to reproduce the ideological orientations of their parents.



Although before much more than now this tradition of nepotism, of cases of parents and children presidents of the republic, seemed to diminish considerably today, the truth is that it is still alive and well, hearing from already that some dolphins announce their aspirations to participate in future election processes.

This favoritism will prevail to the extent that citizens support or dismiss them. In the end, the people are the ones who always have the last word. *L&E*



Pictures: Roque Saénz Peña (r.i.p.): <https://en.wikipedia.org/>  
 Manuel Carlos Prado y Ugarteche (r.i.p.): <https://stringfixer.com/>  
 Justin Pierre James Trudeau: <https://www.britannica.com/>

# Panamanian ECONOMY

**PANAMA BECOMES THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE WORLD BANK'S SUBREGIONAL OFFICE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AND**

Source: World Bank

The World Bank expands its presence in Panama by relocating its subregional office for Central America and the Dominican Republic located in Washington, D.C. to Panama City. Carlos Felipe Jaramillo made the announcement at the beginning of his first visit to Panama as World Bank Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the visit, Jaramillo will meet with the President of the Republic of Panama, Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, and the Minister of Economy and Finance, Héctor Alexander, to reiterate the commitment of the World Bank to continue supporting the country in its response to the pandemic and on the national agenda for an inclusive economic recovery.

“With a greater physical presence in Panama, we will further strengthen our relationship with Panama, Central America and the Dominican Republic. We will continue to support Central American countries with technical and financial advice and global knowledge

to address their development challenges and resume a path towards sustained and inclusive growth, which provides economic opportunities and prosperity for current and future generations,” said Jaramillo.

Michel Kerf, director of the World Bank for Central America and the Dominican Republic, who arrived in the country in recent days, leads this new subregional office and will be accompanied by more than 30 specialists in human development, sustainable development, economic policy and operations management. Due to the restrictions due to the pandemic, the transfer of all personnel will be progressive and will be completed in 2022. Together with the offices of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, this team will lead the implementation of the portfolio which currently totals more than US \$ 4.98 billion and includes 49 projects in health, education, social inclusion, water and food security, sustainable development, disaster risk management and rural,

local and agricultural development, among others.

"We thank the people and government of Panama for this alliance with the World Bank, which will be strengthened with the new subregional office for the benefit of the population, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable. We are committed to continue supporting Panama, Central America and the Dominican Republic to recover from the serious crisis, rethink the future and achieve sustainable and resilient development for all," said Michel Kerf, Director of the World Bank for Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Jaramillo, Kerf and Sanaa Abouzaid, regional manager of the International Finance Corporation (IFC, for its acronym in English) for Central America, will also meet in Panama with representatives of the private sector, to discuss the primary role that private initiative plays in the efforts to end poverty and boost shared prosperity. Jaramillo's visit to Panama is scheduled to end on August 10, 2021.

In Panama, the World Bank portfolio includes four projects, for a total of US\$460 million, to improve access to services for indigenous peoples, strengthen social protection and inclusion, and support the response and recovery from the pandemic of the COVID-19. *L&E*

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## STANDARD & POOR'S REAFFIRMS PANAMA'S INVESTMENT GRADE AT BBB (S&P)

Source: MEF

The risk rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) reaffirmed Panama's sovereign rating at BBB, maintaining the country's investment grade, while the outlook changed from stable to negative, basically due to the impact of the pandemic on the economy.

S&P expects the Panamanian economy to recover in 2021, growing 9%, supported by mining exports and higher private consumption as mobility restrictions ease and vaccination efforts continue. Additionally, they foresee that growth in the medium term will return to its potential of 6%, as public and private investments pick up.

Additionally, the risk rating agency highlights that key infrastructure projects, such as construction of Metro Line 3, together with a tunnel under the Canal, extension of Metro lines 1 and 2, a

new hospital, transmission projects of energy and road improvements, should support growth and employment momentum in coming years.

The Government expects public-private partnerships (PPPs) to become more relevant, following the recent implementation of the PPP legal framework, beginning with a large 2,000-kilometer road maintenance program.

Finally, S&P indicates that Panama has improved its debt profile in recent years to mitigate refinancing risk. The average maturity of the debt is just under 13 years and 80.5% of the debt is at a fixed rate. In addition, the weighted average cost was 3.9% in December 2020, and the limited amount of short-term debt (Treasury bills), together with a mostly stable maturity profile until 2024, contains the risk of refinancing. *L&E*

## MONTHLY INDEX OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (IMAE): JUNE 2021

Source: GCRP

The Monthly Index of Economic Activity (IMAE) for June 2021, in the Republic, registered an increase of 24.91%, compared to same month of previous year, based on preliminary information compiled by National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC).

The accumulated IMAE for January-June 2021 showed an increase of 4.85%, compared to the same period in 2020. This growth reflected that the economy is in a recovery process, after the impact of the health emergency caused by COVID-19. Some of the economic categories that showed good performance were: Mining, Commerce, Private health services, Public administration, Transportation, storage and communications, Fishing, Electricity and water, Other community, social and personal services activities, among others.

On the contrary, among the sectors that presented negative rates were: Hotels and restaurants, Construction, Manufacturing industries, Financial intermediation, Agriculture and Real estate, business and rental activities. The mining industry continued with a dynamic behavior, exporting copper ore and its concentrate, likewise, commercial activity in its main indicators such as re-exportation in metric tons from

the Colon Free Zone, and local retail and wholesale trade.

Transport, storage and communications operations, as a whole, showed increases in Canal tolls, telecommunications, the movement of TEU containers of the National Port System and the commercial movement in the Colon Free Zone.

In the Electricity and Water category, the generation of renewable electricity and the consumption of electricity in the commercial, industrial and Government areas maintained a positive range.

Among the economic activities that presented positive interannual results (June 2021-June 2020) were: Industrial manufacturing production presented positive rates in some activities related to the production of food products.

The financial intermediation activity presented a favorable behavior, both in banking operations and in the insurance activity, which showed a higher volume of written premiums.

