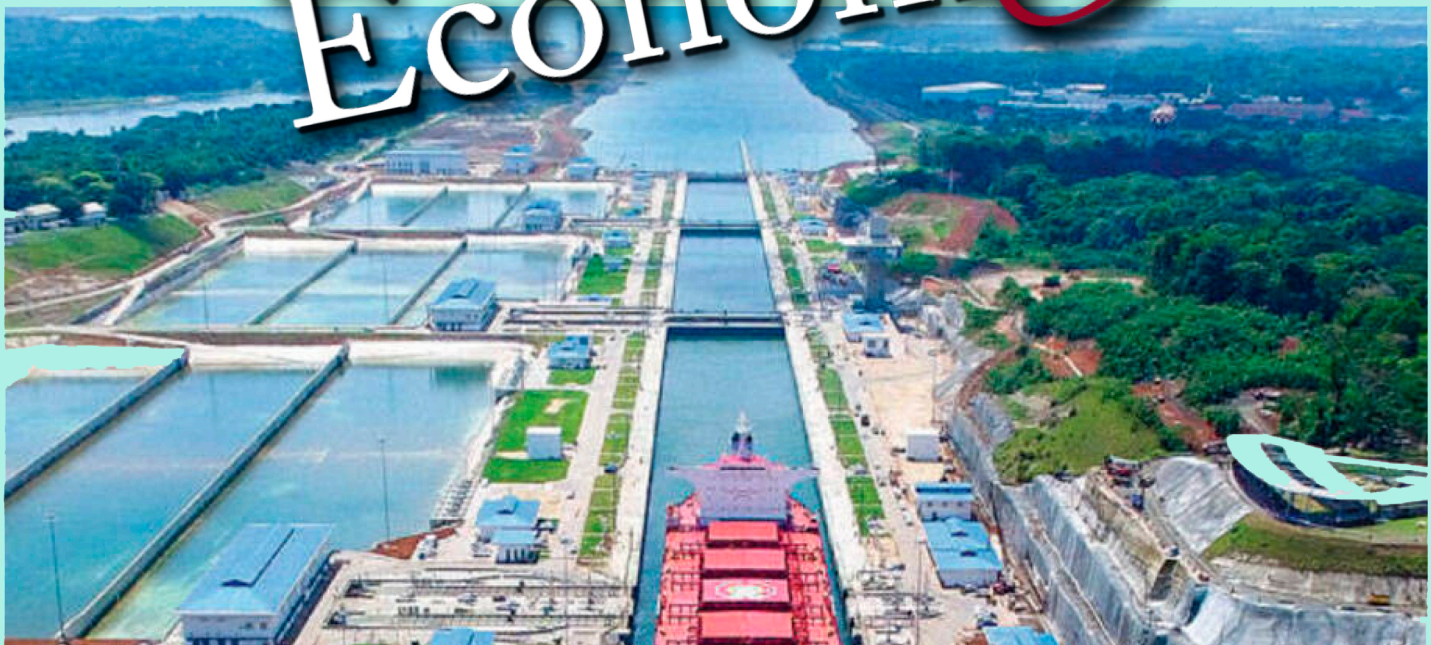
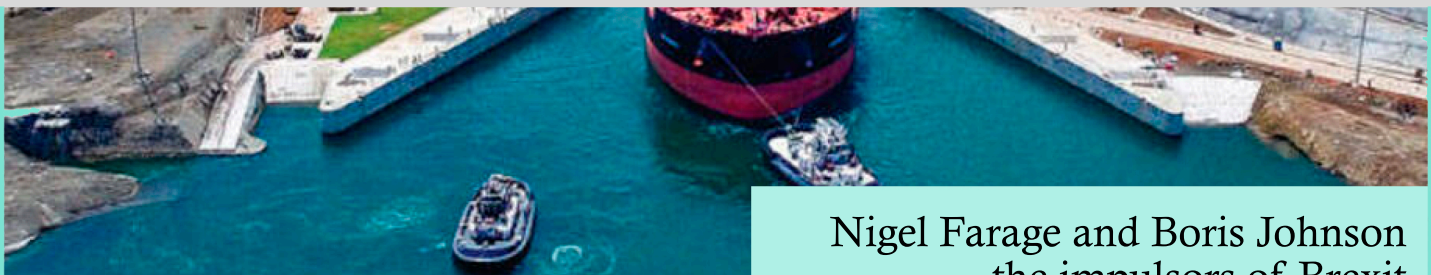


Legislación Economía



COURT VALIDATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOGISTICS AND PORT ACTIVITIES BY THE PANAMA CANAL



Forum: Technical and Professional Training in Panama

Climate and Water crisis: The challenge is everyone

Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson
the impulsors of Brexit

From emerging diseases to bioterrorism: a
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Law 126 is established, which
establishes and regulates teleworking in
our country



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edition**

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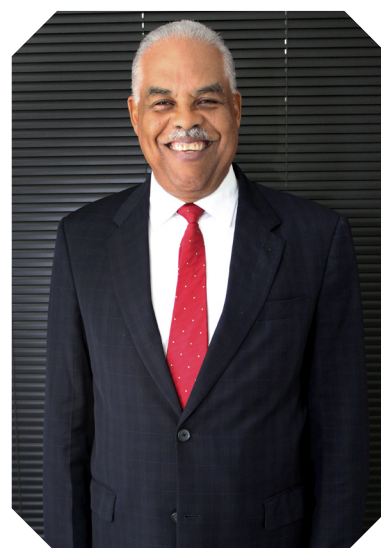
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

FEBRUARY 2020

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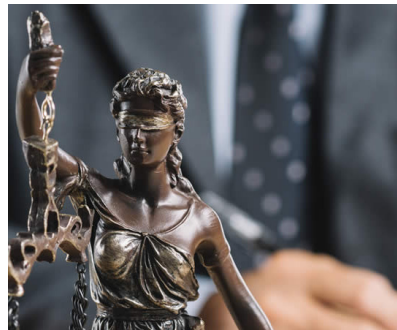
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EXECUTIVE LOOKS TO RELATE A PROJ-
ECT SURGERED 20 YEARS AGO TO
POWER THE TOURISM, CULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT



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Editorial

COURT VALIDATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOGISTICS AND PORT ACTIVITIES BY THE PANAMA CANAL

Recently, a Judgment of March 11, 2019 of the Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice was resolved that resolved Unconstitutional Claims filed against an article of the regulation for the establishment of tolls, fees and rights for the transit of the Canal, particularly as regards which concerns the so-called related services and complementary service activities of the Canal Authority issued in 2014.

The Judgment under examination was adopted unanimously under the Presentation of Judge Efrén Tello and with reasoned votes and explanatory vote of Judges Jerónimo Mejía and Abel Augusto Zamorano, respectively.

In the part that interests readers, the plaintiffs had a constitutional objection that was aimed at nullifying the ACP's power to develop port and logistics activities within those commercial, industrial or service activities that complement the operation of the Canal, because According to the petitioners, these activities were not expressly enshrined in constitutional and legal norms.

The Plenary took into consideration a Judgment of April 5, 2004, under the presentation of Judge Aníbal Salas, who elaborated on the criteria of reasonableness that accompanies the condition of an international public company to successfully fulfill the objective of efficiency in the service it

provides and added that This service must be prepared for the changes and challenges of the world economy, so it is necessary to develop activities complementary to the operation of the interoceanic route that generate value to it, beyond the transit of ships, contributing in this way with economic contributions for the State, and, therefore, with business and work opportunities for Panamanians.

In the Court's opinion, the Panama Canal must not only be considered in terms of its commercial profits with respect to maritime transport, but must also be seen as a nerve center of development, since it has an impact on different supply chains global.

Finally, the Court runs that the diversification of logistics and port businesses will make the route through the Panama Canal more attractive, improve traffic levels and demand for the services that are regularly offered.

This constitutional process had already had a record in a lawsuit before the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, which had declared Legal Agreement 269 of October 30, 2014.

The above demonstrates the viacrucis that the ACP has had in order to cross the long road of promoting the development of many activities that can not only be a source of income for the ACP itself but also add value in favor of the road users and in In particular, Panama can make a logistics and port center attracting foreign investment, technology transfer, arrival of international talent, creation of new careers, activities and therefore, an income spill in terms of supplies of goods and services and, consequently, growth of the national economy.

It is also necessary to denounce a campaign

fostered by those who have become entrenched in port activities and that for many years have extracted national wealth through contractual structures that have proved disastrous for the country, also constituting an assault on public finances who have dedicated themselves to hinder the initiatives of the Panama Canal Authority to venture into other activities that the country urgently needs. We are glad that Mr. Salvatore Bacile Ladaris, a former member of this Law Firm, has been ACP attorney in support of allegations to oppose the claims of the plaintiffs.

In the same order of ideas was done by Luis Ángel Arrocha Romero and the Panamanian Association of Business Executives with excellent arguments to guide the Plenary in this important decision.

Taking into account the Judgment under this scrutiny, we believe that it is now up to the ACP to develop a work plan to comply with the authorization of the highest Panamanian court and thus develop concrete projects with that north.

The ACP Board of Directors has the same responsibility to promote the establishment of port areas and logistics areas that foreign investment has been requiring the country to increase its value and to avoid taking advantage of this kind of paralysis in other jurisdictions that we had during the years of harassment that the ACP has had.

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



THE NEW CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), AND ITS FIGURES TO UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF ITS PROPAGATION

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The new coronavirus officially named as covid-19. It is a respiratory infection that causes symptoms similar to pneumonia. These types of pathogens are the same as those that caused the SARS outbreaks in 2003 and the MERS in 2012.

The recent outbreak of coronavirus is responsible for a new outbreak of pneumonia. Its peculiarity is due to the fact that, given its recent appearance, this coronavirus has a different genome than others, and therefore, it is not yet known how to treat it, that is, until February 2020 there is no antidote.

Experts estimate that to date 80% of cases of coronaviruses are mild. 15% are serious. And only 2% come to qualify as critics. The latter, in addition, would especially affect people with previous pathologies, such as respiratory diseases that directly affect the immune system. In one of its latest statements on the issue, WHO notes that the death rate of Covid-19 is between 2% and 4% in the Wuhan area, and only 0.7% outside it.

Origin:

Although China has not been able to confirm the exact source, it is believed that the possible origin of the virus occurred in a Wuhan market.

Wuhan, colloquially known in summer as the "pot of China" for the high temperatures recorded, is the seventh largest city in the Asian country and number 42 in the world.

It is one of so-called "wet markets" that are very common in Asia.

They are markets where live animals are sold, you can see chickens in the stalls and fish swimming in water tanks. This is because people want to have fresh products. Then, for example, they buy a chicken and the vendor sacrifices it there at the stand, and all the waste is scattered, with poor hygiene and health, which facilitates the spread of

diseases, indicating that it is likely that the virus was transmitted originally from an animal to a human.

Propagation:

Although the virus may have originated in a local market, it is the flow of people entering and leaving Wuhan that caused its rapid spread, aggravated by the increase in traffic of people that occurred for the Chinese New Year in January.

The patient in the United States, for example, had visited Wuhan recently, just like the two people infected in Japan. Also, the Korean patient lived there and the case in Thailand is a Chinese tourist from Wuhan.

Currently, this virus is spreading faster outside of China than within the country. South Korea has the highest number of infections internationally, and Italy in Europe.

Although the vast majority of coronavirus cases remain in China officially reporting 78,000 cases from 82,000 global cases, we speak of 3,500 people diagnosed in other countries.

Until Thursday, February 27, the three largest international outbreaks occurred in: South Korea, with more than 1,500 cases; the more than 700 infected people aboard the British Diamond Princess cruise ship that docked in Yokohama, Japan; and Italy, with 400 confirmed cases.

Brazil announced the first case in Latin America on Wednesday and the first cases in Africa were confirmed in Algeria and Egypt, pending further tests in Nigeria.

In Europe, Austria, Croatia, Greece, Norway, Switzerland, Georgia and North Macedonia also announced their first cases, while in Spain, France and Germany there was an increase in infections.

Prevention and management:

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared

the international health emergency due to the rapid expansion of the new coronavirus. The measure foresees an increase in coordination between all national health networks in the world in order to take greater prevention measures and standardize treatment, quarantine and awareness programs.

The measures that citizens must take are: hand hygiene, cover when coughing or sneezing, avoid contact with people who have flu symptoms and avoid trips to areas at risk such as: China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Iran and four regions of northern Italy.

The health authorities also advise to take precautions regarding food hygiene avoiding the consumption of raw meat and contact with wild or street animals. Experts remember that people who show any suspicious symptoms and who have also recently traveled to a risk area where the presence of this outbreak has been detected or have been in contact with infected people can request medical attention.

For now there is no treatment or cure for Covid-19. In the case of infected people, it acts to minimize the symptoms caused by the virus with paracetamol or ibuprofen and hydration in mild cases. In severe cases, hemodynamic and/or respiratory support is performed.

For now, the best cure is to isolate infected individuals and the best prevention is to reduce contact between people at higher risk sites. *L&E*

Invited Writer

FORUM: TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN PANAMA

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On February 12, within the framework of activities to commemorate the fourteen years of the foundation of the National Institute for Vocational Training and Training for Human Development (INADEH), the forum, Technical and Vocational Training in Panama, was held. The Minister of Labor and Labor Development, Doris Zapata, Moisés Véliz Arosemena, General Director of INADEH, Fernando Vargas Zúñiga, Senior Specialist of the ILO / CINTERFOR, Bibiam A. Díaz B., Education Specialist of the Vice Presidency of Sustainable Development of the CAF, Dacil Acevedo, former president of COSPAE, Elberto Cobos, secretary of Education of the CNTP, Juan Planells, magnificent rector of the USMA and Felipe Ariel Rodríguez, president of the Competitiveness Center of the Western Region of Panama.

The director general said that INADEH is an institution of the State, with legal status and its own assets, which within its objectives is to train and seek

development of its trainers. They have 23 training centers in the country, three farms and mobile INADEH and that are committed to the vision of Institution which is to "lead and develop in cooperation with civil society and productive sectors, a professional training system optimal for quality of its management and training products, with recognition of its users and for benefit of the human resources required by labor market, thus promoting and expanding a national culture of education for life and work".

He added that they are aligned with the State's action plan, to reaffirm the training strategy aimed at improving the technical and professional training of human talent, permanently training the country's human resources, in order to contribute to the reduction of poverty, inequality and the creation of sources of employment for trained personnel.

For her part, Minister Doris Zapata Acevedo recalled that INADEH was born as a nationalist dream of building the expansion of the Panama Canal with Panamanian labor and it turned out that 94% of the labor in the Canal was Panamanian of the 40,000 thousand jobs that were generated. He argued that with training and education the most ambitious dreams of each of the citizens can be achieved and that they help the economic growth of the country. INADEH changes people's lives by giving them hope. He argued that **"young people are being prepared to respond to the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution, we are targeting works such as Metro Line 3, the fourth bridge over the Panama Canal, the fourth line of electric transmission, the entry of cars electrical, the proliferation of the use of solar panels, the production of drinking water, food safety", along with "soft skills training" to guide training.**

In turn, Fernando Vargas Zúñiga, senior specialist of the ILO / CINTERFOR, explained that the educational offer faces several challenges, such as the speed with which changes occur, there is a digital acceleration that translates into rapid changes in performance of things, such as from the first Intel processor to what you have now. In his opinion, employment has changed and it is time for a reinvestment in professional training.

The fourth industrial revolution is a thing of the past, since it is facing the fifth industrial revolution; However, the avalanche of changes helps us develop skills. Another challenge, the adult population, is estimated that by 2050 the population over 65 will be approximately 250 million. Reason why, we must take advantage of young people today and that is only done with education.

He indicated that Latin America is below the average level of education, that there must be a change, companies should be considered as a place of learning at work.

He shared that, in activities such as construction, hotel and mining, some countries have implemented the **"professional training itinerary throughout life"**, that is, that the person enters a position and during

his career in the company goes forming and acquiring competencies that qualify him to be promoted until he retires from the company. We are all subject to change.

Bibiam Díaz of the CAF said that in Panama access to education has been increasing, but that the myth is access to pre-kindergarten, that half of the young people of high school age are out of school. In his opinion, basic skills must be developed, since most 15-year-olds don't reach basic skills, the level of performance is low in math and reading.

Youth performance is related to education and Panamanian students are less academically resilient than the rest of the region. The education offered to young people should be adapted to their expectations and interests, since if they complete their education, the chances of obtaining formal employment and job training opportunities are reduced.

He referred to youth unemployment rate, which has been increasing by almost 3 points since 2015, receiving little relevant education deepens skills gap. Young people need to acquire skills and competences demanded by labor market. He believes that Panama has to make an effort in investment, but we must also see how it is invested, since Poland and Portugal invest same as Panama, but with better results.

It was emphatic in pointing out that the improvement of the quality and relevance of the educational offer for employment and entrepreneurship must continue, depending on the demand of the producer sector in Panama, to expand opportunities, anticipate the demand for labor skills, studies of technological and occupational perspective, renewal of dual training, implementation of a continuous training system, indicators of performance of services and monitoring of graduates must be done and social dialogue should be encouraged.

The second part of the Forum begins with the Vocational Training Panel: New Trends and Perspectives, with the participation of Dacil Acevedo, Elberto Cobos and Juan Planells, who was the first Director of INADEH, referred to the fact that the Institution should be depoliticized, narrating its experience as a director and that the Law created by INADEH is not respected, noting that the position of director is for 7 years and at each change of government a new director is appointed, without taking into account the provisions of the standard.

For his part, Dacil Acevedo is of the criterion that the leadership that INADEH has, implies real autonomy, in addition to the fact that both the public and private sectors are aligned with the objectives, socio-emotional activities must be developed. In his opportunity, Elberto Cobos commented that the country needs to create a culture that formalizes learning, that reengineering must be done, not only of the trainers but also of the conditions in which the courses are offered, you must work according to an agenda State that transcends the periods of government and with a stability that allows instructors to perform without concern, that we must have confidence and that the workers sector is willing to trust all social actors, especially the employer sector to achieve A better educational offer.

Nationals agree that INADEH must have all the support of the government to conduct training in the country and that it should focus on said Institution, which should be away from the political ups and downs, requires a State policy that allows them to continue to the projects, but above all that education must be relevant and oriented to the changes and needs of companies. *L&E*

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Norms of INTEREST

TELEWORKING



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On February 18, Law 126, which establishes and regulates teleworking in our country and modifies article 151 of the Labor Code, was passed.

Law 126 provides that the modality of teleworking consists in the provision of subordinate services, without physical presence in the workplace or public entity, through computer, telecommunications and similar means, through which, in turn, it exercises the control and supervision of labor.

Indicates the rule, which corresponds to the parties at the beginning of the employment relationship or later, through an addendum to the employment contract, agree that the worker will provide their services through the teleworking method, which may be partial or complete.

When the employment relationship has started in person, the worker may freely reject or accept the transformation to the teleworking modality and the worker's

rejection will not be grounds for dismissal.

On the other hand, the employer will have the ability to require the worker to return to face-to-face work. In this case, you must give the teleworker a notice in accordance with what is agreed in the employment contract or its addendum.

With regard to the telework contract, it has been established that it will be in writing and signed in three copies, one for each party, and these must be digitally or analogously sealed by the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development.

Law 126 establishes the figure of **"guard work"**, also known as **"on call"**, which must have the acceptance of the worker and the employer must meet certain requirements, so that it can be implemented.

On the other hand, article 9 of the Law establishes that the worker will have the right to recognition for an accident at work, for the purposes of social

security, when this occurs during the transfer and the face-to-face execution of guard work in the facilities or dependency of the employer.

Under this modality, the parties by mutual agreement will establish the expenses that the employer will subsidize and said expenses will not be considered as salary for the purposes of calculating work benefits.

Another aspect to mention is that the employer must provide the worker with training related to the management of the equipment used to provide services as a teleworker and occupational hazards that may have.

The teleworker shall have all the rights and obligations inherent to the worker established in the Labor Code, as well as the right to the recognition by the Social Security Fund of professional risks occurred during the provision of the service in the form of teleworking, provided that the teleworker suffers any illness due to work done for the employer during the term of the employment relationship.

Within this context, the employer will make available to the teleworker a manual of good environmental practices and general and family socialization in teleworking and will ensure that the worker knows what is established in these documents.

As provided in article 18, the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development will promote the creation of a National Teleworking Network that includes private companies, universities, the public sector and social organizations, to encourage national and regional cooperation around exchange of learning, research and good practices.

Finally, article 151 of the Code is modified, in

the sense of introducing numeral 2 that allows worker's salary to be paid by bank transfer, provided that worker has possibility of using his own bank account and cost of service is paid by the employer. However, in places where there is no ATM, payment must be made in cash or by check. In this regard, we want to point out that, although the figure of teleworking is created that may be attractive to the parties and that puts us in line with other, perhaps more advanced, legislation, we cannot ignore the fact that Law 126 itself refers to the Labor Code that dates from 1971 and was created under conditions and circumstances prevailing at that time, which continues to prevail in labor relations.

The years have passed and the need to adapt labor legislation to current times is evident, the world of work is changing, but paradoxically these rules do not change as quickly, to say the least.

So, we are facing a new modality of work, which will be regulated by a Labor Code that is not in line with the evolution of work, with standards regarding Occupational Risks, Occupational Health and Safety and Occupational Accidents that are not adjusted to the modality of teleworking, what had to be done in an integral way and to fit the criteria and concepts.

The modality of teleworking arises with the purpose of generating a greater number of jobs, we hope that the objectives set will be achieved and teleworking will contribute to the creation of jobs especially for young people.

We believe it is a very positive initiative for both employers and workers. We hope that the necessary adjustments will be made promptly in the relevant standards so that proper compatibility is given. *L&E*

APRUEBAN ACUERDO REGIONAL SOBRE ACCESO A LA INFORMACIÓN EN ASUNTOS AMBIENTALES EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

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In recent days, Law 125 of February 4, 2020 was passed, which approves the Regional Agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Regional Agreement aims to guarantee full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the rights to access environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making processes and access to justice in environmental matters, as well as the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation, contributing to the protection of the right of each person, of present and future generations, to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development.

The Agreement develops topics such as principles, general provisions, access to environmental information, the generation and dissemination of

environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making processes, access to justice in environmental matters, advocates for human rights in environmental matters, capacity building, cooperation, information exchange center, national implementation, necessary contribution fund, conference of the parties, the right to vote, the implementation and compliance support committee, the dispute settlement, enforcement, reservation, complaint and depositary.

The countries that are part of this Agreement are Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina, Bahamas, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Granada, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. *L&E*

INCENTIVES TO TOURISM PROMOTION MODIFIED

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With the approval of Executive Decree No. 73 of February 6, 2020, Executive Decree No. 35 of June 12, 2019, which establishes incentives for the promotion of tourism for passenger transport ships whose Base Port is the territory in Panama.

The incentive consists in the reimbursement of the payment of the toll corresponding to the transit through the channel of the cruise, according to the ACP rate and according to the fulfillment of certain conditions, for example, if the operation is carried out during 2020 and that the cruise check that 80% of passengers embarked are international, one hundred percent (100%) of reimbursement of the toll payment will be recognized. The recognition of the reimbursement is calculated a percentage that will depend on the year in which it is made. Before the reform, the Decree was not conditioned.

Similarly, article 1-A was introduced, which provides that the ICIM will promote, with the cruise lines, the provision and supply of national industrial or agroindustrial products according to their needs with a view to encouraging the logistics cycle from National production

Another article introduced is 1-B that, to be a creditor of the reimbursement, the cruise line must inform the Tourism Authority of its decision to establish its Base Port in Panama and attach the documents that prove it.

Finally, the incentive will be implemented for cruise lines that comply with the provisions and whose transits are made between January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2024, before the reform began to be implemented in the second half of 2020. *L&E*



USE OF ELECTRONIC MEANS FOR GOVERNMENTAL PROCEDURES

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By means of Executive Decree No. 306 of February 3, 2020, articles of Executive Decree No. 719 of 2013 are modified, which regulates Law 83 of 2012 that regulates the use of electronic means for government procedures and modifies Law 65 of 2009 which creates the National Authority for Government Innovation.

The decree in comment modifies article 4 that contains the glossary, in the sense of extending the term of Administrator of the State Electronic Payment Gateway, since the state word was included and it is said that it

corresponds to the entity in charge of ensuring the smooth operation and administration of the platform, who for the purposes will be the National Authority for Innovation.

Another modification falls on article 28, which provides that all state entities and companies linked to the scope of Law 83 of 2012 must join the State Electronic Payment Gateway, according to the schedule established by the National Authority to the innovation. Before the reform membership was optional. *L&T*

UNIT OF PROJECTS AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS

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The Ministry of Housing issued Resolution No. 48^a-2020 of January 31, 2020, created the Public Projects and Contracts Unit, which will coordinate and ensure the full compliance of the housing projects and guarantee the strict observance of the policies, guidelines and guidelines established in the Law on

Public Procurement in all public events that occur in the Ministry of Housing and Land Management, aimed at ensuring the best conditions for the State, based on the principles of efficiency, publicity, responsibility, effectiveness , economy, transparency, impartiality, due process, equality of proponents and honesty. *L&E*

Consult Doctrine & JURISPRUDENCE

EXECUTIVE LOOKS TO RELATE A PROJECT SURGERED 20 YEARS AGO TO POWER THE TOURISM, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

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This is project called: **Tourism-Conservation-Research (TCI), a model that proposes sustainable development based on natural and cultural heritage.** Its creator is Dr. Hana Ayala, who is currently founder of the Pangea World Corporation, this agency has had the collaboration of the highest levels of the scientific community, international organizations, political and diplomatic personalities.

Implementing its environmental, landscape and social training, with the aim of developing an economic development model "Tourism for conservation through research", a hallmark that distinguishes her work, Dr. Ayala, begins a preliminary romance with Panama, which, although short, was very significant. Panama being its first country to adopt the TCR Approach.

The model we referred to was approved by Executive Decree No. 327 of November 30, 1998, presented in Washington, and applauded by internationally renowned groups, such as the Smithsonian and

the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the World Bank , among others.

An analysis carried out by UNESCO defines this model as an economic development plan for nations of Pacific island region, offering these nations opportunity to maximize their potential, to value and protect asset that makes unique these regions.

During the years 1998-2000, Dr. Hana Ayala worked at the Panamanian Tourism Institute, and managed to establish and leave structured 23 heritage routes that cross the country from north to south and from east to west, through what she called data- banks, information about national parks, marine reserves or monumental complexes that keep biological, cultural or historical knowledge, which generates interest from a new type of tourist who rejects the offer of sun and beach, in favor of substantial information. It also leaves an attractive network of hotels located in or near the heritage routes (Coronado,

Penonomé, Gamboa, El Valle), which would not only function as comfortable places for this tourist with new interests, but also that their owners were committed to be guardians of those natural parks or monuments that were close to your hotel.

This completes a third essential element of the TCI, which is business leadership, which should bring to fruition this new market model. This Development Plan was promoted outside of Panama and was very well done, to the point that it became much better known outside the country than inside. In fact, Dr. Ayala, recognizes that the weak promotion that was made to the plan within Panama was a strategy error, since it was thought that the TCI was a tourist model and part of the problem was that its promotion was very little and there were no results.

It was also due to the fact that she was hired by the government of President Pérez Balladares to develop a structuring framework and not to implement the plan and that after being structured, the following *arnulfista* government considered that she no longer needed the services of her creator.

Ayala points out that his favorite place is still Panama, its reasons the same as always: its wealth of wealth, its small and manageable size and the presence of a world-class scientific entity such as the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, make it the ideal place and the best country to apply the TCI.

One of the people who supported her in Panama was Ira Rubinoff, director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and who believes that Panama can benefit from this development model, because it has the concept that Panama's unique geography conditions this nation, to To be a world leader in tropical science, which although it may take time

to implement the TCI, Panama can't only, but also needs to do so to respond in an organized way to tourism demand and take advantage of its resources. Taking into account, the project promoted about 20 years ago and with the purpose of promoting natural and cultural heritage, in order to boost the growth of tourism, the national government, offered its support to relaunch this project, so the President of the Republic, Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, received in recent days Dr. Hana Ayala, since she considers that the TCI project is aligned with her government proposal and recognizes that the prestige of the model and the trajectory of Ayala would help give Panama the place that deserves internationally in the conservation and investigation of our heritage and cultural route as a tourist destination, which is key to the transformation of the country, and that contributes to social, economic and educational development. This initiative has that of the Tourism Authority (ATP) and the Ministry of Environment.

The TCI is a new concept and may take time to mature, but the natural resources are already there, and in order to achieve the willingness to invest in this innovative plan an additional stimulus is needed.

Dr. Ayala's idea is still valid and ideally designed for the history, geography and scientific resources of the Isthmus. Properly managed, these should make Panama the ideal destination for knowledge tourism.

It is valid to point out that the TCR has been the object of laudatory articles in the Popular and Specialized Press, in addition to other media, including international hotels and magazines such as: Scientific American Magazine, Condé Nast Traveler (United Kingdom), La Prensa Martes Financiero (Panama), The Salon and Civilization Magazine and the Library of Congress Magazine. *L&E*

Politics



THE PEOPLE ARE THE ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNORS THAT CHOSE

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One of the rights and obligations of a people in a democratic system of government, is to choose their rulers, whose purpose is, among others, to seek the common good of their nationals, application of justice, Respect for human dignity, peaceful coexistence, promotion of virtues and values, strengthening of homes and well-being for their governed in health, food, employment, education, security and others, as well as surrounding themselves with men full and competent and not of inept men.

The elections where people intervene are the means where the rulers are elected. Duly constituted political parties or groups symbolize the different ways of understanding society and addressing the difficulties that must be resolved. When democratic elections are held, each political party draws up a plan that presents its proposals for government and selects a candidate willing to be the

manager of the execution of these proposals from the government during the period that administers government management.

The rulers elected by their people are representatives of it and are supervised by the people as they observe their performance in the exercise of their presidential mandate and if the presidents don't comply with the program and the promises for which they elected them, hardly he or political organization to which it belongs will give their vote again.

Hence the importance of electing good rulers and the need to have electoral awareness, previously thinking carefully so that citizens, when exercising their right to vote in electoral elections, don't choose bad candidates with poor preparation, inept, as well as their moral, ethical and spiritual weaknesses, which constitute a great evil for any nation, as well as those that

have been related to corruption situations that have so much affected education, health, youth and development in country general.

Voting in an election represents a great responsibility and even more, choosing the best candidate, the one that is characterized by being the most honest and not corrupt demonstrated with facts during the exercise of his political function, that has academic studies, that offer years of experience, with practical knowledge of the official task and its particularities to assume such an important position, since a candidate who has these characteristics would contribute with a correct decision making that favors the country. The opposite would be a serious mistake.

Therefore, vote for a candidate who **DOESN'T have the best virtue that a good politician should have, which is not being corrupt, and who is also willing to head a government that precisely combats corruption, that has the will and the required preparation to govern successfully you will achieve excellent administration.**

The citizen, we reiterate, shouldn't then support, through suffrage, a candidate who doesn't have intelligence or due experience, because an aspirant to govern without these characteristics will most likely be a real disaster and a failure for entire country.

It would also be disastrous for the interests of the country to support some beginner or apprentice ruler who has not been tested or faced with the temptations that cause corruption in the exercise of a public office. Improvised rulers are short-sighted and cause disagreements, disappointment and widespread malaise.

All of the above requires the realization of a deep awareness campaign throughout the country, so that society and its constituents reflect and vote for the best candidate and their government

programs that they wish to implement once they assume their functions as ruler, knowing, reading, reviewing their plans and proposals submitted by the candidates, with the purpose that the voter has the guarantee of knowing that at the moment they cast their vote they do so for their projects and proposals, not allowing their vote to be purchased in exchange for money, benefits and needs that voters have, because so the voters would fall into clientelist practices, thus helping to choose a bad candidate, who in passing would surely get to do illegal things, thus condemning the development and progress that the country needs so much.

Therefore, citizens must be worthy people when depositing and exercising the democratic right to vote making the best use of our immense political power, because after all what we are deciding is our own future and that of the next generations to which they belong. It is imperative to determine the presence or absence of the required qualities, talent and proven skills of the candidate to choose, to avoid falling into states of discouragement, isolation, underdevelopment, suffering economic, social, cultural and environmental results of poor administration and incompetent rulers.

To reflect deeply so as not to be mistaken, to choose the best president and not any candidate, taking into account that he will have enough power to change the direction of his country in a positive or negative way, guaranteeing, before electing him, that he will be the person correct for the position, the best among those who compete, looking for politicians who can negotiate with transparency for the welfare of their country and not for their own benefit.

It is then worth asking who is responsible for the elected rulers? If the ruler we chose should become an extraordinary president, surely everyone would boast of having voted

for him. If, on the contrary, it turns out to be a corrupt, negligent and inept in the performance of his important governmental position, surely few would reveal his vote for him.

Not infrequently and unfortunately we choose the mediocre or the most incapable as a result of an irresponsible and opportunist electorate, which is sold to the highest bidder, betraying their conscience in exchange for gifts, material goods, influence peddling, as well as government positions and favors, thus participating in a lousy government to the detriment of democracy.

On the other hand, mediocre and incapable candidates will be able to achieve their objectives to the extent that an irresponsible electorate leans for abstentionism, thus allowing incompetent and corrupt candidates to triumph over the most qualified and honest, thus reducing the so-called conscious vote.

We must not forget that the incentive for greater participation of voters in the electoral elections will make us more supportive of all citizens and more open to recognizing the legitimacy of the representative institutions and elected governors. It is everyone's responsibility without exception.

In such a way that the sole responsibility of electing its rulers rests exclusively with the electorate of each people. And when exercising that right to choose, he will decide to choose a good or bad president who will watch over the future of the country or not. Hence we echo what the famous British statesman, former Prime Minister Winston Churchill, said: "Every people has the rulers they deserve" and the responsibility of their choice is totally ours. *ℒ&ℰ*



Panamanian ECONOMY

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) JANUARY 2020

Source: CGRP

The groups that presented an increase in the National Urban CPI of January 2020, compared to December 2019 were: Housing, water, electricity and gas with 0.6%; Transportation with 0.5%; Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, Education and various goods and services all with 0.3%; Health and Restaurants and hotels both with 0.1%.