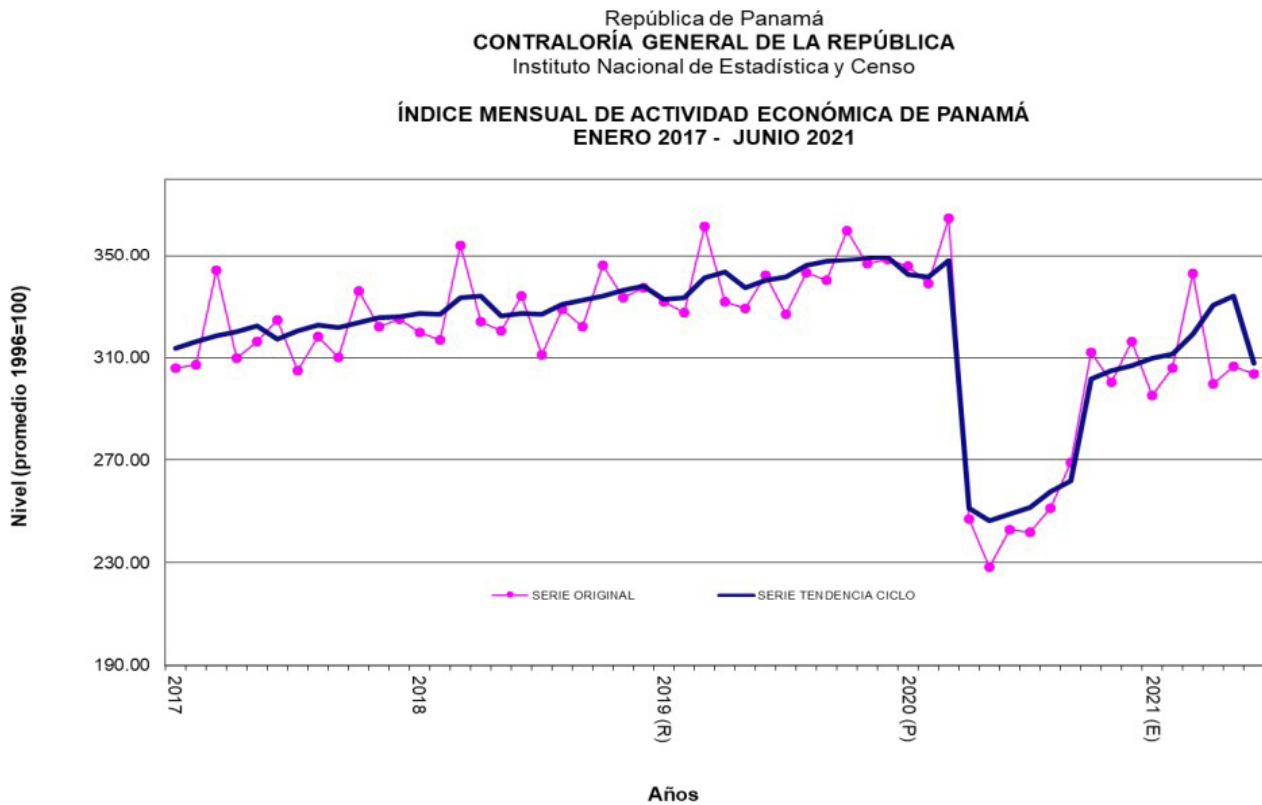
In the agricultural sector, positive behaviors were recorded in activities such as: The production of

natural milk, the raising of cattle, pigs and poultry.

In Construction, indicators related to the activity registered a favorable performance such as the production of cement and ready-mix concrete.

The provision of entertainment and leisure services, mainly in gambling halls of luck and chance, resulting from type A slot machines, and betting halls for sporting events registered positive rates.

The current health crisis has imposed a challenge on the collection of statistical data that are a source for the preparation of the IMAE and in this sense, the INEC has made enormous efforts with the producers of the same, to minimize the impact on quality. of these statistics. It is important to point out that the figures are subject to revision, if there are changes, they will be published in a timely manner on the Institution's website, in the next publications of the indicator. *L&E*



## INEC DISCLOSES INCREASE IN THE REPUBLIC'S GOODS EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST HALF 2021

Source: GCRP

**P**reliminary figures from the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), indicate that the export of goods from the Republic reflected an increase of 108.7%, during the first semester of 2021, where it reached the figure of B/. 1,664.9 million, compared to the same period of 2020, whose value was B/. 797.9 million.

It should be noted that Panama is the first country that complies with an updated foreign trade data based on exports and the diversification of markets for users, placing a reliable and timely opening, through scientific data for decision-making.

Among the most important merchandise, the copper minerals and their concentrates stood out, whose value was B/. 1,318.2 million, that is, 185.0%, the crude Teak B/. 34.3 million with a 64.0% variation, and the oil of palm and its raw fractions with B/. 16.5 million, that is, 61.6%.

According to sources from the Comptroller's

Office, the export sector is becoming an added value in these first six months of 2021, with a contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), above 4% and providing oxygen to our economy in pandemic, plus beyond the supply chain.

The countries that showed growth were: China (Mainland) with B / .581.5 million that represented 326.1%; South Korea B / .183.5 million, 236.5%; Japan B / .176.0 million with 486.1%, Spain with B / .156.0 million, that is, 54.5% and Germany B / .116.0 million with 326.8% percentage variation, compared to the same period of 2020.

"We have to continue deepening exports to make Panama a springboard, not only in the export of services, but of goods for the generation of jobs, and the flows and circulating income that we want for the country, for all Panamanian families, and, therefore, improving our quality of life ", mentioned a spokesperson for the Institution. *L&E*

## PANAMA CANAL: 107 YEARS CONNECTING THE WORLD

Source: PCA

The Panama Canal reaches this August 15, 107 years as a facilitator of world trade. From the transfer of the Canal to Panamanian hands, the waterway has enhanced the development of the country, operating as a profitable and sustainable organization in the face of changing conditions in today's world.

Since its inauguration in 1914, the interoceanic highway has served as a shortcut for more than 1.1 million ship transits, reducing distance, time and costs in the transport of goods, while positively impacting the environment.

Our Green Route has contributed to reducing more than 830 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), allowing ships to save fuel when crossing a shorter sea lane, and moving greater volumes of cargo from launch of the Canal expanded, in June 2016.

Reaffirming its commitment to sustainability, the Canal recognizes the importance of reducing the carbon footprint in its own operations, which is why this year it announced its goal of being a carbon neutral organization by 2030.

"The world is demanding that companies offer services and products that have a very low carbon footprint,

so we are going to make investments to adapt to that reality, in line with our environmental tradition," said the administrator of the Panama Canal, Ricaurte Vasquez Morales.

### Water, institutions and long-term sustainability

A primary element of the Canal's environmental strategy is to ensure the water from the water sources of its Hydrographic Basin, from which it supplies half of the country's population, and is the main input for the operation of the road.

Through the sustainability programs developed between the Canal and the communities of its Basin, which cover more than 2,000 families, 9,209 hectares have been established with different reforestation methods (conservation, agroforestry, silvopastoral, scrub enrichment) In addition, 2,000 hectares of forests are protected within private farms.

With its expansion, the interoceanic highway consolidated the role of Panama as a point of connectivity, promoting the convergence of 180 maritime routes linking 1,920 ports in 170 countries.

The legal framework of the Panama Canal has allowed

the waterway to continue operating profitably for the benefit of the country, since its transfer at noon on December 31, 1999. Its management model guarantees its direct and indirect contributions to economic development from the country.