Housing, water, electricity and gas group showed rise in three of its eight classes. The class with the greatest variation was "Services for the conservation and repair of housing." with 2.8%, due to the increase in the price of home repair services.

The increase observed in the Transportation group was due to the rise in four of its seven classes.

Greatest variations were in the classes "Fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment" with 2.0%, due to the increase in the price of automobile fuel, and "Other services related to transport equipment" with 1.9%, due to the increase in The price of car rental.

The Alcoholic beverages and tobacco group reflected an increase in its four classes. The classes with greatest variations were "Distilled

beverages" and "Wine" both with 0.4%.

Increase registered in the Education group was the result of the rise in one of its four classes, "Higher Education (tertiary)" with 1.0%.

The ascent presented in the Miscellaneous goods and services group was due to the increase in three of its ten classes.

Greatest variation was in the class "Other devices, articles and products for personal attention" with 0.7%, due to the rise in the price of beauty items.

The Health group reflected an increase in two of its seven classes, "Pharmaceuticals" with 0.3%, due to the rise in the price of medicines, and "Other medical products" with 0.2%.

Increase reflected in the Restaurants and hotels group was due to the increase in one of its two classes, "Restaurants, cafes and similar establishments" with 0.1%, due to increase in the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages outside home.

The Furniture, household items and for ordinary household conservation,

Communications, and Recreation and culture groups remained unchanged.

Groups with negative variations were: Food and non-alcoholic beverages with 0.2%, and clothing and footwear with 0.1%. The decrease registered in the Food and non-alcoholic drinks group was due to the decline in five of its eleven classes.

The greatest variation was in the “Fruits” class with 3.1%.

Decrease observed in the Garments and footwear group was due to the decrease in one of its four classes, “Shoes and other footwear” with 0.4%, due to the reduction in the price of men’s shoes, slippers and flip flops.

- The National Urban CPI of January 2020

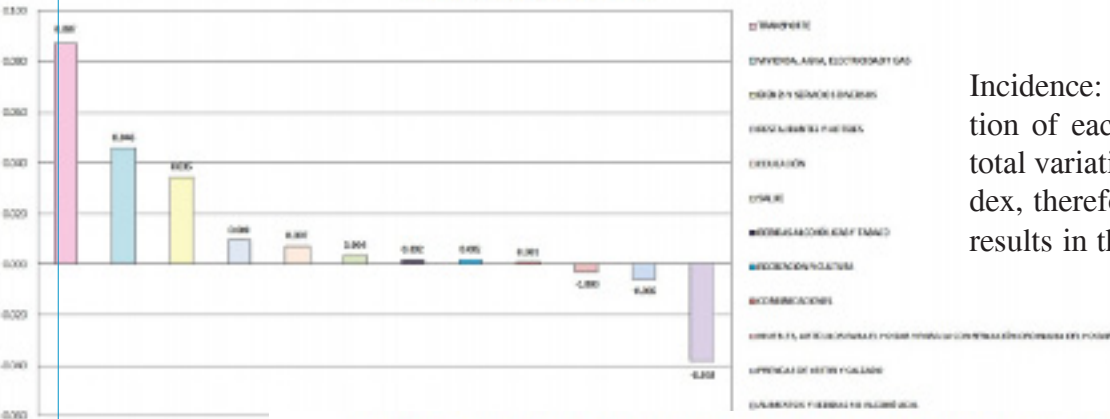
with respect to its similar of 2019 reflected a variation of 0.4%.

When comparing the National Urban CPI of January 2020, with its similar of 2019, following increases were observed: Transportation 2.6%; Housing, water, electricity and gas 1.6%; Education 1.3%; Alcoholic beverages and tobacco 1.2%; Restaurants and hotels 1.1%; Health 0.7%; and Miscellaneous goods and services 0.1%.

The groups that presented decreases were: Furniture, household items and for ordinary household conservation 1.3%; Communications 1.0%; Recreation and culture 0.8%; Clothing and footwear 0.6%; and Food and non-alcoholic beverages 0.5%.

Below, graph with the monthly incidence by group of the National Urban CPI of January 2020:

Gráfica 1. INCIDENCIA MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO: ENERO DE 2020



Incidence: Corresponds to the contribution of each group with respect to the total variation of the National Urban Index, therefore, the sum of the incidents results in the variation of the index.

CUADRO 1. INCIDENCIA Y VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL MENSUAL DEL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR NACIONAL URBANO, SEGÚN GRUPO DE ARTÍCULOS Y SERVICIOS: ENERO DE 2020
BASE 2013=100

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Ponderaciones	Incidencia	Variación mensual
TOTAL	100.0	0.1	0.1
Alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas	22.4	-0.038	-0.2
Bebidas alcohólicas y tabaco	0.7	0.002	0.3
Prendas de vestir y calzado	7.7	-0.006	-0.1
Vivienda, agua, electricidad y gas	8.5	0.046	0.6
Muebles, artículos para el hogar y para la conservación ordinaria del hogar	7.8	-0.003	0.0
Salud	3.4	0.004	0.1
Transporte	16.8	0.087	0.5
Comunicaciones	4.3	0.001	0.0
Recreación y cultura	9.7	0.002	0.0
Educación	2.4	0.007	0.3
Restaurantes y hoteles	6.7	0.009	0.1
Bienes y servicios diversos	9.8	0.035	0.3

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

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) PROVIDES THAT PANAMA'S GROSS INTERNAL PRODUCT (GDP) WILL GROW 4.8%

Source: IMF

After a temporary slowdown in 2018-19, the economy points to a recovery in 2020 and will continue to be among the most dynamic in Latin America. The outlook is positive; However, the authorities must be aware of the risks to growth from internal and external factors. The strategy of the new government must aim to preserve Panama's competitive advantage as an attractive destination for business and at the same time focus on social priorities to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

With this objective in mind, Panama needs to invigorate its productivity and competitiveness, as well as improve its social results. Leaving the FATF gray list by strengthening anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing (AML / CFT) policies, as well as improving tax transparency will be fundamental

actions for Panama to maintain Your site as a regional financial center. It will also be increasingly important to strengthen fiscal discipline in the face of greater debt and lower revenues in order to guarantee both the sustainability of public debt and the credibility of fiscal policy.

Given the importance of the financial system in the Panamanian economy, the authorities must continue to strengthen systemic risk assessment, risk-based supervision and implement robust frameworks for macroprudential policy and crisis management. Finally, given a scenario of growing demand for water and climate volatility, Panama needs to prioritize efficient resource management.

The economy is picking up after a temporary

slowdown

- **Weakest activity in 2019.** Real GDP grew by around 3 percent in first three quarters of 2019 (compared to the previous year) amid the weakening of the construction and services sectors, and after a slowdown in 2018 caused by a strike in the industry of the construction. However, there are indicators that the economy has begun to recover in the last quarter, given that a new copper mine has started its large-scale commercial production and the 2019 growth is estimated to be 3.5 percent (compared to 2018). The unemployment rate increased to 7.1 percent in August 2019 from the 6 percent of the previous year, reflecting lower economic dynamism.

- **Inflation below zero.** CPI inflation remained steadily weak throughout 2019 and remained below zero for most of the year, closing at -0.1 percent compared to the previous year and averaging -0.4 percent.

- **Stable fiscal deficit.** The general deficit of the non-financial public sector (SPNF) reached 3.1 percent of GDP in 2019 (against 3.2 percent of GDP in 2018) due to lower revenue collection and an accelerated execution of expenditure by the outgoing administration, which required an adjustment of spending in the second half of 2019. The fiscal deficit for 2019 was below the 3½ percent limit established in the amended tax and social responsibility law (LRFS). However, the relatively high deficit added to pre-financing operations and the payment of accumulated arrears for an amount that exceeds 2 percent of GDP, led to an increase in the debt burden of the Panamanian Central Administration to approximately 46 percent of GDP at the end of 2019, although the net figure is close to 40 percent.

- **Improvement in external position.** The current account deficit was reduced to an estimated 6.6 percent of GDP in 2019 (against 8.2 percent of GDP

in 2018) thanks to increasing copper exports and continued to be financed mainly through direct foreign investment.

The outlook is positive, but the balance of risks is tilted down

- **Growth will recover and Panama will continue to be among the most dynamic economies in Latin America.** Production growth is projected to recover at 4.8 percent in 2020, supported by large-scale copper production and robust private investment. Growth in the medium term is expected to stabilize at its potential annual rate of 5 percent. Inflation is also expected to increase up to 1 percent in 2020 (compared to the previous year) thanks to the acceleration of economic activity and stabilize in an increase of 2 percent (in annual terms) in the medium term. Meanwhile, the external position is projected to improve continuously and to reduce the current account deficit to 5 percent of GDP by 2023. The fiscal balance is also expected to improve gradually – in accordance with the modified tax rule – and that the SPNF deficit reaches 2 percent of GDP by 2022.

• The balance of risks has a downward inclination.

The main internal risks for growth are related to setbacks to leave the FATF gray list and not to exceed the ceiling of the deficit according to the LRFS. These risks could expose Panama to reputational damage and thereby reduce its competitiveness and wear down the political credibility of the new government. The continued oversupply in the local real estate market could negatively affect financial stability and the real economy if there were a correction in prices and the overdue portfolio increased. Social tensions could disrupt economic activity and cause a stumble in public policies. On the positive side, copper exports could be more important than expected. Among the external risks, the most relevant are a slowdown in

the activity of the Canal, a weaker global growth than expected, greater commercial tensions, the spread of the coronavirus and an erosion in competitiveness due to the appreciation of the US dollar. Other risks include a strong tightening of financial conditions globally that would lead to an increase in domestic interest rates, which in turn would raise the costs of debt repayment and refinancing. Cyber attacks could cause major alterations to the digital infrastructure and weather phenomena related to climate change could negatively affect Canal activity, agriculture and tourism.

It is necessary to improve the fiscal framework to maintain budgetary discipline in the face of increased debt

- **A gradual fiscal consolidation is necessary.**

To this end, the government modified once again the ceiling of the deficit stipulated in the fiscal responsibility law, to bring it to 3½ percent of GDP in 2019 - which was achieved - followed by a gradual adjustment to 2 percent of GDP to 2022, which seems appropriate. It is imperative to maintain consolidation efforts to ensure debt sustainability, especially in light of the recent increase in public debt levels driven by a high deficit, pre-financing operations and loans that were necessary to pay the bills. past due loans that weren't previously registered.

- **A thorough assessment of the income potential and the efficiency of spending is required.**

It is essential to carry out the reform of the tax and customs administrations, attend to social needs and improve the efficiency of public spending to maintain growth in the absence of income. In addition to improving the capacity of the tax and customs administrations, measures are required to review the complex tax exemption scheme granted by Panama that significantly erodes the tax base. With regard to

spending, in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, it will be crucial to realign current spending with social needs – which contemplates greater investment in education – as well as improving the efficiency of social spending. From now on, it will be necessary to carefully evaluate and prioritize capital expenditure projects, including those executed through recently established PPPs. At the same time, the pension system must undergo a gradual reform that allows better alignment of incoming contributions with expected payments in light of the demographic changes that occur.

- **Measures must be taken to further strengthen the fiscal framework.**

The authorities must recover their record of fiscal discipline enabled by the fiscal responsibility law by improving the fiscal framework and a firm commitment to formulate robust fiscal policies. This would involve appointing members of the fiscal council to further encourage accountability and facilitate informed public debate about fiscal policy. In addition, the new administration should consider adopting a structural rule in the medium term to create fiscal cushions that can be resorted to in case of economic setbacks, with the aim of making fiscal policy less procyclical and, therefore, a tool of more effective macroeconomic stabilization. Finally, the authorities should strengthen the rules of budgetary execution to avoid delays in payments again and, at the same time, also strengthen the registration of fiscal accounts by limiting turnkey projects and deferred payment contracts in public investment projects.

Financial integrity and tax transparency frameworks must be improved

- **Leaving the FATF gray list must remain a priority.**

To take advantage of the recent legislative activity, the authorities must continue to address the deficiencies in Panama's AML / CFT regulatory framework identified

by the FATF. As a specific task, the authorities should update the national risk assessment and AML / CFT strategy, also update the recently created record of information on final beneficiaries of companies, and take legal action in cases of money laundering and remittance houses without license. It will be key to update the legal framework and ensure its effectiveness in strengthening Panama's position as a regional financial center. We welcome ongoing efforts to raise public awareness about money laundering and other suspicious financial activities. Close cooperation and fluid communication with regional and international authorities responsible for monitoring financial integrity will be necessary in order to ensure a prompt exit from the gray list.

• **Efforts to continue improving tax transparency and continue with the exchange of information should continue.** Following recent advances to implement the legal recommendations of the OECD Global Forum (which resulted in the improvement of Panama's rating to "partially meet" its global tax transparency standard), the authorities should continue to resolve the deficiencies identified during the review by said agency in 2019. Specifically, Panama must eliminate inactive entities and respond to requests for information exchange in a timely manner.

Financial sector reforms are needed to increase resilience and monitor risks

• **The tools used for financial supervision are required to be updated.** Given the important advances in regulatory framework towards adoption of Basel III measures, the authorities should concentrate on macroprudential policy and refine the set of regulatory tools. It would also be important to establish an adequate liquidity mechanism for banks, as well as solid frameworks for crisis management,

including increasing the range of bank resolution tools. In order to better monitor macro-financial risks, it will be necessary to fill the statistical gap related to the absence of more granular information on corporate, household and property balances.

• **The country has the potential to develop the financial technology sector "fintech".** Panama can adopt regulatory frameworks for cybersecurity and financial technology in line with international standards and at same time capitalize on country's digital and mobile connectivity to position it as a regional center for financial technology.

It is urgent to meet the structural needs and social priorities

• **The implementation of structural reforms will be key to achieving high growth potential.** Maintaining high growth rates will require continuous improvements in productivity and competitiveness, as well as a strengthening of policies related to labor mobility, institutional capacity and governance. It will also require advances in technological innovation and sophistication in key industries. Panama needs to have a more qualified workforce, improve the insolvency framework and improve the functioning of the judicial system. In addition, it will also be vital to improve water management both for the operations of the expanded Canal and for the growing population, especially given the risks that climate change brings.

• **Social issues must be prioritized.** It is important to continue reforming social policies to maintain widespread and inclusive growth, this requires strategic actions in the areas of education (both in access and quality), gender equity, social protection programs, and poverty reduction in the regions. *L&E*

PANAMA CANAL MAINTAINS PROTOCOLS AND OPERATING MEASURES BEFORE CORONAVIRUS

Source: ACP

Before the global alert for the coronavirus, the Panama Canal maintains coordination with the health authorities to reaffirm its permanent security protocols with the personnel that serves the ships that arrive in the waters of the country.

Since the beginning of the health alert, the Panama Canal has been part of the actions taken by the country, both in the operations of the interoceanic route, and in the dissemination of preventive health measures among its collaborators.

In relation to the transit of ships, on January 29, the shipping companies were notified that ships that arrive in the waters of the Panama Canal and have been in any of the countries with confirmed cases of coronavirus must inform this condition prior to their arrival.

The notification details that all ships arriving in the waters of the Canal for transit or port cargo operations, after having docked in ports of countries with cases of

coronavirus, within 30 days prior to arrival, and having identified any case suspect on board, they must report it through the Panama Maritime Single Window (VUMPA), so that preventive measures can be taken.

In the Panama Canal there is a permanent protocol for health and prevention of contagious diseases, which states that, if a ship has a passenger or crew on board with symptoms, it must notify it upon arrival.

Any ship that arrives at the Panama Canal is inspected before starting its movement, including a sanitary inspection. If a case is detected, it is immediately referred to the national health authorities, which investigate and determine if the vessel can continue its transit.

The Panama Canal also assigns the use of personal protective equipment and urges its workers to maintain good hygiene practices and report immediately if people are observed on boats with any type of symptoms...*L&E*

INCOME COLLECTIONS FULFILL THE ESTABLISHED GOAL

Source: MEF

The Ministry of Economy and Finance, announced current revenues as of January 2020 are in the order of B / .525 million, which corresponds to a surplus of 3.8% compared to the budgeted target.

For the first time for a long time, **income estimates are met and in relation to the collection of Tax Revenue of January 2020, it reached a figure of B / .397.70 million, showing an increase of B / .17.1 million (4.5%), in comparison with what was collected in the same period of the year 2019, said the Vice Minister of Finance, Jorge Luis Almengor.**

Compared to the budgeted goal, without fiscal documents, Direct taxes exceeded the figure budgeted by B / 26.7 million, which in percentage values corresponds to 17.5%. **"What we are seeing is positive,"** said the Deputy Minister of Finance.

Cash collection with fiscal documents at end of January 2020 was B/.5.4 million, which corresponds to liquefied gas B/.3.8 million, and other incentives B/.1.6 million.

On the side of Direct taxes they showed an increase in relation to January 2019: Return

with B/.15.5 million (15.7%); Property with B/.3.8 million (162.2%); Capital Gains with B/.2.0 million (27.4%); and Complementary with B/.1.1 million (192.7%). On the part of Indirect Taxes, Fuel consumption registered an increase of B/.1.3 million, that is 8.4%.

Meanwhile, the collection of Non-Tax Income as of January 2020, reached the figure of B/.123.6 million, presenting an increase of B/.58.3 million (89.5%), when compared with the collection of the same period of 2019.