Despite the impact of Covid-19, and through its committed workforce, the Panama Canal continued with uninterrupted transit, adopting sanitary practices to preserve the well-being of its human team and the crews of its clients.

The operational results of the route in the last year show that the pandemic accelerated transformations that were already looming on the horizon of the business in which the Canal is developed, such as the consolidation of cargo in larger vessels, which implies less transit, but greater draft. "As the Panama Canal does not have a monopoly on the routes it serves, this keeps us competitive and adds value to the service we offer to our customers," said the Administrator.

Hence, the Canal advances an optimized water management system to meet the needs of half the country's population and the long-term operation of the road, as well as investments that increase the productivity and efficiency of the road in front of to future prospects.*L&E*



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## MORE THAN 10 MILLION IN INVESTMENTS GENERATES A PROGRAM FOR QUALIFIED INVESTORS

Source: MICI

**A**ccording to information provided by the Directorate of Investor Services of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, from January to date, the Permanent Residence program for Economic Reasons for Qualified Investors has certified some 17 investors from various regions of the continent and generated 10.6 million balboas in investments.

The aforementioned is related to the benefits emanating from Executive Decree No. 722, investors

who come mainly from Central and South American countries, as well as the Caribbean; showing interest in real estate, banking and securities activities.

The attraction of new investments is part of the Executive's action plan and which is having a positive impact on the revitalization of the productive sectors, the generation of jobs and the transfer of knowledge and technology. *L&E*

# World ECONOMY

## THE WORLD BANK GROUP MOBILIZES MORE THAN US \$29,000 MILLION TO HELP LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TO RESPOND TO THE PANDEMIC

Source: World Bank

In response to COVID-19, which has seriously impacted the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in Latin American and Caribbean countries, the World Bank Group allocated a record \$ 29.1 billion to that region since crisis beginning (April 1, 2020) and throughout fiscal 2021, which ended June 30, 2021.

These resources were used to contain the health, economic and social impact of the pandemic, in addition to helping the region respond to challenges such as hurricanes and migratory flows. It is the largest response to such a crisis in the history of the World Bank Group.

The World Bank Group's commitments and mobilizations during this period include a total of US\$ 14.5 billion from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA),

known as the World Bank; US \$ 10.8 billion from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to promote sustainable development driven by the private sector; and US \$ 3.8 billion in guarantees from the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

"Latin America and the Caribbean was the region most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with 20% of cases and a third of global deaths. The high infection rate and the steep drop in growth had a devastating social and economic impact," said the World Bank's Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Carlos Felipe Jaramillo. "We are moving swiftly to provide a substantial level of new financing to help countries deal with this crisis and provide relief to the most vulnerable."

During the past fiscal year, the financing and

experience of the World Bank focused on social protection, health emergencies, tests, vaccines and the strengthening of the health systems of each of the countries, as well as an unprecedented mobilization of short-term financing during the first months of the pandemic to help the private sector stay afloat.

For its part, IFC, the World Bank Group's private sector arm, committed US\$ 10.8 billion for Latin America and the Caribbean - including mobilizations (US\$ 5 billion) and short-term financing (US\$ 2 billion) -, driven by increased demand for fast-track financing for the manufacturing, agribusiness and services sectors; in addition to ongoing support for the financial industry and successful collaborations for the establishment of public-private partnerships (PPP). Since April 2020, when it launched its response to COVID-19, IFC committed nearly US\$ 3.2 billion in liquidity support for the region, helping to expand financing for MSMEs so that they continue to operate, working together with financial institutions to promote green financing and supported agro-export companies in the region.

"IFC intensified its efforts to offer innovative solutions that help the sectors most affected by the pandemic, with a particular emphasis on helping companies maintain jobs and ensure that MSMEs can access financing," said Georgina Baker, Vice President of IFC for Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia. "We also continue to offer new ways to make the region's financial system greener and promote greater financial inclusion among women," she added.

Nearly 40% of IFC's equity investments in the last fiscal year were aimed at financing climate-smart solutions. IFC provided one of the first sustainability-

linked loans to Corsan, a Brazilian water and sanitation service provider, to reduce water losses in its distribution system and boost energy efficiency in its operations. In addition, around US\$ 1 billion was used to promote greater financial inclusion among women, representing 66% of IFC's total commitments for this area during the last fiscal year.

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the world's largest provider of political risk insurance, whose mandate is to help promote high-impact foreign direct investment in developing countries, issued just over \$ 3.8 billion in new guarantees for Latin America and the Caribbean during this fifteen-month period.

MIGA's commitment to improving the lives of LAC citizens, who have been particularly affected by the pandemic, is firm: about half of all new guarantees issued by MIGA during fiscal year 2021 were for the LAC region.

MIGA supported eight new projects in eight countries in the LAC region in fiscal year 2021: 98.6% of these new emissions were made via the agency's \$ 6.5 billion COVID-19 Response Program. An example of MIGA's efforts to have a concrete developmental impact in the face of the pandemic was its first collaboration with the Bahamas. The agency issued guarantees for the loans extended to the Bahamian government. These loans will be used to modernize two public hospitals and provide financing to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

"MIGA worked closely with governments, companies, and financial institutions in LAC in order to mobilize their guarantees and obtain foreign private capital resources to complement efforts to mitigate the

social and economic impact of the pandemic," said the vice president. and MIGA's chief operating officer, S. Vijay Iyer. "In addition to the projects that aim to guarantee better health outcomes among citizens, the projects for fiscal year 2021 in LAC serve to expand the credit available to small and medium-sized enterprises, finance measures against the climate, and develop resilience capacity".

### World Bank Group Response to COVID-19

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank Group has committed more than US \$ 157,000 million to combat its health, economic and social impacts, which represents the fastest and largest response in the history of the entity to a crisis. The funding is helping more than 100 countries strengthen pandemic preparedness, protect the poor and secure jobs, and launch a climate-friendly recovery without delay. The Bank is also assisting more than 50 low- and middle-income countries, more than half of which are in Africa, with the purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, and is making more than US \$ 20,000 million until the end of 2022. *L&E*



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## THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE IMF ANNOUNCES THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE ALLOCATION OF SDR EQUIVALENT TO USD 650,000 MILLION

Source: International Monetary Fund

The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kristalina Georgieva, made the following statement today:

“Today the largest allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs) in IMF history goes into effect, equivalent to approximately \$ 650 billion. This allocation is a major boost of encouragement to the world, and if used wisely, a unique opportunity to combat this unprecedented crisis.

“The SDR allocation will provide additional liquidity to the world economic system since it will complement the foreign currency reserves of the countries and will reduce their dependence on the most onerous internal or external debt. Countries can use the leeway provided by the SDR allocation to support their economies and intensify the fight against the crisis.