Fees, Rights and others, presented an increase of B/.32.2 million. Likewise, the share of profits of state companies and contributions, exceeded the collection of January 2019 by B/.27.1 million.

"Regarding legal persons, we talk about a higher income against the budget of 28.3% and against January 2019, of 31.9%, while the income from the payrolls at a general level reflected an increase against the budget of 15.7% and compared to January 2019, 9.7%" said Almengor. *L&E*

WORK CONTRACTS REGISTERED IN MITRADEL

Source: MITRADEL

According to statistical data offered by the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development, it is noted that, at the headquarters in January 2020, a total of 15,298 employment contracts are registered, of which 10,548 reflect hiring of male labor and 4,750 hiring of female labor.

Regarding the type of contract, it is observed that 7,094 are contracts for a defined time and 4,453

are indefinite and 3,751 correspond to a specific work. The foregoing indicates that the contracting trend for a defined period of time remains.

Of the contracts registered at the headquarters, 1454 correspond to the hiring of foreign personnel, of which 1,130 are defined, 185 are undefined and 139 per specific work.^{L&E}

World ECONOMY



DISEASES RELATED TO OBESITY ARE BETWEEN THE THREE MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN PART OF THE COUNTRIES

Sorce: World Bank

Although for a long time it was believed to be an exclusive problem of high-income countries, evidence shows that more than 70% of the 2000 million obese and overweight people live in low or middle-income countries. Faced with the increase in disability, mortality and costs of medical care, and the decline in productivity, all countries, regardless of their level of income, see obesity as a growing concern, according to a new report. of the World Bank published today.

Obesity has a very significant impact on national economies and human capital, as it reduces productivity and life expectancy, and increases disability and the costs of medical care. According to the projections, in the next 15 years, obesity costs will exceed USD 7 billion in developing countries.

In the report entitled Obesity: Health and Economic Consequences of an Impending Global Challenge, it is stated that diseases linked to obesity are currently among the three leading causes of

death in all the world, except in Africa south of the Sahara. Recent data shows that since 1975, obesity has increased to almost triple and is currently responsible for 4 million deaths a year worldwide.

Among the factors driving the obesity epidemic are sugary and ultra-processed foods, reduced physical activity and increased income, which is often accompanied by increased consumption of unhealthy foods.

"As countries grow economically and income per capita increases, the devastating impacts and the burden of obesity will continue to shift towards the poor," says Dr. Meera Shekar, World Bank expert on nutrition and co-author of the report together with Dr. Barry Popkin of the University of North Carolina.

In China, between 2000 and 2009, the costs of medical care associated with obesity increased from 0.5% to more than 3% of the country's annual

health expenditure. In Brazil, such costs are expected to double, increasing from less than USD 6000 million in 2010 to more than USD 10 billion in 2050.

In addition to the direct increase in health expenditures, indirect costs associated with, for example, the reduction of labor productivity, absenteeism and early retirement, which affect both people and societies, also arise.

Likewise, many countries suffer from what is called the **"double burden of malnutrition,"** that is, high levels of stunted growth and increasing obesity rates, which exacerbates threats to their human capital.

"One of the most effective ways to address obesity and other noncommunicable diseases is to increase investments to achieve affordable and quality primary health care," says Dr. Muhammad Pate, director of the Department of World Health Practices, Nutrition and Population of the World Bank. ***"This is a sensible measure from both the health and the economic perspective. Allocate more resources to detect and treat conditions quickly, before they become more serious, save lives, improve health outcomes, reduce health care costs and strengthen preparedness".***

The report highlights that, in order to prevent obesity from increasing in the next generations, governments and development partners must adopt a comprehensive approach. Effective primary care systems will be crucial, as will the strong emphasis on preventive measures, such as the obligation to properly label processed foods, consumer education, reduction of salt and sugary drinks, and investment in Nutrition programs for early childhood.

The report also highlights importance of implementing strong fiscal policies, such as collection of taxes on unhealthy foods, and of improving urban design, for example, with the installation of playgrounds in schools and walking trails and riding a bike. *L&E*

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FORTY ECONOMIES PERFORM 62 LEGAL REFORMS TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Source: World Bank

According to the latest World Bank study, the regulatory framework for women's economic participation has improved in the last two years with 40 economies that implemented 62 reforms which will help women (half of the world's population) reach their potential and contribute to economic growth and development. Even so, the results are uneven: women in many countries have only a fraction of the legal rights of men, which slows their economic and social development. The study, *Women, Business and Law of 2020*, analyzes 190 economies by monitoring how laws affect women at different stages of their working life, taking into account the laws applicable to the main business city.

The study covers different reforms carried out from June 2017 to September 2019 in eight areas associated with the economic empowerment of women.

«The legal rights of women are correct and favorable from an economic perspective. When women manage to mobilize more freely, work outside the home and manage assets, they are more likely to join the workforce and help strengthen their country's economy," said World Bank Group President David Malpass. «We

are willing to help until we achieve that every woman can move forward in her life to achieve success without having to face legal obstacles».

In the areas of Work and Marriage there were also several reforms especially through the implementation of laws that protect women against violence. In the last two years, eight economies have enacted laws on domestic violence for the first time. Similarly, seven economies adopted legal protections against sexual harassment at work.

In the area of Remuneration, 12 economies improved their laws by eliminating restrictions on industries, the type of employment and the hours in which women can work. Globally, the most popular reforms took place in the areas related to Parentality; 16 economies promulgated positive changes. These reforms included: the increase in paid maternity leave established for mothers; the introduction of paid paternity leave and the prohibition of dismissal of pregnant employees.

To achieve legal gender equality requires a strong political will and a concerted effort between governments, civil society and international organizations, among others. However, legal and

regulatory reforms can serve as an important catalyst for improving the lives of women, as well as that of their families and communities.

«This study helps us understand when laws facilitate or hinder the participation of women in the economy. In addition, it has encouraged countries to commit to initiate reforms that eliminate gender inequalities,» said World Bank Group chief economist Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg. *«Achieving equality will take time, but it is also encouraging to see that all regions have implemented improvements. We hope this research will continue to be an important tool for informing about policymaking and leveling the playing field for women.»*

The WBL (Women, Business and the Law) index measures only the formal laws and regulations that govern a woman's ability to work or own business - social and practical customs are not considered. The overall average score was 75.2; which improved slightly compared to two years ago of 73.9. Undoubtedly, there is still much work to be done since women in many countries only have a fraction of the legal rights of men, which limits their employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The eight areas analyzed by the index are structured according to the interaction that women have with the law throughout their career: Mobility, Work, Compensation, Marriage, Parentality, Entrepreneurship, Assets and Retirement.

In the area of Parentality urgent reforms are needed, because this indicator obtained an average of only 53.9. According to the report, in almost half of the economies that offer any form of paid maternity leave and who carries this burden is the employer, which generates higher costs when hiring a woman. However, paid maternity leave can help retain the employee in her job, reduce the cost of rotation and improve productivity. According to the study, these long-term benefits could

weigh any other type of short-term cost to employers.

Of the ten most advanced economies, six are in the Middle East and North Africa, three are in sub-Saharan Africa and one in South Asia. While there were considerable improvements, the Middle East and North Africa remains the region with the greatest room for improvement.

Thanks to the recent reforms in paternity leave, now eight countries have a score of 100 in the index: Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg and Sweden.

Regional Highlights

Advanced economies: Advanced economies continue to progress in the indicators. Of the 40 economies with scores above 90, 27 are high-income OECD economies. The Czech Republic and the United States reformed laws related to paternity and paternity leave, giving parents more opportunities to share child care responsibilities, while Italy and Slovenia matched the pension benefits between men and women.

East Asia and the Pacific: Four economies made four reforms in three different areas. Thailand introduced a reform in the area of Remuneration, and Timor-Leste in the area of obtaining a pension. Fiji also increased the duration of the paid maternity leave and introduced for the first time the paid paternity leave.

Europe and Central Asia: In this region, four economies enacted five reforms in five of the areas measured by the report, and two economies changed the laws to reduce women's job opportunities. Armenia enacted legislation to protect women from domestic violence. Cyprus introduced the paid paternity leave. Georgia adopted civil remedies for cases of unfair dismissal of a victim of sexual harassment. Similarly, Moldova eliminated some restrictions on women's employment by limiting them only to pregnant, lactating and postpartum women.

Latin America and the Caribbean: Four economies carried out four reforms in four of the measured areas. Barbados, for example, enacted legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace. It should be noted that in the decades of the 1980s and 1990s the economies of this region took important steps to eliminate restrictions imposed on women, as is the case in Peru and Paraguay that received high scores in the 1990s. However, the pace of reforms has decreased over the past decade..

Middle East and North Africa: Seven economies enacted 20 reforms in seven of the areas measured by the report and one economy implemented a negative reform. Saudi Arabia, for example, made the biggest improvement worldwide in the index since 2017, by approving reforms in six of the eight measured areas, such as: women's mobility, sexual harassment at work, retirement age and access to financial services. The United Arab Emirates carried out reforms in five areas. Djibouti, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia implemented nine additional reforms.

South asia: Four economies enacted seven reforms in four areas. In the case of Nepal, a new labor law was introduced that prohibits discrimination in employment, grants paternity leave and includes a new retirement regulation. Three other countries also enacted reforms, such as Pakistan and Sri Lanka that advanced in the area of Parentality and the state of Maharashtra in India that eliminated some restrictions on women's work.

Sub-saharan africa: Eleven economies implemented 16 reforms in seven areas. The Democratic Republic of the Congo introduced the benefit of maternity coverage through social security and balanced the retirement ages. In Côte d'Ivoire, spouses now have the same rights to own and manage property. For its part, Mali enacted reforms on non-discrimination in employment. Sao Tome and Principe adopted a new labor code to meet the demands of the labor market and ensure that the laws comply with international standards. Also, South Sudan adopted its first labor law since its independence. *L&E*



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ALICIA BÁRCENA CALLS TO STRENGTHEN MULTILATERALISM TO FACE A MORE INTERCONNECTED WORLD, BUT ALSO MORE UNEQUAL

Source: ECLAC

Liberalization and financial deregulation have made the world increasingly interconnected, interdependent, but also richer and much more unequal, said today Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in the forum on New forms of solidarity fraternity, inclusion, integration and innovation, organized by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, in Vatican City.

The senior United Nations official participated in the high-level panel Transforming the rules of international financial architecture: economic and

financial stability, together with Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize in Economics; Kristalina Georgieva, Director of the International Monetary Fund, and Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, in addition to other financial leaders and economic specialists in the world.

The panel also involved the Ministers of Economy and Finance of Argentina, Martín Guzmán; Mexico, Arturo Herrera; Paraguay, Benigno López; El Salvador, María Luisa Hayem, and from France, Bruno Le Maire. The Vice President and Minister of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation

of Spain, Nadia Calviño, also participated.

The main speaker of the event was Pope Francis, who in his speech called to bring down the globalization of indifference, fostering humanizing socio-economic mechanisms for the whole society. During her speech, Alicia Bárcena pointed out that financial instability has become more frequent, systemic and with greater responsibility in developed countries.

"That is, the current economic situation reflects the globalization process of the last three decades, and that is why we all feel very frustrated," she said.

As an example, he pointed out that in 1980 the value of world financial assets and GDP were similar (\$ 13 and 11.1 trillion), while in 2016 the value of world assets was approximately 14 times that of GDP (1,102 and 78 trillion dollars, respectively).

"We have a problem of decoupling the financial system in relation to the real economy," said the Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

She pointed out that the impact of the integration of countries in the international financial system has been segmented, in the sense that it has been done according to the level of risk and the size of the market, therefore, those who have been harmed are the countries of the center and periphery.

She added that, since the 2008 crisis, efforts to revive advanced economies have not had the

expected impact and today, the world is facing a decline in trade, a slowdown in investment growth and a decline in the productivity.

Alicia Bárcena warned that concentration of economic power has accentuated existing asymmetries regarding autonomy of different actors to formulate policies.

"Developing countries have opened their economies, we open our economies to financial institutions to try to attract capital and technical expertise, but our economies are much smaller than those in advanced countries, and we have become more vulnerable to small decisions. portfolio in advanced countries," she said.

She said that this asymmetry implies that countercyclical policies are always an available policy.

The problem is that, for developing countries, which are debtors or borrowers, adjustment is mandatory, however, for lenders or for developed countries, adjustment is voluntary. That is a great asymmetry, he explained.

"We have to reform capitalism, definitely. We need multilateralism. We have the institutions, the leadership, we need the coalitions. These new forms of solidarity are what we need in the world, to think, to be together, to form coalitions," she concluded. *L&E*



NEW STUDY DISCLOSES THE GROWTH OF ENTREPRENEURS IN STEM IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Source: IDB

Women entrepreneurs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are growing in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). 54% of them have raised angel investor capital or venture capital and almost 80% plan to expand their company internationally in the next five years, according to the new study “wX Insights 2020: The rise of STEMpreneurs women”, commissioned by IDB Lab, the innovation laboratory of the Inter-American Development Bank, in collaboration with Santander X.

The study reveals that access to networks of qualified mentors plays a fundamental role for the founders of high-growth companies, especially when raising capital. Of the 67% of entrepreneurs surveyed who have mentors, 79% raised formal financing of entrepreneurial capital funds, angel investors and accelerators. This becomes even more relevant with entrepreneurial capital funds (84%).

Fintech, Edtech, Healthtech and Biotech were the most

representative sectors of the companies created by the entrepreneurs participating in the survey. These are sectors that have important growth opportunities and potential for impact in Latin America and the Caribbean, which seems to indicate alignment with the three main motivations of the entrepreneurs surveyed to create their companies: purpose, challenges and personal passions, in addition to the enthusiasm for solve pressing problems of their communities or countries.

However, STEM entrepreneurs still face significant obstacles.

For example, with 46% of STEM entrepreneurs with at least one dependent, the work-life balance and the social role of women was identified as one of the three most important challenges. On the other hand, access to financing was indicated as biggest challenge and cause of frustration, by 59% of the entrepreneurs surveyed.

Despite some persistent barriers, the report notes

several positive signs.

The number of co-founders has increased in the last five years, especially in sectors traditionally dominated by men, such as Fintech. ***"Founding women are as ambitious as men in the growth of their businesses,"*** says Susana García-Robles, Head of Investment Unit and Gender Initiatives Coordinator at IDB Lab.

Single report on the status of LAC entrepreneurs in 2020

This report is one of a kind: it not only demonstrates the untapped potential of STEM entrepreneurs in LAC, but also describes how the scenario has changed in the last five years.

“WX Insights is a very useful tool for investors and other actors interested in understanding LAC’s entrepreneurial ecosystems, specifically in the growth of entrepreneurs in STEM. Women are responsible for 64% of all global decisions on the purchase of products and services, so having women in management positions in a company increases the possibility that it will reach a mass market,” says Susana García-Robles

The study, an initiative of WeXchange, the largest LAC platform that connects entrepreneurs with mentors and investors, is based on a survey answered by 1,148 women entrepreneurs in LAC, of which 400 were identified as STEMpreneurs. The study defines the high-impact STEMpreneur woman in LAC as: the founder or partner of a startup where science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are key components; It is formally incorporated; It has operations in at least one LAC country; and has at least one minimum viable product (MVP).

The research also included interviews with 17 entrepreneurial capital investors who invest in women-run companies in the region. *L&E*





FAO SUPPORTS THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF VEGETABLES TO FIGHT HUNGER AND ACHIEVE HEALTHY DIETS

Source: FAO

FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu, highlighted today the crucial role of legumes in addressing food insecurity and achieving healthy and balanced diets for the entire population, pointing out the need to harness their full potential to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.

QU made these statements at a special ceremony at FAO Headquarters in Rome, at which FAO celebrated World Legumes Day. In particular, he requested that research and extension services be increased for farmers who produce different types of legumes.

Legumes have a higher selling price than other basic crops, he said, noting that they offer small farmers a good opportunity to produce a cash crop, while contributing to the environmental and biodiversity protection objectives.

Legumes are *"a beautiful piece of the puzzle,"* insisted QU, noting that these crops offer a wide range of flavors and adapt to different landscapes. He also urged FAO Member States to promote ways to include legumes as food for snacks.

The Director General of FAO reiterated the Organization's commitment to continue working with all its partners to improve the production and consumption of legumes

as a means of contributing to nutrition - especially to the micronutrient needs of children and the elderly - and sustainable agricultural and food systems. "We need the private sector, farmers, governments and the academic world to collaborate with us," he concluded.

Today's ceremony also included, among others, Cindy Brown, President of the World Legume Confederation; Jenny Chandler, Special Ambassador for the International Year of Pulses 2016; Joyce Boye, Director General of the Prairie Region in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrifood of Canada; and Zoltán Kálmán, Permanent Representative of Hungary to FAO.

Why are legumes so important?

Legumes - the edible seeds of leguminous plants, such as lentils, chickpeas and guandú - contain substantial amounts of micronutrients, dietary fiber and minerals, and are an important source of plant proteins.