“SDRs are distributed to member countries in proportion

to their relative shares in the IMF. This means that around USD 275 billion will go to emerging market and developing countries, of which low-income countries will receive approximately USD 21 billion, which is equivalent to as much as 6% of GDP in some cases.

“SDRs are a very valuable resource and it is the member countries that will make the decision on how best to use them. In order for SDRs to produce the maximum benefit for member countries and the global economy, these decisions must be prudent and well-informed.

“To support countries and ensure transparency and accountability, the IMF will provide a framework to assess the macroeconomic implications of the new allocation, its statistical treatment and governance, and how it could affect debt sustainability. The IMF will also present periodic assessments of SDR holdings, transactions, and trading, including a follow-up report on the use of SDRs within two years.



"To amplify the benefits of this allocation, the IMF encourages countries with strong external positions to channel part of the SDR on a voluntary basis to the countries most in need. In the last 16 months, some countries have already committed to lending USD 24 billion, including USD 15 billion of their current SDR, to the Trust Fund for Growth and Combating Poverty (FFCLP), through which loans are made. under concessionary conditions to low-income countries. This is just the beginning, and the IMF will continue to work with member countries to redouble these efforts.

"Likewise, IMF is studying with member countries possibility of creating a new financial service - Trust Fund for Resilience and Sustainability - that could channel SDRs to help most vulnerable countries in their structural transformation and cope, among others, aspects, challenges related to climate change. Another possibility would be to channel SDRs to support financing provided by multilateral development banks.

"This SDR allocation is a critical component of broader IMF effort to support countries during the pandemic, which includes: \$ 117 billion in new financing to 85 countries; debt service relief for 29 low-income countries, and policy advice and capacity building for more than 175 countries for a strong and more sustainable recovery».L&E

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## THE GOAL TO PUT THE HUNGER FINE BY 2030 IS "ATTAINABLE"

Source: FAO

It is possible to set course for the goal of eradicating hunger by 2030 "with the right balance of interventions," said Mr. QU Dongyu, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), at the 6th Ministerial Meeting on Food Security of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum.

Despite the additional challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the goal of eradicating hunger (Sustainable Development Goal 2 or SDG2) by 2030 is "achievable," he said through a message video, emphasizing the need for "immediate and collective attention".

Mr. Qu highlighted the strategic priorities defined as part of the mission to reverse the trend of increasing food insecurity.

"Growth in the agricultural sector is the most important in effectively reducing poverty and hunger in low- and middle-income countries," said the director-general.

It is essential to ensure greater investment in agriculture, both in national development strategies and in bilateral and multilateral initiatives, whose

"cost is affordable", since it amounts to around 8% of the size of world food markets, added Mr. Qu. He urged focusing attention on countries most in need and resources on "high impact" investments.

He stressed that efficiency - producing more with fewer resources and generating less carbon emissions - and innovation represent the best, and often the only, way forward; He added that FAO has modeling tools in place that can help policymakers overcome the factor trade-offs that the transformation of agri-food systems will bring.

Among the appropriate interventions to be developed within the framework of a holistic approach, the Director-General pointed to consumer incentives, re-adaptation of research and development grants, digital and green technologies, investments aimed at boosting value chains, such as irrigation systems for small farmers, reducing food loss and waste, efforts to keep international trade open, and protecting the most vulnerable with safety nets.

FAO's Investment Center and the global network of investment officers are committed to supporting

the work of moving from the desk to the necessary policies and investments, he said.

Mr. Qu emphasized the need to think and act without limiting sectoral boundaries. Systematic approaches that can generate win-win solutions for everyone range from territorial approaches - such as FAO's Hand in Hand Initiative - to ecosystem approaches, approaches that empower women and strengthen the agri-food systems of communities, indigenous peoples, and address protracted crisis conditions.

On the eve of the United Nations Summit on Food Systems, to be held later in 2021, "our focus is on developing coalitions" with the capacity to foster solutions that change the rules of the game and help us tackle to the challenges of achieving the SDGs, said FAO Director-General.

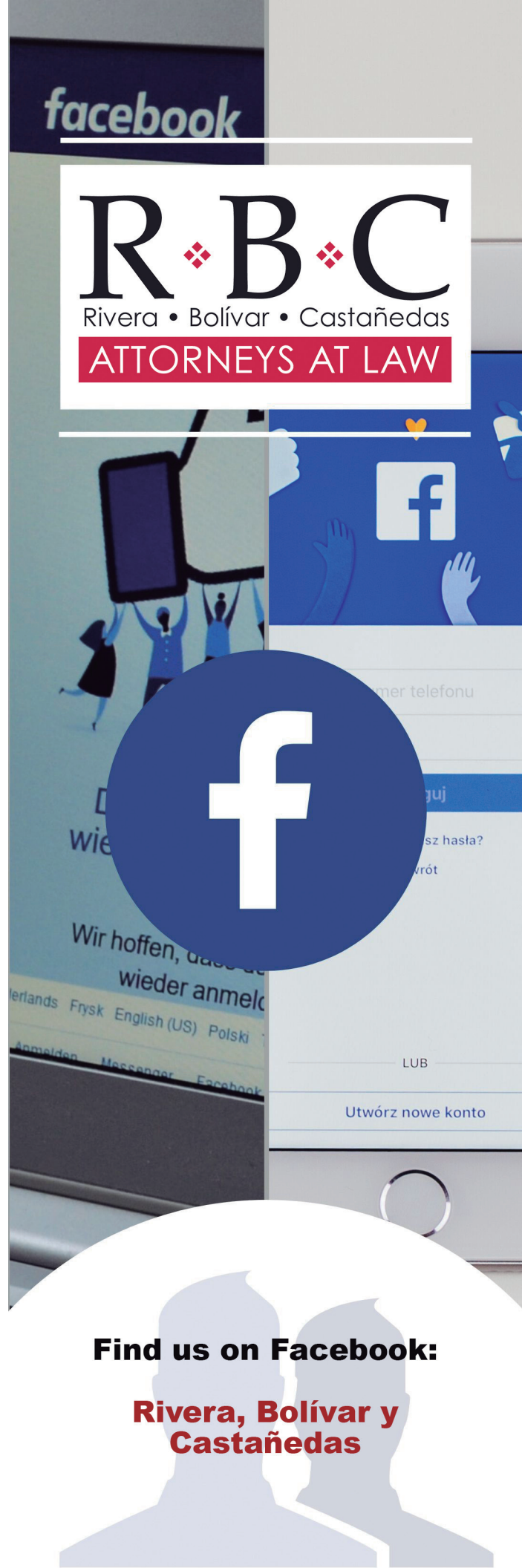
### The role of APEC

Mr. Qu urged APEC countries to commit to that effort and to spearhead it as advocates.

"The region encompassed by APEC plays a key role in implementing the concrete measures needed to support the transformation towards MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems."