Legumes are also known for their ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen, catalyzing the creation of quality organic matter in soils and facilitating water retention. These characteristics help farmers reduce the use of fertilizers and energy in herbaceous agricultural systems, which also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. *L&E*

Environmental CAPSULE



“CLIMATE AND WATER CRISIS: THE CHALLENGE IS EVERYONE”

Milena Vergara - Assistant
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Last Thursday, February 6, the Forum called **“Climate Crisis and Water: the challenge belongs to everyone”** was organized by the Panama Canal Authority and the Technological University of Panama (UTP).

Its main objective is to make Panamanians aware of the challenges that the country faces in the face of the impact of climate variation that affects the availability of water resources and in the same way to minimize the rational use of water.

The welcome words were given by Engineer Héctor Montemayor, rector of the Technological University of Panama (UTP), who in turn indicated that the cycle of life and water is one and requires an analysis and opinion of all, as well as the responsibility for access to drinking water.

The presentation period began with Mr. Erick Córdoba,

hydrologist of the Panama Canal, with the theme **“The ABC of our lakes”** who started indicating that in the action plan for the sustainable development of the current government occupies an important role.

It was previously thought that the issue of climate change was a threat we would be living in the long term; however, we are already living around the world with fires, major droughts, landslides, rising sea levels that are eroding and affecting homes in the Atlantic and Pacific. Córdoba concluded by reminding the public that changes in weather patterns are a threat to the Canal's operation, since it depends on the water cycle.

Followed in this forum was presented by Mrs. María Donoso, International Director of Programs of the Institute of Water and Environment of the International University of Florida, who referred to **“Water Management, a regional challenge.”**

Water management is a human activity that must be managed and directed with some skill and requires that executive, administrative and supervisory tasks be fulfilled, Donoso said. There are emerging pollutants that we do not know and cause great negative consequences to the environment, such as drugs, perfluorinated compounds, hormones, drugs of abuse, and personal care and hygiene products.

Water security is a growing concern for the world, especially if the following aspects are considered: population growth, social unrest, uncontrolled urban expansion, changes in land use, degradation of water quality, increasing impact of events extreme hydrological, propagation of terrorist acts and other social and physical effects.

Donoso finished his presentation with some concluding observations about the future of water shortage changes among which we mentioned:

1. Human and climate systems have counteracted impacts on water scarcity in 52% of the world's river basins by the end of the century.

2. With the increase in investments in sustainable futures and the dedication of efforts to improve universal efficiency, human activities can support to reduce demand and water scarcity worldwide; however, the ability of regions with low GDP to invest in technological improvements will be a determining factor of how much water savings is possible.

The presentation period continued by Dr. Stanley Heckadon, of Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, with topic Basin Protection: impact of a good decision; who in turn indicated that more than a presentation was going to share historical passages of the decisions that were made during the signing of the Treaties.

The Panama Canal Basin, in essence Chagres River, is one of the most important in the world, on a par with the Nile or the Rhine. Each year, its waters move some 14,000 ships through this vital interoceanic trade route. It is also the source of fresh water for 80% of the urban population and industry in Panama, Heckadon said.

He was followed by the Engineer José Fábrega of the Technological University of Panama (UTP), with the topic Hydroclimatic Projections, the case of Panama. This study was also prepared by Reinhardt Pinzón.

In 2008, the first attempt at cooperation with Japanese scientists was carried out on the issue of climate change, however, at that time it was not favored.

Then in 2010-2013 the project "Influence of climate change on water resources of the Panama Canal Basin" was carried out, which generated some results such as: three visits by Japanese experts, two scientific publications, among others.

You can expect more extreme events in the future of both rain and drought, concluded Fabrega.

Finally, Dr. Ricaurte Vásquez Morales, administrator of the Panama Canal, was present with the theme "Vision for the future and sustainability of the business".

On January 13, the Panama Canal Authority announced that, for the first time in its history, as of February 15, the waterway will put a price on the water it uses for each lock. The additional charge will depend on the level of the lakes: the lower the water level, the higher the cost of the traffic.

We have always thought that water and air were abundant and free, said Vásquez. Throughout history it has been shown that they are not free and that we are capable of destroying them, reducing them and making them scarce.

It is not a subject that is limited to the geography area that represents the old Canal Zone or the metropolitan area, it is a national issue and the country has called us to study the issue of water security and made a contract to study the Bayano basins, Río Indio and the dry arch of the central provinces.

The decision of Panama Canal has been to ensure for this summer the availability of drinking water for the city of Panama that allows a normal dry season to survive. It is being noticed that the seasons are no longer normal, that the precipitation cycles are different and that the extremes of precipitation and drought are becoming more frequent, Vásquez said.

He announced that it is necessary to establish a research and development study center on water and technology issues and in turn invited SENACYT and MY ENVIRONMENT to contribute their initiatives and interest to establish this center.

This time Panama Canal has decided to be more frontal and aggressive and take the flag as Panamanians to have a long-term solution to water problem. We have been developing studies that have been put on the table to analyze them, commented the Panama Canal Administrator.

The water is running out, It is a timely warning so that once again they join forces to carry out our country and generate national well-being.

At the end of the meeting, the Youth Network Against Climate Change in Panama issued a statement that was received by the President of the Board of Directors and Minister for Canal Affairs, Aristides Royo; the Minister of Agricultural Development, Augusto Valderrama; the rector of the UTP, Héctor Montemayor; and the administrator Ricaurte Vásquez Morales.

considerations that are mentioned below and that have been based on the following aspects:

- Thematic axes on the international agreements for the fight against climate change that allow to achieve the main objective of the Paris Agreement, its decisions and its regulations.

- Scientific information.

- Impact on vulnerable populations and increased resilience.

- Long-term strategies for low carbon development.

- Action for climate empowerment.

- Private sector involvement.

Measures focused on construction and capacity building:

1. Incorporate issues related to climate change into existing matters in our formal and informal education system, so that research is developed for decision-making and that this information also serves as a basis for generating public policies based on scientific information updated and real before the climate crisis.

2. Promote spaces for scientific discussions on climate change and the transfer of new technologies, while creating or encouraging mechanisms for professional development on climate change and related research. This becomes even more critical in the face of the effects of climate change on the water resource, which is, without a doubt, the most important natural resource that our country has, among others.

The Declaration has some measures and

Country measures:

1. Public and private organizations are required to recognize climate change as a reality and a common threat of transversal scope, which must be addressed through a good interrelation of actors.

2. As a country, we require a common platform to share the results of projects and research related to climate change and water resources, so that they can be beneficial for all organizations with an interest in the subject, especially the governing body on climate change issues: the Ministry of Environment of Panama. In this way, the country will see the indicators related to the subject reinforced and will be able to manage policies and actions that allow the fulfillment of the commitments acquired as a nation.

3. It is essential to reduce the existing inequality gap, which would help increase the resilience of the population, improve the country's ecosystems and productive systems. The climate crisis doesn't discriminate, which is why it involves all sectors of the country, requiring more and more urgent measures, especially in terms of adaptation to climate change.

4. Promote responsible tourism through education to reduce the negative impacts that are being generated on marine-coastal ecosystems, such as the manipulation of species, so that the life cycle in these ecosystems is respected. That negative impact also affects the locals who depend on the resources generated there.

5. Efforts should be devoted to the implementation of nature-based solutions, emphasizing the state of both terrestrial and marine-coastal ecosystem services, especially seagrasses and corals, replicating environmental management models of other sectors of the country highly vulnerable to climate change.

6. It is urgent to promote a low-carbon development management model, in accordance with the guidelines acquired as a country, while promoting actions such as electric mobility, promoting the use of clean alternative energy, adequate water management stormwater, comprehensive solid waste management, sustainable forest management and the implementation of planned urban, rural and coastal development.

7. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments acquired under the Paris Agreement are not sufficient to limit warming by 1.5 °, since avoiding warming by more than 1.5 ° would require that emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) will decrease substantially before 2030. Therefore, greater willingness on the part of the decision makers and a great public-private commitment for the fulfillment of the NDCs in a transparent way and above all, is required so that Be more and more ambitious.

8. Climate governance is an important element in the policies, strategies, plans, programs and projects that include mitigation and adaptation actions in the face of climate change, therefore it is convenient to promote public policies based on a multiplicity of objectives that allow us to face the Climate change at the state level, maintaining and promoting regional and international cooperation to mobilize a more robust and ambitious climate action.

- Environmental policies must be accompanied by specific policies and actions such as:

- Fast, fair and controlled elimination of fossil fuels.

- Promotion of mechanisms that allow us a rapid transition to regenerative agriculture.

- Creation of a zero emission economy.

9. It is essential for the country and for the planet Earth to promote climate alliances that have intergenerational and intersectoral leadership to mobilize and streamline climate action.

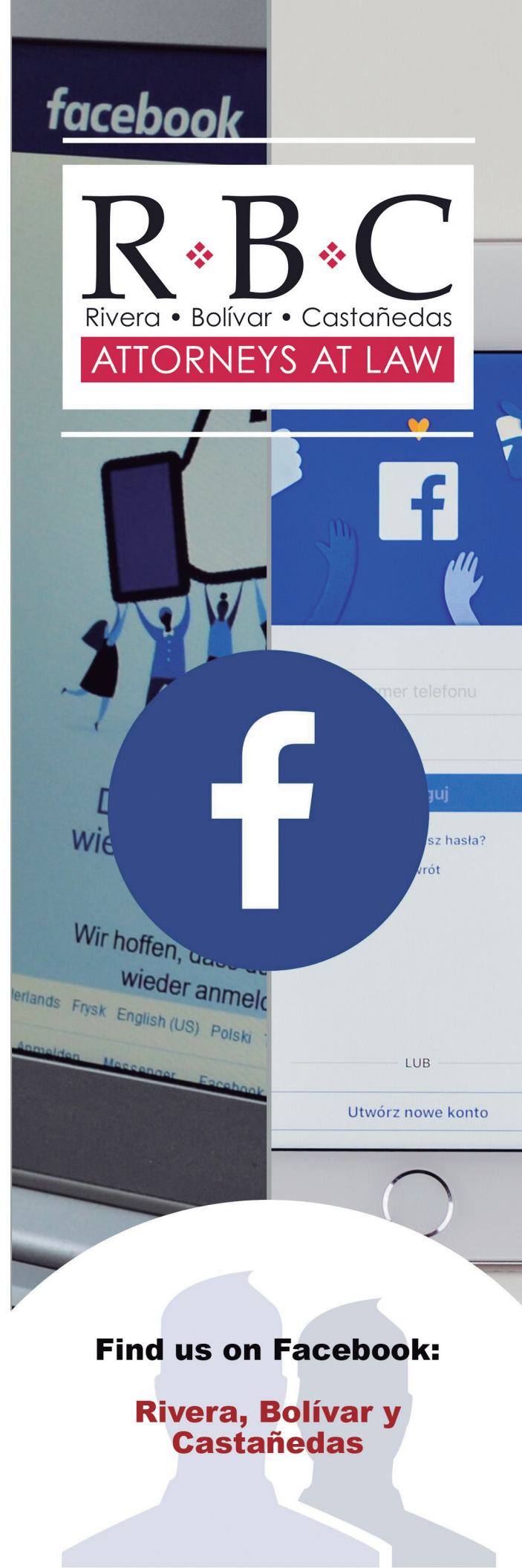
10. It is essential to reduce the educational and social gap in the country as a way to facilitate our adaptation to the effects of climate change.

11. Facing the climate crisis implies the redefinition of the current unsustainable development model towards a sustainable, inclusive and resilient model. This implies citizens informed about the current situation and who have the knowledge and tools necessary to combat the crisis from their respective profession. It also implies agile and solid institutions

We must highlight the importance and raise awareness so that all generations see the urgent need we have to provide to the issue of the climate crisis and its impact on the environment and the availability of water resources.

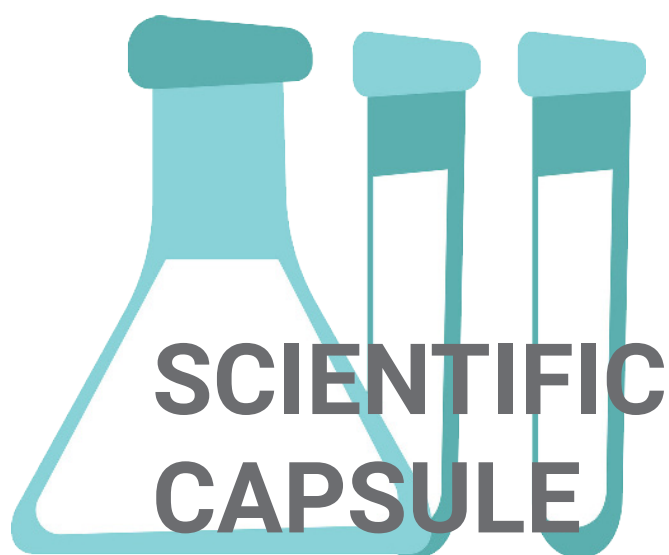
Panama is threatened by major climatic effects, we are delayed to act, Panama is among one of the countries most vulnerable to natural disaster risks. We must increase the forested area of Panama and stop deforestation. We must improve our culture of water use from our homes.

"With small contributions, great changes are achieved" *L&T*



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FROM EMERGING DISEASES TO BIOTERRORISM: A WORLD UNDER BIOLOGICAL THREAT

Cristina Castro - The Independent
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The first cases of the new coronavirus came to light on December 31, when the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission reported that 27 people suffered a **"strange pneumonia"** that was related to Huanan's live animal market. Just 12 days later, the Chinese government shared the genome sequence of the virus, a record time that allows laboratories around the world to study the virus, develop tests to detect it, treatments or vaccines.

"The expansion in access to knowledge, procedures and materials in the field of microbiology has been a real revolution. In a very short time we are living a biological revolution that compares with the advances made by the pioneers of computer science in garages," says Colonel José Ignacio Castro, an analyst at the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE).

For its part, the virus has only taken a month to travel millions of kilometers through 27 countries and has shown us again that we live under a constant biological threat. In Spain, there are

already two cases of infection of coronavirus, the last one confirmed on Sunday in Palma de Mallorca.

Beyond the memory of the letters with anthrax, which extended the fear of bioterrorism after the death of five people in the US in 2001, the possibility of a biological warfare joins the natural threat posed by emerging diseases such as Ebola, the Zika, influenza or now the coronavirus.

But science has managed not only to sequence viruses but also to manipulate them so that they mutate or even develop them synthetically. That last was what Canadian scientist David Evans did with smallpox in 2017. One of the deadliest diseases in history - it is estimated that it killed 300 million people in the twentieth century -, smallpox was considered eradicated in the 80s of the twentieth century thanks to the vaccine. However, Evans managed to synthesize the virus in a laboratory and published it in Plos One magazine. His work, available to everyone, aroused the alarms of the scientific community: with \$ 100,000 and in six months, his team had obtained the recipe To

end the world. And they made it available to everyone.

Evans got, by synthesizing the smallpox virus, the recipe to end the world.

Something similar had happened a few years before

All kinds of virus investigations were stopped, including many that were not dangerous, "recalls García-Sastre, director of the Institute of Global Health and Emerging Pathogens at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. The regulation finally limited "double-edged investigations, focused on viruses that can give rise to more dangerous viruses than the one you start with. Now, in those cases you have to ask for permission and a committee evaluates if what you can earn is more beneficial than the risk of making that information public," adds the researcher.

Scientists managed to make a bird flu virus much more contagious among people and therefore dangerous.

That moratorium affected the coronaviruses and the legislation that resulted from that is partly responsible for laboratories such as García-Sastre's continuing this week waiting for the Chinese coronavirus to arrive to work with him on treatments and vaccines. **"There are not yet many laboratories that have access to the virus and we are wasting important time, because the sooner we have it, the sooner we can get the treatments and vaccines."**

It is precisely the fear of bioterrorism that slows the start of research such as this, as countries have to deal with the benefit of fighting disease and the risk that certain knowledge can be used as biological weapons. This is reflected in the report **«Reduction of biological threats»** of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (of the Ministry of Defense) of 2018: **«One of the threats of living in a globalized world is the possibility of international dissemination of a biological agent, zoonotic (of animal origin) or not, emerging or reemerging, whether of natural, accidental or intentional origin ».**

As in coronavirus, whose origin is limited to a bat, three out of four causative agents of emerging

with the scientists who managed to mutate the avian influenza virus (H5N1) - of great lethality, but little capacity for transmission among humans - until it was contagious by air between mammals. In one of the research groups participated the scientist located in New York Adolfo García-Sastre, who recalls the episode to El Independiente: **"The motivation was to find out if the H5N1 viruses were able to evolve to be transmitted between mammals through the air. It was experimented with ferrets, because they replicate human flu well, and it was achieved. In addition, it was seen that many mutations were not necessary, just three or five".**

That is to say, they had achieved a much more contagious bird flu virus among people and, therefore, dangerous, since their mortality rate among humans reaches 60%. **"The American Government blocked the publication of its findings [articles in Science and Nature were going to be published] and requested a moratorium. It was going to last six months but it lasted almost two years.**



infectious diseases in humans are of animal origin - they are Ebola, HIV or influenza viruses. In addition, 60% of transmissible human diseases have a zoonotic origin and 80% of microorganisms that are considered biological warfare agents or bioterrorism

However, deaths and infections are not the only concern: "If a virus is introduced that is not in a developed country, it can cause an agricultural or livestock disaster and paralyze the country's economy," says García-Sastre. The IEEE report

amounts to 570,000 million dollars associated with the annual costs of an influenza pandemic and warns that it is not only biological threats that affect humans. An epidemic of the common scratch virus, related to the famine in Africa, could affect, for example, 37% of world wheat production and leave 1,000 million people without food sources in developing countries.

Those economic or collateral aspects are the ones that most worry

analysts like Castro about the possibility of a biological attack. **"Although in the cases that occurred there was not a high number of deaths, many services were paralyzed and there was an important psychological effect on the population."** Some psychological effects that should not be minimized, because it is enough to see the effect that the Chinese coronavirus has had on the world economy or on the dissemination of fake news, although it is a disease that maintains its lethality at 2.5%.

In addition to intentional attacks, accidents also represent another risk factor for threats. "In the world there are only two laboratories that keep samples of smallpox virus. One of them is in the United States and the other is Vector in Russia. The one in Russia burned at the end of 2019 without knowing the causes, **"recalls Pepe Fernández Rúa, consultant in Karyotype 5, author of the report "Biological threat, a real threat?"** updated in 2018.

Boko Haram hinders vaccination campaigns in Nigeria, explains Castro.

Other attacks may go unnoticed because they are

are zoonotic agents, according to the report.

Internationally, the World Health Organization (WHO) considers 29 living biological agents that can be used in bioterrorism. Of these, the 12 most relevant are known as the "dirty dozen" and half of them are zoonotic agents: anthrax, plague, smallpox, Ebola or fever q are some of the threats considered most important to which the IEEE analyst adds others such as influenza: **«The greatest threat is influenza viruses, among which are some well-known, such as avian influenza. WHO estimates that such a global pandemic could cause 700,000 deaths annually during the duration of the disease».**

In the study Bioterrorism: practical aspects, led by José Ignacio Garrote, a researcher at the Clinical Hospital of Valladolid, explains the enormous potential of a bioterrorist attack that **"if an airplane spreads in the form of aerosol 50 kg of Bacillus anthracis spores (anthrax) at 6,600 feet above a population of 500,000 inhabitants with adequate weather conditions would be the infection of 220,000 people».**

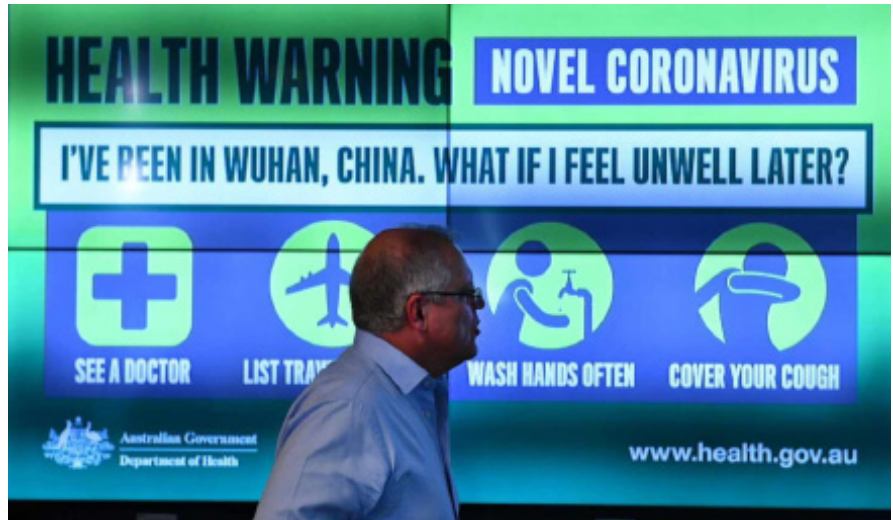


other way around, but they also pose a biological threat. ***"There are places in Africa where certain groups are hampering vaccination campaigns, for example, Boko Haram in Nigeria,"*** explains Castro.

But regardless of their origin, the experts consulted agree that these threats require a coordinated and global response and that Spain is well positioned.

"Although zero risk doesn't exist, the objective is to reduce it to acceptable minimums to avoid vulnerability," says the IEEE spokesperson, adding that ***"in the event that the threat materializes in a real incident, a health protection system is needed. robust and efficient, being Spanish one of the best in the world»."***

Prepared for the response to a biological threat.



Already in 2001 WHO issued the resolution ***"alert and response to epidemics to respond to new threats"*** and in 2005 the International Health Regulations were adapted to prevent "the international spread of diseases". More specifically, in 2015, the 1st World Conference on the Reduction of Biological Threats was held sponsored by the World Organization for Animal Health to strengthen international collaboration and the strengthening of public health systems.

That last point, weakness of certain public health systems was precisely the focus of WHO's concern on the expansion of the coronavirus and the shadow it plans on the response to a new pandemic such as the one that can become the coronavirus.

Interpol (International Police Organization) has a Specialized Unit in Bioterrorism, which describes as "real threat" whose damage "can reach unsuspected magnitudes, causing a large number of infections and deaths, and sowing fear and panic to world scale". The organization indicates on its website how the

proliferation of data and knowledge available on the Internet makes available «hidden and anonymous communication channels, such as the dark web, to buy, sell and exchange information and to communicate with each other». The organization works with the various national police in prevention and preparation for the response to an event of this type.

On the European side, in recent years there have been new advances that in 2014 already included within their health programs ***"to protect the citizens of the Union from serious cross-border health threats"***.

In Spain, the Center for Coordination of Health Alerts and Emergencies (CCAES) was created in 2004 to coordinate information management and support the response to situations of national or international health alert or emergency that pose a threat to the population's health. Other organizations such as the National Epidemiological Surveillance Network or the National Early Warning and Rapid Response System collaborate in the event of such events.

From most scientific field, Network of Biological Alert Laboratories under Carlos III Health Institute aims to ***"mitigate risks that would involve both intentional dispersion of biological agents by non-state actors and the accidental release of themselves and constitutes an important element in coordination and response to these types of threats"***. There are

12 laboratories with high biological safety facilities.

The Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology (Seimc) is currently preparing a protocol for action against bioterrorism. The coordinator of Microbiological Procedures on Bioterrorism of the Seimc, Amparo Rodríguez Fernández, who explains that ***“the objective is to bring to all clinical microbiologists what the state of the matter is, how the procedures are organized, what clinical pictures can be given and which is the response protocol».***

In the procedure that will reach all Spanish microbiologists, smallpox, anthrax, plague or botulimic toxin are some of the most important agents that are explained and are likely to become dangerous biological weapons. ***“To do a lot of damage, a biological weapon must have characteristics of easy dissemination, be stable in the environment and attack a target population that is affected by the damage that is pursued,”*** says the spokeswoman for the Seimc, adding that ***“ if their symptoms are nonspecific and have a longer or shorter incubation period, it can cause more damage by slowing down the response options of the institutions ».***

The constant alert is a necessity both in the centers and of the professionals since they are increasingly responding to that biotechnological revolution that is promoting the movement, explains Castro, “do it yourself biology among individuals, small businesses and institutions in the educational field , but if in the future someone wanted to use this movement for malicious purposes it could have serious consequences. Special attention must be paid to genetic engineering and biological manipulation. Any manipulation of a disease, for example, making it resistant to antibiotics, could have unprecedented health and psychological consequences». *L&T*

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CASTRO. Cristina. De las enfermedades emergentes al bioterrorismo: Un mundo bajo la amenaza biológica. <https://www.elindependiente.com/vida-sana/salud/2020/02/08/de-las-enfermedades-emergentes-al-bioterrorismo-un-mundo-bajo-la-amenaza-biologica/> (Consultado 28/02/2020).



Illustrious PEOPLE



NIGEL FARAGE AND BORIS JOHNSON THE IMPULSORS OF BREXIT

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To begin this brief review related to the separation of Great Britain from the European Union, which occurred last Friday, January 31, we will mention who was initially one of the drivers of such separation.

Nigel Farage was born on April 3, 1964 in London, England, he became a British politician, currently he is leading the party

in favor of Brexit, United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), which he founded in January 2019 and is dedicated to the analysis and political comments in British and American media such as LBC and Fox News.

As leader of the UKIP he has been accused several times for excessive populism.

He is a MEP, representing South East England for the UKIP party, and in Europe, the Europe group of Freedom and Direct Democracy (EFDD).

In 2016, Farage was one of the main figures of the campaign for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union in the context of the referendum on the permanence of the United Kingdom in the

European Union (EU), in which the electorate voted to leave the EU.

On July 4, 2019 he announced his resignation as leader of the UKIP, after declaring that he had already achieved his goal of seeing UK leave the EU.

Regarding social benefits, Farage has proposed that immigrants must reside at least five years

in the United Kingdom before being able to apply for any kind of social assistance and has requested that different tax deductions are not applicable. Farage has been critical of British participation in the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, citing its human and financial costs and poor results as reasons to avoid British military intervention in Syria.

Nigel Farage predicted that the broad victory of the Brexit Party in the European elections, which were held on May 23, 2019 in the United Kingdom, would precipitate the fall of the **"premier"** Theresa May.

"We will get rid of May in an incredibly fast way,"

Nigel Farage predicted, closing his campaign at the Olympia pavilion in London, with former Czech President Václav Klaus as guest of honor, where he urged the British to ***"send a very clear message to European populists"***.

"A great victory of the Brexit Party will also definitely kill the idea of a second referendum," said Farage, who anticipated two of his proposals for a hypothetical general election: ***"Ending the House of Lords and eliminating the Electoral Commission, which is full of supporters of permanence."***

The United Kingdom's exit from the EU was the central theme of the election campaign, with the consideration that it could be treated as an estimate on a second referendum on Brexit. During these elections it was the last time that the United Kingdom elected its MEPs to the European Parliament.

After multiple situations Theresa May announces her resignation as leader of the Conservative Party. According to the criteria of many, the prime minister ended up throwing

in the towel for having been unable to handle the UK's exit from the EU and left the post on June 7, 2019, where she remains as interim prime minister.

After the departure of Theresa May as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Alexander Boris of Pfeffel Johnson, who was born in the Upper East Side neighborhood of Manhattan, New York on June 19, 1964, of British parents, with dual nationality, assumed power. In 2015 he renounced his U.S. citizenship, Boris is a British politician and journalist. During his childhood he suffered from deafness and needed several surgeries to insert tympanostomy tubes in his ears.



He studied at Oxford and began his career as a journalist at The Times, where he was fired for making an appointment and then worked at the Express & Star in the city of Wolverhampton. In 1989 he was sent by The Daily Telegraph to Brussels as a correspondent for the European Union (EU). His article ***"The Plan Delors to rule Europe"*** made him the favorite journalist of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, although his relationship with Thatcher's successor, John Major, was much more controversial. In 1999 he was appointed director of The Spectator.

In 2001 he was elected to represent the constituency of Henley in the parliament of the United Kingdom. During 2004 he served as vice president of the Conservative Party. In 2005, the new party leader, David Cameron,

elected Johnson to the position of Shadow Minister (spokesperson for the Parliamentary Opposition) of University Education. Since 2015 he is a



member of the House of Commons for the constituency of Uxbridge and South Ruislip in Greater London.

Boris Johnson was mayor of London from 2008 to 2016, during this time he became one of the prominent figures in favor of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union. On July 13, 2016 he was appointed Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Relations in the first Cabinet formed by the then new Prime Minister, Theresa May.

When in 2019 May announced his resignation as leader of Conservative Party, Johnson ran and won party election, succeeding her in post of prime minister since July 24 after receiving formal commission of queen, Isabel II, to form a government.

UK's exit from EU has opened door for Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government to make increasingly extravagant promises of public spending on multi-million dollar transportation networks and other projects.

The highest profile initiative is the High Speed 2 rail scheme to connect London with Midlands and northern England.

The main defender of the new nation is Dominic Cummings, the chief strategist of the prime minister. He sees the United Kingdom as a spin-off derived from an excessively regulated European megalith. It is a nation of innovation, high ambition, pioneering science and less bureaucracy. Government projects are tested with data and products are managed; People move fast and break things. He sees that public spending on research and development doubled to £ 18 billion in five years. Even so, the conditions are not ideal. The growth of the United Kingdom is likely to remain slow. There are limited funds for a shot to the moon.

British pound fell to 1.4% against dollar to \$ 1.3011, and also fell against the euro, after UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said his government was ready to abandon talks with the EU Without an agreement on a future business relationship. The fall put the pound on its way to its biggest daily decline since the December elections.

Boris Johnson said at time that he was prepared to cut ties with EU without a trade agreement if Brussels insisted on linking the United Kingdom with its standards, despite the government's own estimates that it could inflict long-term damage on the economy.

Johnson insisted that Britain was in favor of a

"Canada-style" trade agreement, eliminating tariffs and fees on trade with the EU. But the prime minister said the United Kingdom could "thrive powerfully" even if a free trade agreement had not been established at the end of a transition period on December 31 that entered into force after the formal withdrawal of the block last 31 from January.



Johnson has accepted one of the main consequences of leaving the block: friction. While its predecessor, Theresa May, pressed for a "frictionless trade," it has agreed that paperwork and customs will enter into force once the United Kingdom leaves the single market and the customs union in late 2020. This means that The main objective of the talks is to reduce tariffs and fees as much as possible.

There are still challenges. The fact that an agreement can be reached is based on three prerequisites: **equal conditions, the role of the Court of Justice of the European Communities and fisheries. Britain's position is everywhere, which makes it difficult**

to know how pragmatic Johnson is going to be.

For its part, the US government, on visits to London on the eve of Brexit last month, senior Trump administration officials were publicly excited about the prospects of a trade agreement with the United Kingdom. Mike Pompeo, the US secretary of state, said Washington would work **"as quickly as possible"** in an agreement with London, and Steven Mnuchin, the secretary of the treasury, said the United Kingdom was **"the first on the list"** to A new commercial pact.

While both Donald Trump, the president of the United States. UU. As Boris Johnson, the British Prime

Minister, has pointed to a radical bilateral trade agreement as one of the biggest awards for Britain's exit from the EU, the talks may have difficulty quickly achieving the comprehensive pact that the two leaders had imagined. The greater tension between the two countries, over Huawei's access to Britain's 5G networks, was revealed, as London decided to give the Chinese telecommunications company a limited role in the development of its platforms, despite the desire of the White House to be excluded.

Trade officials from both capitals established a joint working group between the United States and the

Cronograma del Brexit

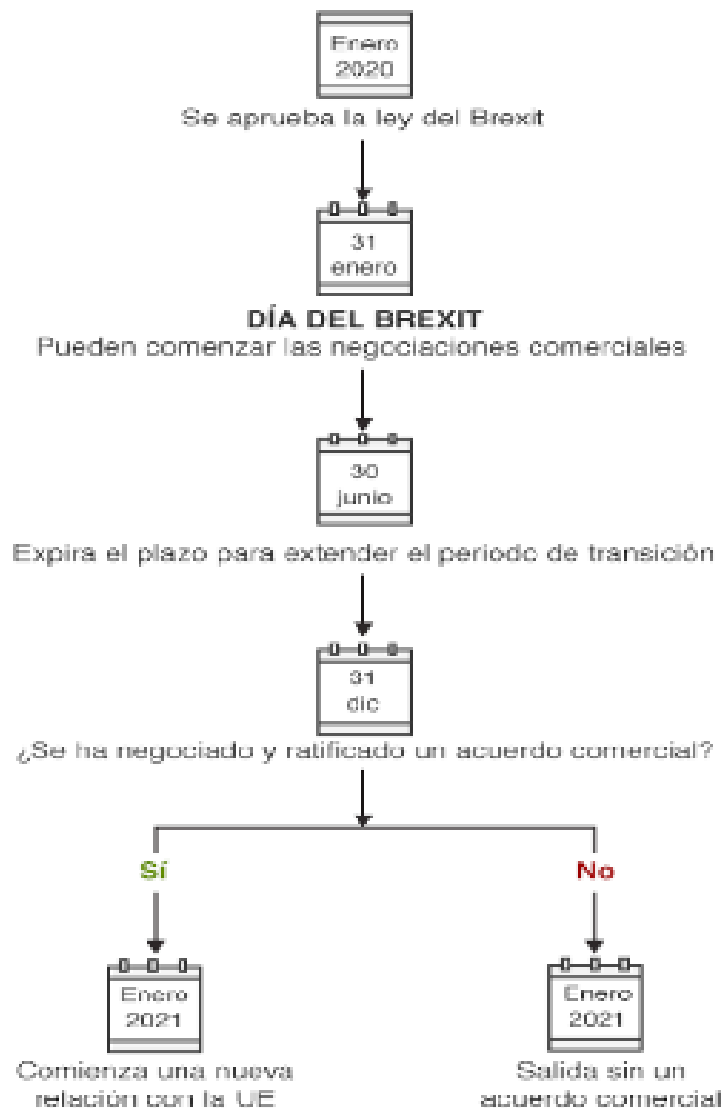


Image from <https://www.bbc.com/>

United Kingdom to begin preparations for formal talks, and the US administration even published its negotiating objectives for a wide-ranging agreement. Many conservative parliamentarians, including the prime minister, see themselves as Atlantis rather than Europeans and speak of an agreement with Trump on an agreement with the EU, Britain's largest trading partner.

However, US officials will distrust any significant agreement with London until the terms of Britain's trade relationship with the EU are clear, as that will determine how closely and in what areas, UK regulations will remain aligned with Brussels.