Founded in 1989, APEC works to ensure that goods, services, investments and people move easily across borders, to promote common standards and synchronized regulatory systems, and to help all residents of the region. to participate in the growing economy. It currently has 21 members from four continents, including food-producing powerhouses such as Australia, China, the United States of America, and the Russian Federation.

The Director General of FAO addressed the 6th APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security, chaired by Mr Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture of New Zealand. The ministers issued a joint statement and approved a "Roadmap 2030". *L&E*



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## BOTANICAL GUIDE OF THE COIBA NATIONAL PARK

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The Coiba National Park, located off the southwest coast of Panama, in the Gulf of Chiriquí, protects the island of Coiba and 38 other smaller islands and islets, as well as the surrounding marine areas. UNESCO as a World Heritage Site for its incredible flora and fauna. Located just an hour by boat from Islas Secas, Coiba National Park is a fully protected island and marine park, one of the largest marine protected areas in the world.

It has invaluable unaltered ecosystems such as: mangroves, coral reefs, forests, beaches, rivers, endemic fauna and flora, as well as historical sites.

Today the composition of the flora and fauna of this Island is largely different from that of the mainland. For example, in terms of animal groups, it can be noted that the Island of Coiba has a notorious shortage of non-flying mammals, amphibians, birds, among others.

Likewise, according to studies, it has been shown that the mature forests of Coiba have a lower diversity

of trees per hectare than those on the mainland. With the valuable contribution of the botanist and explorer Dr. Alicia Ibáñez, the Botanical Guide of the Coiba National Park is presented, in which the plant species of this 500-square-kilometer island are rigorously classified and described.

The precise cataloging of each species, photographs and technical description in this guide allow us to understand the structure and origin of the rich botanical heritage that the Island of Coiba possesses.

The initiative to carry out this comprehensive botanical inventory arose in part from the international program called "International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups" (ICBGs).

This program is focused on the creation of scientific infrastructure, training of human resources and the discovery of natural products from the rich tropical flora and microbial life of Panama.

In this first part of the study of this important guide we will refer to some types of flora found in the mature forests of the Coiba National Park.

The Coiba forest is unique in terms of its structure and floristic composition. A large part of it is in an exceptional state of conservation free of recent human disturbances and is a reservoir for numerous species of flora that are threatened in other regions of Panama.

This Island is considered a refuge for species that have not been found in the rest of the country.

Among the most abundant and characteristic tree species in the north of the island of Coiba, we can mention the following: maría, secuara, tangaré, cativo, monkey condom, male medlar, garlic; while in the West, the ollita, maría, amarillo, pinotea abound.

To the southwest of the island the arbutus dominate, and several species of trees of the Myrtaceae family since it is located in a drier coastal area.

To indicate an approximate, it is mentioned in the guide that in each hectare of the Ceiba forest about 50 species of trees grow with a diameter at chest height greater than or equal to 10 cm.

Also, on this island we can find shrubs such as mountain suckling pig, shrimp, alcarreto, canillo, coffee bean, three heads, etc.

A series of herbs, lianas and climbing plants can also be found, among which we can mention earthworm, monkey ladder, water liana, barbasquito vine, pig grass and philodendron.

There are some epiphytic plants and ferns such as tillandsia bulbosa, tillandsia monadelpha, dimerandra emarginate, ciathea multiflora, asplenium serratum, huperzia dichotoma, among others.

In our second part of the analysis of this important guide we will expand more details on each of the types of flora found in the mature forests of the Island of Coiba. *L&E*



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## PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTS OR CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

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### S ummary

The objective of the research is to determine the perceptions of the families of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) regarding the stigma before individuals and families in relation to the level of functioning and disruptive behaviors, through a study of type and descriptive level, field with non-experimental, transectional-descriptive design.

A non-probabilistic sampling yielded a total of 104 subjects, who entered the web portal of the call on social networks and Panamanian institutions dedicated to serving people with ASD. A survey called "Main needs of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families, according to the perception of caregivers" was applied.

The results showed that, in the sample studied, discrimination for having a child with ASD has a low level of impact in which, of 72 caregivers

and / or parents who answered the items ( $n = 72$ , 79.17%) say that they don't They would discriminate against him for having a child with ASD and his disruptive behaviors and ( $n = 72$ , 20.83%) they said that they would discriminate against them.

Regarding the impact with the level of good functioning, ( $n = 48$ , 31.24%) commented that they didn't have a negative impact on a good level of functioning and one ( $n = 48$ , 10.41%) did affect them. At the moderate level of functioning ( $n = 48$ , 39.63%) they answered that it didn't affect them and it ( $n = 48$ , 6.24%) did. Finally, in relation to the low level of functioning a ( $n = 48$ , 4.16%) didn't affect them and ( $n = 48$ , 2.08%) it did affect them.

In view of the above, the present investigation reveals significant contributions to the information and data in Panama, since, although the figures reveal that they don't suffer from stigma, and in parallel to disruptive

behaviors, as well as a low level of functioning, it serves background thanks to the interest in focusing their attention on caregivers of people with ASD and the difficulties they face up to now.

## Introduction

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is defined by persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts, as manifested in the following symptoms, current or past: deficits in socio-emotional reciprocity, deficits in non-communicative behaviors verbal, deficits to develop, maintain and understand relationships (America Psychology Association APA, 2013, Palomo 2006).

Cuxart and Fina (2003) argue that confirmation by parents that their child suffers from ASD is very difficult to assimilate, due to the characteristics of the disorder. This first stage in which the diagnosis is confirmed, which can sometimes last a long time, is undoubtedly the most difficult to overcome. For this reason, it is essential that parents receive a diagnosis as early as possible, to accept reality and have the courage to start acting.

After the diagnosis of ASD, one of the concerns that parents of people with ASD may experience is related to stigmatization, since those who suffer from them are subjects who usually face discrimination in the different contexts where they can access, from the kindergarten, preschool or primary school, the rejection of other children or the denial of inclusive education, the family itself that doesn't understand what the disorder means to society in general with its different patterns of normality.

All of this causes parents anguish, as the abuse or isolation their children receive greatly affects them (Ki-Moon 2011). In addition to the impact, Woodgate (2008) states that the needs of people with ASD change throughout their lives and the support resources for the proper functioning of the child with ASD must be adapted to the different stages, so it is essential ensure individualized educational supports throughout the person's life, support for families and community services that allow their inclusion.

Once the person with ASD is an adult, their support needs must be directed towards independent living, employment and occupational activities, permanent training, as well as favoring decisions about their own life.