The entry into force of the Withdrawal Agreement marks the end of the period established in Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union and the beginning of a transitional period that will last until December 31, 2020. After the withdrawal of the United Kingdom, a new era begins which must be friendly between the European Union and the United Kingdom as mentioned by Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a nationally televised message and on screens in central London, where hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the exit of the EU.

The British will no longer be represented in European institutions, therefore, the British flag was withdrawn from the different headquarters of the European institutions.

Although they may have their own rules, their own regulations, this separation is based on a transition period which is key to know how the relationship between the British and Europeans will be from now on. It is important to mention that during this transition process the United Kingdom will continue to comply with EU rules and contribute to its budget.

After the final date of separation, important dates

approach in the calendar of this complex process that was launched three and a half years ago.

The most important of all dates for the British is December 31, 2020 when the transition ends.

Regarding the United Kingdom's relationship with Panama, its ambassador Demetrio Potter said that the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union will not cause problems.

In June 2019, prior to Brexit, Panama signed a multilateral trade agreement establishing a partnership between the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Central America, which was ratified by our president Laurentino Cortizo on October 31, 2019. For this reason Ambassador Demetrio Potter said that after this alliance, Panamanians can do tourism or investments in England without the use of a visa. He also said that **"they will continue to promote Panama to companies and the British government to create more investment"**.*L&E*

Les invitamos a seguir el siguiente enlace, para conocer más sobre esta noticia, publicada por el periódico La Estrella de Panamá:

Gran Bretaña considera a Panamá con potencial y planea invertir \$4 mil millones

<https://www.laestrella.com.pa/nacional/200226/gran-bretana-considera-panama-potencial>



CUSTOMS



Capsule

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Competence: Third Administrative Contentious Room.

Contentious administrative claim of full jurisdiction to declare void, by illegal, Resolution No. AR-OR-04-134 of January 19, 2007, issued by the Regional Customs Administrator, Eastern Zone, the reform act and to be Make other statements.

B ackground:

The act accused of illegal, was born by virtue of the opening of a customs criminal process, against the company EDV, SA and its legal representative VM, every time, that in a Report of Audit of Procedures of the General Directorate of Customs (now National Authority Customs), carried out on December 28, 2005, it was determined that said company had imported pork sausages, classifying them in tariff item 0303.19.00 with a 5% rate, when it was necessary to declare them in tariff item 1601.00.31 with tariff rate 30%, which results in an amount not paid to the National Treasury, import taxes, for the total amount of B / .122,409.22, a fact detected in seven (7) different customs declarations identified. As a consequence of the foregoing, articles 7 and 9, literal ch) of Law 30 of November 8, 1984, whereby measures on smuggling and customs fraud were

issued, were applicable. Resolution No. AR-OR-04-134 of January 19, 2007 ordered the sanction of the legal representative of the company E.D.V., S.A. to the payment of B / .183,613.83, for taxes not paid and a surcharge of 50% of said sum, for infringing article 9, literal ch of Law No. 30 of November 8, 1984. The Mr. WSM to the payment of B / .61,204.61, in concept of 50% of the total taxes not paid by the company E.D.V., S.A. ; and dismiss and disqualify public officials for a period of two (2) years from 6 officials.

The contested act was appealed on appeal, before the Customs Appeals Commission, which, through Resolution No. 715-04-100-CA of December 26, 2007, decided to declare the prescription of the sanctions imposed on Messrs. V.M. and W.S.M. to pay the 50% surcharge for fines, the prescription of

the penalty of dismissal and disqualification to hold public office for a period of two (2) years imposed on the six (6) officials, and maintain the obligation to the company to pay the sum of B/.122,409.22, for taxes not paid to the National Treasury.

Pretension of the plaintiff

The claim raised by plaintiff is that it be declared void as illegal, Resolution AR-OR-04134 of January 19, 2007, issued by the Regional Customs Administrator, Eastern Zone, and its reform act, Resolution No. 715-04-100-CA of December 26, 2007, issued by the Customs Appeals Commission of the General Directorate of Customs.

Considers that Resolution AR-OR-04134 of January 19, 2007 directly infringes by omission, [Article 62 of Law 38 of July 31, 2000](#), which regulates the General Administrative Procedure, which lists the [assumptions in the that a public entity may revoke or cancel ex officio a firm administrative act, by which rights are recognized or declared in favor of third parties](#), and establishes the special procedure for the revocation of an administrative act.

Likewise, the legal representative of the plaintiff considers that [article 7 of Law 30 of November 8, 1984](#), established by law as infringed by direct violation, is established by the [action to demand liability derived from offenses prescribed in one \(1\) year, counted from the moment the fact that originated it was born](#). The infraction of that norm says it has been produced by improper application, explaining that [the defendant Entity only applied that norm to declare the prescription of the fine, but said norm establishes the term of one \(1\) year to exercise the action](#), counted since it occurred the fact.

Conduct report

The demand was submitted to Regional Customs

Administrator, Eastern Zone, to provide an explanatory report of his actions, which was provided with the Note No. 710-01-802-ARAZO of June 4, 2008. The Respondent authority describes what happened in procedure followed by reason of the facts investigated, and emphasizes that [the process is not of an administrative nature, but criminal, because the crimes and customs offenses are typified in Law No. 30 of 1984, which is of a criminal nature, whose decisions are not subject to full contentious administrative lawsuit](#).

With regard to the prescription, it indicates that the customs legislation contemplates, on the one hand, [the prescription of the action to demand responsibility for the transgression of the Customs Criminal Law, which is fixed in one \(1\) or three \(3\) years](#) depending on the qualification of conduct in accordance with articles 7 and 51 of Law No. 30 of November 8, 1984; [and on the other, the prescription of customs tax obligations, which is fifteen \(15\) years](#), counted from the date on which the generating event is constituted, in accordance with articles 8 and 14 of Cabinet Decree No. 41 of 11 December 2002.

Finally, the defendant authority states, that in this case the provisions of Law No. 38 of July 1, 2000, are not applicable, since, since it is a customs criminal process, it is substantiated according to the procedure contained in Book VII, Titles II and IV of the Fiscal Code.

Opinion of the Administration Procurator

Through Vista N°122 of February 11, 2009, the Procurator of the Administration, asks the Chamber to declare that the demanded resolution or its reform act is not illegal, because the illegality charges sustained by the actor are not proven since [the Article 62 of Law 38 of 2000](#), which the appellant says has been infringed, [doesn't apply to the case at hand](#).

Regarding the charge of illegality for violation of article 7 of Law No. 30 of November 8, 1984, it is estimated that it is not verified, since the term of limitation of one (1) year established in said norm is limited only to the action to demand the responsibility derived from the customs infractions, since the term to require the payment of the taxes generated by the investigated fault is of fifteen (15) years counted from the date in which the fact was constituted that gave rise to the customs tax obligation.

Considerations and foundations of the Chamber The Board of Directors clarifying the matter related to its competence, indicating that the administrative acts that are intended to be annulled were issued within a customs criminal process, with a special character and a different nature from the administrative procedures in general, in which the Law grants to the Regional Customs Administrator a jurisdictional power for this type of processes, converting the act that is issued within it into a jurisdictional act, despite being issued by an administrative authority, in which it was determined that the commission of a crime but an administrative offense and an administrative penalty is imposed, consisting of a fine. When the commission is charged for a lack of administrative nature, the official carrying the customs criminal investigation invested in the administrative function remains.

It is by virtue of this that the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court enters the present case; since the control of legality that is exercised in this regard, falls on administrative actions in exercise of the administrative function exercised by public authorities.

After corroborating the active and passive legitimation of the parties, the Rapporteur proceeds to analyze the legal problems to be resolved in the dispute, distinguishing two main points:

1. The figure of the revocation of the administrative

act.

2. The prescription to demand responsibility for customs faults.

Regarding the first point, this Corporation considers it important to start by stating that, although article 62 of Law 38 of July 31, 2000 on the General Administrative Procedure sets forth specific grounds and the procedure for a public entity to revoke ex officio a firm resolution, it is also understood that not all actions of a state authority that legal figure is applicable, because the act referred to in that rule to revoke, must meet certain budgets, as it is, that it is a firm resolution that has recognized rights in favor of third parties. Subject to the feasibility of applying Article 62 of Law 38 of 2000, to the fact that we are facing a firm resolution in which the authority has adopted a decision that recognizes rights to third parties.

In this regard, the Chamber warns that, in no way, the customs declaration that motivates the summary investigation, and the tariff determination determined therein, constitutes a resolution in which the authority has adopted a decision that recognizes rights in favor of the plaintiff, and that based on this, said authority executed the power of revocation through the administrative act demanded.

Thus, the Chamber concludes that there are sufficient legal grounds that article 62 of Law 38 of July 31, 2000, is not applicable to the case at hand.

The following legal problem consists in the alleged improper application by the Customs Appeals Commission of Article 7 of Law 30 of November 8, 1984, by declaring the sanctions provided in the original act prescribed and ceasing to properly apply the aforementioned article, on the prescription to demand responsibility for customs faults.

Under this situation, the Chamber conducts an examination of [article 7 of Law 30 of November 8, 1984](#) (term of limitation of the action to demand liability arising from faults) and [article 14 of Cabinet Decree No. 41 of 11 of December 2002](#) (term of prescription of customs debts), concluding that the charge of misinterpretation, has not been proven because the official, when applying the rule, gave the correct meaning to the provision by maintaining the fine imposed on the company EDV, SA

Therefore, the Third Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, administering justice DECLARES THAT THEY ARE NOT ILLEGAL, Resolution AR-OR-04-134 of January 19, 2007, issued by the Regional Customs Administrator, Eastern Zone and the Resolution No. 715-04-100-CA of December 26, 2007, issued by the Customs Appeals Commission of the General Directorate of Customs of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

In cases such as the one analyzed, it is clear that the customs jurisdiction is distinguished by its specialty, since, despite being an administrative authority, thanks to the effects granted by Law 30 of 1984, the administrative function can converge in the same authority and the customs criminal function, and consequently in the investigations carried out by the National Customs Authority, both the commission of a crime (Smuggling and Customs Debt) and the commission of an Administrative Failure can be determined, thus imposing an administrative sanction or criminal, as the case may be.

This point becomes of cardinal importance when it is desired to appeal the resolutions issued by the National Customs Authority, since it is essential to determine whether it should be appealed before Chamber II or Hall III of the Supreme Court of Justice. To do this, it is essential to define whether the act to be sued is a consequence of the commission of a crime or of an administrative offense, taking into account the amount of the amounts defrauded or contraband, as well as the nature of the sanction imposed. *L&E*



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ROBIN SHARMA

AUTOR DEL BESTSELLER INTERNACIONAL
EL MONJE QUE VENDIÓ SU FERRARI
MÁS DE 3 000 000 DE EJEMPLARES VENDIDOS

**EL LÍDER
QUE NO TENÍA
CARGO**

UNA FÁBULA MODERNA SOBRE EL LIDERAZGO
EN LA EMPRESA Y EN LA VIDA



DEBOLSILLO

THE CURRENT

**THE LEADER WHO HAD NO CHARGE
- ROBIN SHARMA**

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No one triumphs beyond their most fantastic dreams unless they start having fantastic dreams. Ralph Charell.

We are all born being geniuses. Unfortunately, most of us die in mediocrity. -

This book tells the story of a young man named Blake Davis, who, losing his parents, went from work to work automatically and nothing interested him, he spent it on television, eating excessively and everything to avoid the pain of Knowing that I was wasting all the potential I had. I only saw work as a way of not starving and a bad way to spend the daylight hours.

He decided to enlist in the army, saw friends die with whom he had carried out the instruction in bloody battles. And any enthusiasm that might have existed in him disappeared. And although he suffered no physical injury in the war, he was a wounded soldier. And wherever he went, he carried the ghosts of battle with him. He returned home, and on a sunny

autumn afternoon, he left a city street when he came to a terrifying conclusion: he was totally alone again.

The things he did before joining the army seemed boring and he felt that his life had no purpose.

One of the best legacies that his parents had left him was the love of reading, so he started working in a bookstore, but since he had a very negative attitude, things were not going well and he was just waiting for the moment he get fired. His only salvation was the love for books and good customer service.

One day he met a person who changed his life, the lessons he taught in the time they spent together broke the limits to which he clung, and showed him a totally new way of working and being.

Teachings that helped him understand that difficult times form better people. That in the difficulty lies the opportunity. And that each and every one of us is made to succeed, both in work and in life.

- Doing the best you can is doing everything you can. -

My encounter with a leadership mentor

While I was having a coffee hidden behind one of the high shelves of the company section, trying to escape from any task, I was tapped on the shoulder. I turned quickly and was stunned. He had in front of a man with an absolutely bizarre appearance. His clothes were a mess, old, tattered and full of holes. He wore an old plaid vest and the sleeves of the shirt rolled up, as if despite having that look he was an energetic executive. From the vest pocket a yellow handkerchief with Mickey Mouse drawings appeared, and hanging around the neck was a silver plate with simple initials engraved with a modern typeface: LSC.

I looked at his feet and what would not be my surprise to see that the shoes were new: glittering loafers. The man remained still and silent, I perceived how my discomfort grew with each passing second, but apparently he didn't need to say anything (a very rare gift in this world of much talk and little to do).

His face was a map of wrinkles that showed his advanced age. His teeth were chipped and stained. He had disheveled hair and pointed in all directions, like the great Albert Einstein in that black and white photo in which he appears, mocking, sticking out his tongue.

But what struck me most about that strange character before me, that bland Monday morning, were his eyes. Because of his disheveled appearance, anyone would have thought he was a wanderer or even a nut, but his gaze was penetrating and his eyes were clean. I know this sounds weird, but at that hypnotic look I felt not only safe, but as if I

were in the presence of an imposing human being.

"Hello, Blake," the mysterious gentleman finally greeted me; his deep, firm voice reassured me even more. I'm glad to meet you. Here, in the bookstore, everyone has told me a lot about you.

That guy knew my name! Maybe I should have worried. At the end of the day in New York live many weirdos, and the pint of that guy was at least disconcerting. Who was? How had he entered the bookstore? Should I call security? And how the hell did he know my name?

"Calm down, friend," he said, holding out my hand. I'm Tommy Flinn. I just moved to this bookstore from the upper area. I know that I don't look like one expects in a store in that area, but the truth is that last year I became Employee of the Year.

You better treat me well. Maybe one day I become your boss.

"You tease me." You work here? I snapped.

-Yes. But don't worry, being your boss is not one of my dreams. The charges don't me

They are interested in nothing. The only thing that matters to me is to do my utmost in my work, and to do that I don't need to have any official authority. I hope you don't mind me telling you that I've been the number one employee of this company for five years in a row, "he announced with a proud smile as he rubbed his Mickey Mouse handkerchief.

To find the path to which you are destined you must first get lost in it. Sometimes we need to deviate in order to orient ourselves. Everything you've been through, from the loss of your loved ones to your destiny in the army, has been a preparation.

"A preparation?" I repeated, stunned.

-Clear. If you had not been through all that, you

would not be much less prepared to listen to what I have come to teach you. Life had to destroy you so you could rebuild yourself better. Wait to see the changes that await you, boy. Before you even realize it, you will be the star of the company.

What does LSC mean, Tommy?

I can't explain what LSC means, "he told me in a rogue tone, further increasing the mystery and rubbing those acronyms on his plate again. Only the four teachers who taught me this philosophy are allowed to explain what it means. And they will only do it under the most special conditions.

Before taking you on this special trip to leadership, I need to make a deal with you, Blake. If you are not willing to do what I need you to do, then, as much as I liked our meeting, I couldn't take you to meet the four teachers.

"What deal is that?" I asked, a little afraid of losing what seemed like a great opportunity to transform my bland life. I was surprised that Tommy imposed an obligation on me.

"Don't worry, it's a requirement that won't cost you much effort." In fact, when you learn the philosophy of leadership, I think you will do what I am going to ask you automatically.

-What is it about?

"That you make me a promise."

-What promise?

"That you'll share the ideas and method you'll learn from the four teachers with all the people you can, Blake." Your reward is that you will profoundly improve the lives of more people than you could ever imagine. My reward is that I will have fulfilled the promise I made to the four teachers.

The sad price of mediocrity and the spectacular reward of leadership.

Tommy became Blake's mentor, and managed to make him understand that leadership belongs to everyone. Tommy asks Blake one day to show him what he should know about being a free leader and they are left to meet in a cemetery early in the morning.

Blake arrives in his car. As he got a little closer he saw an incredible scene. There, on the side of the road, was Tommy's car. He had the flashers on, as he had said. There was no one inside. But what stunned me was the model of the vehicle. It was a new and shiny Porsche 911S! And in the personalized license plate he laughed: LDRSRUS

Blake is scared since the meeting is a cemetery with a person he has only seen once, although he had talked about it with some store employees. And everything he had told me was rigorously true, to the last detail.

It was true that, although he was seventy-seven, he was considered the best employee of the company.

Approached. Now he clearly saw that it was Tommy, although he turned his back. He wore the same clothes as in our first meeting. In front of him were two open graves. He was stunned and scared

to death, his first impulse was to flee since he thought the man was crazy and this would be his end; but when Tommy turned, he raised a smile, which made him



relax and think that everything would be interesting.