In this sense, Cardoze (2010) outlined in his book *Childhood Autism -redefinition and updating*, that in our country when parents actively participate in the individual plan of their children, they reach conclusions that are more adjusted to the realities themselves. Many of the problems that families go through when they must face the reality of the existence of autism in one of their members, emotional disturbances, confusion, conflicts between parents, jealousy of siblings due to the attention focused on the affected person, mistrust towards professionals and others, they would be alleviated or disappear more easily if the family feels like a participant and a partner in the programs developed for the autistic child.

Most of the data is recent research showing that the role of caregiver is generating interest in different parts of the world. To cite one, Searing, Graham and Grainger (2015) examined the perceived availability and usefulness of supports provided by caregivers of children with ASD in rural Maori, New Zealand, finding that, indeed, spouses were rated as the most useful support referring to the care, knowledge and accessibility of children with ASD.

That is why Gray and Farrugia (2013) point out that thanks to the resistance mechanisms, the affected parents do not suffer as much as one might suppose about the stigma felt. The ideas presented allow us to observe a scenario of challenges for the parents of children with ASD, which would begin when the son or daughter has been diagnosed and which seems to continue throughout the development, functioning and growth, since the needs are changing, family and social dynamics as well, coupled with the accessibility of resources of all kinds.

Therefore, at the time of this research we found that in Panama there is a scarcity of data on the perceptions of parents and / or caregivers of people with ASD and impact they have on parents and / or caregivers on stigma, level of functioning and disruptive behaviors



of people with ASD and, therefore, it is our interest that this research shows these data as antecedents to address these perceptions stated above.

**Methods**

The research design used in this study is Non-Experimental Transactional Descriptive, since it seeks to identify the perceptions of caregivers of children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The instrument used was the survey "Main Needs of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their Families, according to the perception of their caregivers" (REAL, 2016), which was designed with the aim of understanding the needs and difficulties they face people with ASD and their families to seek and receive help.

The questionnaire is composed of 5 sections: Section 0. Basic data of the survey, which consists of 3 items, Section 1. Demographic characteristics of the family, composed of 6 items, Section 2. Characteristics of the person with ASD, 13 items, Section 3. Use of services, 11 items, Section 4. Perception of parents / caregivers, 29 items.

As inclusion criteria it is specified that they must be mothers, fathers or caregivers of people with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder who live in Panama and with the person with said disorder at the time of the study.

**The investigation procedures were as follows:**

• **The Latin University of Panama granted a letter requesting the collaboration of the institutions or foundations of Panama, which summoned parents and caregivers to participate in the research.**

• **The information was published on social networks such as Facebook and Instagram, where information was provided on the web portal that contained the instrument.**

• **The survey was answered through web portal and for people who didn't have access to that medium, interview-type paper and pencil survey was applied. Subsequently, these printed surveys were transcribed to the web portal.**

• **This project has been approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee of the Universidad Latina de Panamá. Before answering the survey, the participants will sign an informed consent. The confidentiality and anonymity of the information received was guaranteed.**

**Results**

The results obtained are presented below in order to respond to the objectives set. For the data analysis, descriptive statistics were used with the help of the SPS 21 edition program, from which the frequencies of the dimensions and indicators of the Questionnaire of the Main Needs of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their Families according to Perception were obtained. of their Caregivers. The survey was applied to a sample composed of 104 parents and / or caregivers of individuals with ASD in Panama.

To respond to the first objective, which was aimed at determining the relationship between discrimination for having a child with ASD and the disruptive behaviors of this person, the following results were obtained. With a population of 72 people who answered this section, (n = 72, 79.17%) say that they would not discriminate against them for having a child with ASD and their disruptive

Tabla 1  
Relación entre percepción de estigma de cuidadores y presencia de conductas disruptivas en los hijos.

Descripción:	Conductas Disruptivas		x <sup>2</sup>
	NO	SI	
Estigma			14.905
Muy en Desacuerdo	45 (62.5%)	5 (6.96%)	
En Desacuerdo	8 (11.13%)	4 (5.55%)	
De Acuerdo	3 (4.16%)	3 (4.16%)	
Muy en Acuerdo	1 (1.38%)	3 (4.16%)	
TOTAL	57 (79.17%)	15 (20.83%)	

Fuente: Beach, Cuba, Feliciano y Pineda (2018)

behaviors and (n = 72, 20.83%) they comment that they would discriminate against them. (See table 1)

To respond to the second objective, which was aimed at describing the impact on the family in relation to the level of functioning of a person with

ASD, results were obtained that indicate that there is no significant relationship between the level of functioning of the person with ASD. ASD and the perception of stigma of caregivers. For the group identified with mild symptoms. Only 20.83% of the sample consider being discriminated against for

Tabla 2  
Relación entre percepción de estigma de cuidadores y nivel de sintomatología en los hijos.

Descripción	Sintomatología				X <sup>2</sup>
	Sintomatología leve (n=20)	Sintomatología moderada (n=22)	Sintomatología severa (n= 3)	No lo se (n=3)	
Muy en Desacuerdo	11 (55%)	15 (31.30%)	2 (4.16%)	2 (4.16%)	5.436
En Desacuerdo	4 (8.33%)	4 (8.33%)	0	0	
De Acuerdo	3 (6.25%)	2 (4.16%)	0	0	
Muy en Acuerdo	2 (4.16%)	1 (2.08%)	1 (2.08%)	1 (2.08%)	
TOTAL	20 (41.65%)	22 (45.87%)	3 (6.24%)	3 (6.24%)	

Fuente: Beach, Cuba, Feliciano y Pineda (2018)

having a child with ASD; and this did not vary with the severity of the symptoms, as shown in Table 2.

## Discussion

ASD, as such, has a strong family impact at an emotional, economic and cultural level in each of the individuals belonging to the family, although the parents will be, within the family, the most affected by this disorder (Abinader, 2011). The research has an impact on families because it can be observed that the perception of stigma is very low, which leads to think that these parents and families have not experienced difficult situations in which stigma has been present, and it is likely that it is an aspect that health professionals should take into account as well.

These professionals can begin to raise awareness among parents and relatives from the beginning of the diagnosis so that, when they perceive these stigmatizing situations, they can be prepared to cope with it and not let it affect them. Also, it should have an impact at the social level so that society manages and understands the disorder and thus doesn't judge or stigmatize families or individuals with ASD.

Woodgate (2008) states that caregivers would also tend to isolate themselves, especially those who occupy the role of main caregiver, which is usually the subject's mother. This could be due to the general ignorance of society about ASD, which leads parents to experience as their own the stigmatization suffered by their children and isolate themselves to avoid any social interaction in which rejection is manifested. That is why Woodgate argues that the role of society and its awareness is essential for psychological and social well-being of families of people with ASD.

This research determined the stigma perceived by parents or caregivers, that is, the perception that caregivers make about the social environment where they operate, which also involves affective aspects. The perception of stigma found within the results was low, an aspect that can be related to the fact that most individuals with ASD are already receiving both medical and psychological care and in a process that aims to adapt to society. It may be related to the fact that ASD has had a notable increase in recent years, with awareness and education campaigns for this disorder.

Also, it can influence that parents and caregivers have

done a lot of research about the condition, so they know the disorder well and understand that treatments greatly influence the prognosis of the disorder. In this regard, Vargas (2014) described in his study that the parents of people with autism, after knowing the diagnosis, responded with behaviors of acceptance and support, which ignores the perception of impotence and negative impact, but, on the contrary, considered that the diagnosis was related to effort, teaching and dedication. Likewise, López (2013) found that the level of emotional affectation in caregivers was low, since the diagnosis meant fighting for someone they love.

This research could be biased because the sample that was taken is very particular, and it is due to several reasons. The first is that the people who filled out the survey were only the people who had access to the internet, and the people who went to the institutions to receive treatment.

Also, it is biased by the fact that the sample was mostly parents of young children since the average was 6.4 years of age, despite the fact that the range goes from 2 to 39 years, that is, these parents have not been exposed to many factors that can influence the perception of stigma, which may be due to early diagnosis. Some examples could be refusals to schools, their children have not been excluded because they are different, they have not faced learning problems, among others.

## Conclusions

The results obtained through the survey indicate that parents or caregivers of people with ASD considered that other people wouldn't discriminate against them for having a child with ASD, both related to levels of functioning and disruptive behaviors.

These low levels of feelings of stigma could be explained by the fact that these individuals are already receiving treatment and education in an institution. In addition, it can be added that the increase in ASD in recent years has created awareness, education and information campaigns. It is also said that parents have less limited access than before to search for information online and, thus, know the TEA in a complete way.

The results of this research will allow us to know the perceptions of caregivers regarding stigma in Panama, which may serve as a basis for the development of public policies and programs that really meet the needs of this population, mainly in terms of promoting better conditions. life for children and adults with the disorder.

Taking into account that the sampling used was intentional non-probabilistic, the results couldn't be representative of the population under study. Therefore, this research could be biased because the sample that was taken is very particular. More specifically when considering that the people who completed the survey were only people who had access to the internet or who attended institutions to receive treatment.

Also, it is biased by the fact that the sample was mainly the father of young children, since the average was 6.4 years of age despite the fact that the range goes from 2 to 39 years, that is, these parents have not been exposed to many factors that can influence the perception of stigma, which may be due to early diagnosis.

It would remain to corroborate the data obtained through accidental sampling that would allow the inclusion of a greater number of subjects with different realities, which would allow determining the level of internalized stigma in parents or caregivers of people with ASD.

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## CHARLES CHAPLIN: KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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Charles Chaplin, one of the greatest icons of the 20th century. His star character, known all over the globe, his tramp with the air of a dandy, capable of making you laugh out loud and move to tears, hid a perfectionist director without fear of political and social criticism.

He was born in London, England, on April 16, 1889. His father was a versatile vocalist and actor; and her mother, known by the stage name Lily Harley, was an attractive actress and singer, who earned a reputation for her work in the light opera field.



Charlie was forced to resort to his own resources before he was ten years old, as the untimely death of his father and the subsequent illness of his mother made Charlie and his brother, Sydney, have to fend for themselves.

Having inherited the natural talents of their parents, the youngsters took the stage as the best opportunity for a career. Charlie made his professional debut as a member of a youth group called "The Eight Lancashire Lads" and quickly gained popular favor as an outstanding tap dancer. During his life, Chaplin received various awards, recognitions and nominations such as: honorary Oscar, The circus (1928); Prize to the professional trajectory (1971); Best Dramatic Soundtrack, Candilejas (1972); candidate for the



Nobel Peace Prize (1948) and was knighted of the Order of the British Empire (1975). On the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a star with his name was placed (1970). Chaplin died on December 25, 1977 at his Manoir de Ban residence in Consier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland. He was 88 years old and died in his sleep at 4 in the morning. He was buried in the cemetery of the canton of Vaud, although he didn't have the necessary peace. On March 1, 1978, his body was stolen to extort money from his family, although the plan failed. The thieves were captured and his remains were recovered eleven weeks later so that his body was reburied. This time, low, 1.8 meters of concrete! He left a total of 79 films filmed in more than fifty years of activity as an actor and director. In almost all of them he was also the author of the script, and of the dialogue and music in the soundtracks. In addition to those already mentioned, it is worth adding Carmen (1916), according to the novel by Prosper Mérimée; The Vagabond, 1916; A Day's Pleasure, 1919; Pay Day, 1922, and The Pilgrim, 1923, among the most appreciated by critics and celebrated by the public.

Another of Chaplin's outstanding film was released in the United States in 1940 "The Great Dictator" during a time of fear generated by the brutality and cruelty that the Second World War was generating. The message was that, through unity and democratic principles, the oppressed people are capable of rebelling against these destructive forces of humanity.

Chaplin played the character of a Jewish barber who, amnesiac, after a plane crash, becomes Adenoid Hynkel, a fascist dictator (inspired by Adolf Hitler). The dictator begins the persecution of the Jewish people, whom he considers responsible for the crisis situation in the country.

He fulfills humor in history and cinema, observing that his role is not only to entertain, but that laughter is accompanied by critical and reflective thinking.

The viewer becomes an agent that promotes change to live a better world, it stands out as Chaplin was ahead of his time, anticipated what was to happen and from the humor he resisted the engineering and weaknesses of this regime.

Below, you will find three fragments that most caught my attention in the final speech of the film:

- **We don't want to hate or despise anyone. In this world there is room for everyone and the good earth is rich and can feed all beings. The path of life may be free and beautiful, but we have lost it. Greed has poisoned weapons, raised barriers of hatred, pushed us toward misery and slaughter.**

- **In the name of democracy, let us use that power by acting together. Let us fight for a new, dignified and noble world that guarantees men a job, youth a future and security for old age.**

- **Let's all fight to free the world. To break down national barriers, to eliminate ambition, hatred and intolerance. Let's fight for the world of reason. A world where science, progress, leads us all to happiness.**

One of the interesting aspects of the scenes is the ability not to show areas of cruelty and pain typical of cinema that will later be addressed by films referring to World War II, but instead contrasts the situation of war and anguish with the humorous discourse in relation to the political, cultural and social situation of the time.

### Values

Throughout Chaplin's life, even after more than 40 years of absence, through cinema (hidden among comedy) he has been an essential instrument to analyze human life, values and counter-values.

- **Friendship / friendship abuse.**
- **Love liberty.**
- **Compliance with the law / corruption.**
- **Fidelity / infidelity.**
- **Solidarity / lack of solidarity.**
- **Justice / injustice.**
- **Respect for human life / contempt for human life.**

Charles Chaplin could tell stories in the cinema that the theater did not allow him. This is due to the strength and versatility of the images, to the ability

to trick, to superimpose; in short, to deceive, to create the spectacle and the illusion that the filmed image possesses. He so he could convey his messages.