You arrived on time, I am impressed. Very impressed, really. I know it's very early, but one of the things I've learned is that leaders are those individuals who do what the unsuccessful are not willing to do, even if it is not to their liking.

He took off the sheet with the letters LWT. Here, this is for you, Blake. For having had the courage to come. That is always half the battle. And for having an open mind to learn the philosophy that I have promised to reveal to you. LWT means Leadership Without Title.

-Thanks for the gift, Tommy

No, again, thanks to you for coming here at this time,"my mentor replied. Getting up early is one of the daily practices that Free Leaders do with absolute firmness. This reminds me of Ben Franklin's words: «You will have plenty of time to sleep when you're dead». –

And on your last day the only thing that really matters is if you have come to know your inner leader and, in that case, if you had the courage to allow him to offer his gifts to the world.

At the bottom of the first grave was a slate board. I had never seen anything like it. On the stone was an inscription in capital letters.

My heart raced again. Doubts clouded my mind. But before fear took hold of me, I jumped into the grave, grabbed the splint and cleaned it of dirt. The sun was already high in the sky. There, inside the grave and without looking at Tommy, I read the inscription: "The ten human regrets," that was the title.

1. Reach your last day when the magnificent song that your life had to sing is still silent inside you.

2. Reach your last day without experiencing the natural power you have to create a great

work and achieve great achievements.

3. Reach your last day realizing that you have never inspired anyone with your example.

4. Reach your last day full of pain when you realize that you never assumed great risks and therefore never obtained great rewards.

5. Arrive on your last day knowing that you missed the opportunity to see far from what excellence is because you believed the lie that you should resign yourself to mediocrity.

6. Reach your last day regretting never having learned to transform adversity into victory and lead into gold.

7. Arrive on your last day regretting having forgotten that the job is to help others, not to help yourself.

8. Reach your last day knowing that you have lived the life that society taught you to desire and not the life you truly wanted.

9. Reach your last day and find out that you never realized your full potential or approached the genius you had to become.

10. Reach your last day and discover that you could have been a leader and transform the world into a better place. But you refused to accept that mission because it scared you. So you failed. And you wasted your life.

First leadership conversation: You don't have to have a position to be a leader.

If a man is called to be a sweeper, he should sweep the streets as Michelangelo painted or as Beethoven composed or as Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep the streets so well that all the inhabitants of heaven and earth stopped to say: "Here lived a great sweeper

who did his job well". DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

After driving for a couple of hours, Tommy stopped in front of one of the best hotels in New York

"I want you to meet the first of the four teachers that I will introduce to you on this special day." Her name is Anna and she's Argentine. She is a lovely woman, very kind and hardworking, passionate and wise. Anna understands very well what the concept of being a Leader Without Title really means.

I figured I should be around fifty, but there was youth and sexual appeal. He wore a black and white uniform, like those usually used by cleaning women in the category hotels. He had a perfect complexion, somewhat dark skin and impressive white teeth. She seemed full of enthusiasm and elegance, and very comfortable with herself. She had adorned her hair with a pretty white flower, an original touch that made her even more radiant.

Anna took a napkin from her apron with something written in red.

Take it, Blake. My friend Tommy told me you were coming, so I prepared this for you. Read it please. Meanwhile I will prepare coffee. Here we have great coffee. I don't know what I would do without coffee, "he added. Don't worry, Tommy, I'll bring a cup for you too, honey.

He threw a kiss in the air and he got up and caught him. I read what I had written on the napkin: «The Four Natural Powers».

Natural Power 1. All of us have the power to go to work every day and do our best. And for that you don't need to have a position.

Natural Power 2. We have the power to inspire, influence and exalt all the people we meet with the gift of good example. And for that you don't need to have a position.

Natural Power 3. All of us can create positive

changes in the face of negative conditions. And for that you don't need to have a position.

Natural Power 4. All of us who know the truth about leadership can treat everyone involved in an organization with respect, appreciation and kindness and, in doing so, elevate the culture of the organization to the best of the best. And for that you don't need to have a position.

I would encourage you to be BIW in your work and in your life.

-BIW? I don't know what that means, "I replied. My mother, you do like acronyms...

"It's true," Anna admitted. After a while they become an addiction. In addition, they constitute a new leadership language with which we communicate the Leadership Without Title. Anyway, BIW means the Best in the World.

The five rules that will help you remember that you don't need to have a position to be a leader can be summed up in the acronym IMAGE, that is, "image." These five letters represent the elusive leadership algorithm. If you live and work according to this code, which represents what leadership really is, you are guaranteed spectacular results.

Innovation
Mastery
Authenticity
Guts
Ethics

The second leadership conversation: The turbulent times create great leaders.

We entered a small shop with an old hand-painted sign that said: Skiing Slo Slo. The interior was surprisingly bright; skis and other sporting goods were very well organized and organized. On the walls hung numerous



Behind the counter was a tall, tanned and athletic man who must have been more than fifty years old. He wore a tight Icebreaker sweater, worn jeans and modern sunglasses. When he saw us, he ran out to greet us with a wide smile and took off his glasses in a clear gesture of friendship.

I'm Ty Boyd Glad to meet you, brother, "Ty bellowed, squeezing me in his arms.

Look, I run a business. You work in a business. It's amazing what's happening in the business world today. It is chaos. Everything is changing. Everything is pure uncertainty mixed with profound negativity. The rules of the game have changed. The competition is much fiercer than before, customers are less loyal than ever. Technology has drastically altered the way of working. And globalization has leveled the playing field, so that only organizations formed by people who are leaders without charge will remain standing. It's stressful, it's disconcerting and very scary, brother!

I have to teach you my five rules. These are five things to do, starting now, to practice the lesson. Turbulent times create great leaders. As you know, Blake, this is the second of the four principles that make up the philosophy of the Free Leader. I have an acronym for you.

"PARK, that is, "spark." The Leader Without Title is a light in a dark and turbulent world. Everything is

Speak with Candor
Prioritize
Adversity Breeds Opportunity
Respond Versus React
Kudos for Everyone

The third leadership conversation: The deeper your relationships are, the stronger your leadership will be.

The most important ingredient in the success formula is knowing how to get along with others. THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Two more meetings and we'll be done, Blake. Two more teachers and you will know the four principles of the Leadership Without Title philosophy. You will be fully prepared to return to the bookstore and your personal life with the information and practices you need to exercise your leadership to the fullest.

It was almost three in the afternoon when we climbed the stairs of the New York Public Library and entered the main lobby. We hurried through the majestic corridors under the high ceilings, eager to reach the next meeting. I felt peace there. Not just because he was with Tommy, but because he was surrounded by books again.

"Let's go to the roof, Blake." Surely you have never been.

-Never. The truth is that I didn't even know it was worth climbing.

"Well, friend." You'll see as if, "Tommy replied mysteriously as we climbed into the slow elevator.

And when I left I was amazed, absolutely amazed. Dominating the stunning landscape of New York City, a huge stone terrace covered by a spectacular hanging garden. Flowers of dazzling colors, many of them with identifying labels, were organized in rows that ran across the terrace from one end to the other. Intricate stone statues with ancient Chinese characters decorated the space, splendid garlands of orchids hung from the walls. The air was impregnated with an incredible fragrance. Classical music played through the speakers. It was a magical place. I have never seen something like this. Suddenly a man came out from behind one of the wooden planters and I got a death scare. He could not see his face:

he wore a plastic mask similar to the Phantom of the Opera. The stranger sang the same phrase over and over again like a monk in his morning prayers.



-The key is in the people. The key is in the people. The key is in the people! I was scared. I looked at Tommy immediately to make sure that guy was legit. I had no idea what that frenzied and unpredictable madman was capable of.

-Let's go! I exclaimed.

"No, we are not leaving," Tommy replied, undeterred. He didn't seem worried at all. He stood still between the rows of flowers, with his arms crossed and face of having a great time. He suddenly smiled.

"Come on, Jackson, don't scare the rookie," he said. The stranger took off his mask. It turned out to be a kind-faced man whom I calculated about sixty-odd years. It looked like a cross between Sean Connery and Confucius. I know it's not easy to imagine, but that seemed to me. His warm personality became apparent instantly.

"This must be the famous Blake from the bookstore," he said pleasantly. He shook my hand in his, as a tanned politician would. I not only relaxed, because I had understood that he was the third teacher, but that his words made me feel somehow important.

Liketheothertwoteachersyou'vealready met,Ialsohave myownacronymtohelpyouremembertheseusefulrules.

SERVE, that is, "serve," he said as he sat on a beautiful bench of wood.

Serve = HUMAN

Helpfulness
Understanding
Mingle
Amuse
Nurture

The fourth leadership conversation: To be a great leader, you must first be a great person.

If we were all satisfied with ourselves, there would be no heroes. Mark Twain

You are about to meet the last of the four teachers, another very special person who will share with you the fourth and last principle of the philosophy of the Leader Without Charge so that you can awaken

your inner leader and function to the fullest of your potential. After that, our time together will be over.

I didn't know what Tommy was up to or where he was taking me until we passed through a frosted green glass door that read: SPA AMBER. And below: JET BRISLEY, THERAPEUTIC MASAJIST.

All, absolutely all, carry greatness within us. We have talent, we have a potential that if we exploit it will allow us to shine with an extraordinary light. There are no special people on the planet. Tommy, you, me and all the people around us are made to lead and achieve impressive success. But they have brainwashed us, they have made us doubt our worth, they have taught us to stay small instead of dreaming big, we have lost track of who we really are. We have disconnected from our essential nature. We have buried the best of ourselves under layers of insecurity, doubts and fears.

Wherever you go, take yourself with you. If you don't feel respect for yourself, if you have a weak character or are full of fears, no matter how much you try to do in your work, nothing will ever happen. But if you start cleaning that part of you that is not ideal, the results will be explosive. Start working on yourself today. Because life does not wait for anyone. Don't leave for tomorrow what you can do today. Tomorrow may never come. That's the reality. Which brings me to my acronym and the five rules for this fourth and final leadership lesson.

SHINE, that is, "shine." To achieve leadership and personal mastery, you have to do five basic things.

See clearly
Health is wealth
Inspiration matters
Neglect not your family
Elevate your lifestyle

inviting you to read it consciously, as it will help you and create awareness of how we want to live our day to day life, being a capable leader or dying without discovering it. Very true is as the author says, if we get up 1 hour earlier than usual, we will have 7 more hours in the week and 30 hours a month, which we are accustomed to and we sink into the despair that the day doesn't reach us for all and each of the tasks we want to implement in a single day.

We are able to fulfill our dreams and overcome our fears.

Practicing the philosophy learned in the "Leadership Without Title" entails breaking paradigms in life, changing my way of thinking in many aspects and destructive attitudes.

You will become a role model, day by day you will discover those weaknesses that will help you and drive you to eliminate them from your life, only in that way can you see a new being grow.

Once you read it, share it and help other people believe in your leadership. *L&E*

I brought you this extensive summary of this book,

Cultural Capsule

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THEATER

- Aba Theater: Without implants I go pal from March 12 to April 8.
- Aba Theater: The Wizard of Oz from February 2 to March 22.
- Aba Theater: Frozen 2 from March 28 to June 21.
- Pacific Theater: Paco's house from February 29 to March 22.
- Pacific Theater: Rented from March 3 to April 5.
- Pacific Theater: Adams Family "Musical" from March 4 to 22.
- Pacific Theater: Carreyó How to write a path ?, on March 17.
- Pacific Theater: Troy Story, La iliada for children from March 28 to June 14.
- La Estación Theater: 13 and Tuesday from March 13 to April 19.
- La Estación Theater: Super detective mouse until March 15.
- El Ángel Theater: Only for women and men with pants from February 28 to March 15.
- La Plaza Theater: Taxi 2, from March 3 to April 4.
- National Theater: Navigating between cadences and roots on March 4.
- National Theater: The Innocents on March 14.
- National Theater: Cristo Quijote Treated on March 6.
- National Theater: Concert of the National Symphony Orchestra on March 12
- Balboa Theater: National Symphony Orchestra Concert on March 4.

MOVIES

- I promise to return on March 5.
- United on March 5.
- Salvador Dalí in search of immortality on March 7.
- Frida Khalo on March 8.
- Bloodshot on March 12.

MUSEUMS

- MAC: Gala 2020 in Mi Pueblito, Ancón on March 12.

CONCERTS

- Carlos Vives "Concert not to sit down" at the Panama Plaza Amador on March 28.
- Karol G in ATLAPA on March 26.
- World Music: JMO Trio at the Athenaeum of the City of Knowledge on March 26.
- Osvaldo Ayala and his symphony orchestra at the Anayansi Theater on March 11.

VARIOUS

- Canal Summer: March 20-21.
 - o On the steps of the administration building.
 - o Friday 20: 1903 "The Musical"
 - o Saturday 21: Rubén Blades with Roberto Delgado and his orchestra.
- oStart of classes: March 2.

FESTIVALS AND CONGRESSES

International Festival of Performing Arts of Panama (FAE) from March 7 to 23::

o Blessed Gloria - inauguration at the National Theater on March 17.

o I am not crazy at the Teatro en Circulo on March 18.

o Tijuana at the Anita Villalaz Theater on March 19.

o ANNA at the Teatro en Circulo on March 20.

o Electra at the Anita Villalaz Theater on March 21.

o The Wagner - closing (Only for public of trained criteria and of legal age) in the National Theater on March 23.

o Outdoor / free activities on Sunday, March 17:
 ☒ 3:30 pm SANTA ANA PARK, Central Ave, C Street. Meeting point for parade-comparsa towards Plaza Catedral.

☒ 4:30 pm PLAZA CATEDRAL, Casco Antiguo, Ave B 7-53. Presentations of magic, stilts, circus, children's theater, capoeira and dance.

LA TRIBU PERFORMANCE - Contemporary circus - PANAMA.

MEGA PRODUCCIONES - Stilts and pampering - VENEZUELA.

CORDAO DE OURO - Capoeira - PANAMA.

MAGO MARKO - Magic and prestidigitation - PANAMA.

DISCRONÍA - Contemporary dance -PANAMÁ
 PROJECT ENLACES, UNHCR.

TRUKYMAN - Tightrope and juggling - CUBA and BELGIUM.

GENKIDHAMA - Theater for the whole family - COSTA RICA.

• CelloFest Panama at the Harmodio Arias Madrid Campus of the University of Panama, in Curundú, Ancón from March 9 to 14.

• AudioMotor Fest at the Amador Event Square

on March 15.

• Burguer Week from March 10 to 30.

• MacroFest 2020 from March 14 and 15 in the Casco Viejo and Plaza V Centenario.

• MacroMarket 2020 from March 14 and 15 in the Casco Viejo.

• IFF International Film Festival from March 26 to April 1, "Cinema is Life".

FERIAS Y FIESTAS IMPORTANTES

• Carpets to Jesús Nazareno de Atalaya on March 1.

• Cumbia Chorrerana Festival from March 12 to 15.

• Cucuá National Dance Festival in Penonomé from March 20 to 21.

• Santá Fé de Darién Fair from March 26 to 29.

• Festival of the cart in Natá on March 13.

• Feria de Sur de Soná, Tigre de San Lorenzo from March 13 to 15.

• National Sugar Cane Festival in Pesé from March 26 to 29.

• Santa Fe de Darién Fair from March 26 to 29.

• Fair of the Coasts and Mountains of Columbus from March 12 to 15.

• David, Chiriquí International Fair from March 12 to 22.

• National Columbus Fair: from March 27 to April 5.

• Festival of Antaño in Dos Río de Dolega on March 27-29.

• Expo Orchids of Boquete from March 3 to 12.

FECHAS IMPORTANTES

• March 1: Zero Discrimination Day.

• March 1: Jesús Nazareno de Atalaya.

- March 3: World Wildlife Day.
- March 8: International Women's Day.
- March 8: Saint John of God
- March 12: Tree Day.
- March 17: Saint Patrick
- March 19: Men's Day
- March 19: San José
- March 20: International Day of Happiness.
- March 20: Spring Equinox.
- March 21: International Forest Day.
- March 21: International Day of the Fight against Racial Discrimination.
- March 21: International Poetry Day.
- March 21: International Day of People with Down Syndrome.
- March 22: World Water Day.
- March 23: International Meteorologist Day.
- March 24: Tuberculosis Day.
- March 26: World Day of Epilepsy Awareness.
- March 27: International Theater Day.
- March 29: Day of good deeds.
- March 30: Chinese Ethnicity Day.
- March 30: Retiree Day.





Alianzas alrededor del Mundo

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

Guevara & Gutiérrez S. C. Servicios Legales- BOLIVIA

Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- BRASIL

DSN Consultants Inc- CANADÁ

Lewin & Wills Abogados- COLOMBIA

Rivera, Bolívar y Castañedas- PANAMÁ

Espinosa & Asociados- CHILE

Lawnetworker S.A. Asesores Legales- ECUADOR

Peter Byrne & Associates- ESTADOS UNIDOS

Machado Associados Advogados e Consultores- ESTADOS UNIDOS

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

Estudio Rubio Leguía Normand & Asociados- PERU

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

Pellerano & Herrera- REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Alvarado & Asociados- NICARAGUA

Torres, Plaz & Araujo- VENEZUELA

Facio & Cañas- COSTA RICA