**Let's imitate Charles Chaplin, according to the following ideas:**

### **Build a brand.**

A bowler hat, mustache, cane and hobo clothes were one of the characteristics that created this character, and when you see him, he immediately lets you know who he is. This style, which he used for his famous character Charlot, is one of the most remembered and imitated in the history of cinema. In addition to his physical appearance, he was distinguished by his personality, a kind and caring man who tried to behave with good manners, even if he didn't have them. Since 1914, Chaplin has created a brand of great value that remains to this day.

When creating a brand, we must incur these same elements: A corporate identity that as soon as clients and potential clients once see your logo, they know at once that this is your brand. Our brand is what characterizes us, this is one of the most important points so that there is the possibility of achieving success.

### **Be productive**

In the year in which Chaplin premiered his character Charlot (known as Carlitos in Latin America), he shot 35 short films. Also, from the mid-1910s he directed most of his films, then made his debut as a producer and composer of music and songs in his productions, some of which were later performed by artists such as Michael Jackson.



Chaplin was a very prolific artist who dabbled in other disciplines besides his original.

Chaplin was a very prolific artist who dabbled in other disciplines besides his original.

### **Learn to communicate**

One of the distinguishing characteristics of Chaplin's performance is the exaggeration of gestures and other methods of physical comedy that were based on the mix between mime and the circus clown. Without the use of words or ambient sounds, Chaplin knew how to clearly express his feelings and the situations his characters faced.

One of the main traits that an entrepreneur must have is knowing how to communicate, knowing how to express oneself regardless of the obstacles that are in front of one. It is very important to know the important role of non-verbal language, since they convey the due confidence that potential clients may have.

### **Adapt to changes**

When talkies came along, Chaplin encountered a great difficulty: He was the most famous artist of his time, but the film industry was changing. For this reason, the author began this adaptation with the inclusion of music, composed by him, in his films. In "Modern Times" (1936) it was the first time that his voice was heard and the last appearance of the vagabond, but it was until 1940 when he created the first fully spoken film: "The Great Dictator", which was very controversial for presenting a satire of Nazism in the middle of World War II.

The world is focused on constant changes as time goes by, therefore, companies that are growing must quickly adapt to the environment that surrounds them. It is about surviving as a competitor in the face of all the adversities that we encounter along the way.

### **Dare to undertake**

In 1919, Chaplin founded the United Artists production company with the help of other renowned personalities of the time such as Mary Pickford and Douglas

Fairbanks. By opening his own studio, the comedian achieved what he most desired: financial and creative independence.



By creating his own company, C h a p l i n had full control of his productions, which allowed him to make more films and according solely to his own bylaws. Despite his success as an actor, he wanted something more.

If you have a good business idea, dare and start. You will never know if it is a good idea or not, if you don't take the first step which is to start and seek to be financially independent.

Learning to be brave can only be achieved by jumping into the pool, experiencing the danger of drowning on your skin, and checking that you can defend yourself and get out of the water. *L&E*

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# Agenda Cultural

Por: Mariela de Sanjur  
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## TEATRO

### • Teatro ABA:

- o Noche de trampa 6 y 13 de septiembre.
- o Congelados 2.
- o Mujer Perfecta, La muda"del 5 de agosto al 3 de octubre.
- o Las chicas superpoderosas contra mojo jojo desde el 19 de septiembre.

- **Teatro La Plaza:** Rock of Ages desde el 2 de septiembre.

- **Teatro Pacific:** boletos en <https://teatropacific.net>
  - o Un clic entre 2 del 1 al 10 de septiembre.
  - o Disque Mosqueteros desde el 24 de julio.
  - o Amigos hasta la muerte desde el 17 de septiembre.
  - o Ni tan villanos

### • Teatro La Estación:

- o Enemigos Íntimos: El amor en tiempos de crisis desde el 30 de agosto.
- o Mi esposa la tóxica hasta el 12 de septiembre.

### • Teatro Nacional: boletos [www.verteatro.com](http://www.verteatro.com)

- o Que viva el bolero 4 y 5 de septiembre.
- o Maruja Herrera, una vida en la danza del 21 al 23 de septiembre.
- o 4Photo Lab 2021 del 1 al 14 de septiembre. Inscripción en @photolabpma

- **Teatro En Circulo:** Aprende con el maestro Daniel Gomez Nates todos los sábados desde el 21 de agosto hasta el 11 de diciembre. Taller de teatro, matrícula abierta al 6242-9996

### Cartelera Digital de teatro: boletos [www.verteatro.com](http://www.verteatro.com)

- "El Escritor de Epitafios"
- "Life's begins after a good cup of coffee"
- "Dios las crea y el Diablos las junta.
- "First Dates"
- "La Diva"
- "Cuidado con la Corbata"
- "La Bruja"
- "Dora y Prudencia"
- "A la cama con el ladrón"
- "Catorce"

### Cartelera digital de Teatro Pacific: boletos en <https://teatropacific.net>

- o "Casa en orden"
- o "# Mi Vida Doméstica"
- o "Sin Perdón por los Pecados"
- o "Halloween con Polibanda y Títeres"
- o " Cuenta Cuentos de Navidad"
- o Livestream: " Artistas por Artistas 2021"





## ACTIVIDADES Y FIESTAS VARIAS

- Día de la mujer indígena 5 de septiembre
- Firma de los tratados Torrijos Carter 7 de septiembre 1977
- Rosh Hashaná, el Año Nuevo judío 7 y 8 de septiembre
- Natividad de la Santísima Virgen María 8 de septiembre
- Nuestra Señora Del Prado, Tolé
- Día Internacional de la Alfabetización 8 de septiembre
- Santa María La Antigua 9 de septiembre
- Día Mundial de la Familia 10 de septiembre
- Día Internacional de la Democracia 15 de septiembre
- Iom Kipur, día del perdón el 16 de septiemnbre
- Día internacional de la Prevención de la Capa de Ozono 16 de septiembre
- Día Internacional de la Paz 21 de septiembre
- Día del Alzheimer 21 de septiembre
- Semana del Libro 22 al 29 de septiembre
- Virgen de la Merced, 23 de septiembre
- San Vicente de Paúl , 27de septiembre
- Día Mundial del Turismo, 27 de septiembre
- Fiesta de los Santos Ángeles( San Miguel, San Rafael y San Gabriel), 29 de septiembre
- Día Mundial del Corazón 29 de septiembre
- Día Internacional del Traductor 30 de septiembre. *L&E*



Imagen: <https://arquiocesisisdepanama.org>



Imagen: <https://es.wikipedia.org>



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