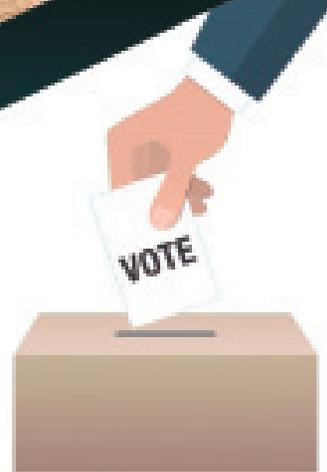


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FENÓMENO DEL NIÑO...  
Una situación alarmante

Un torneo electoral sin precedentes

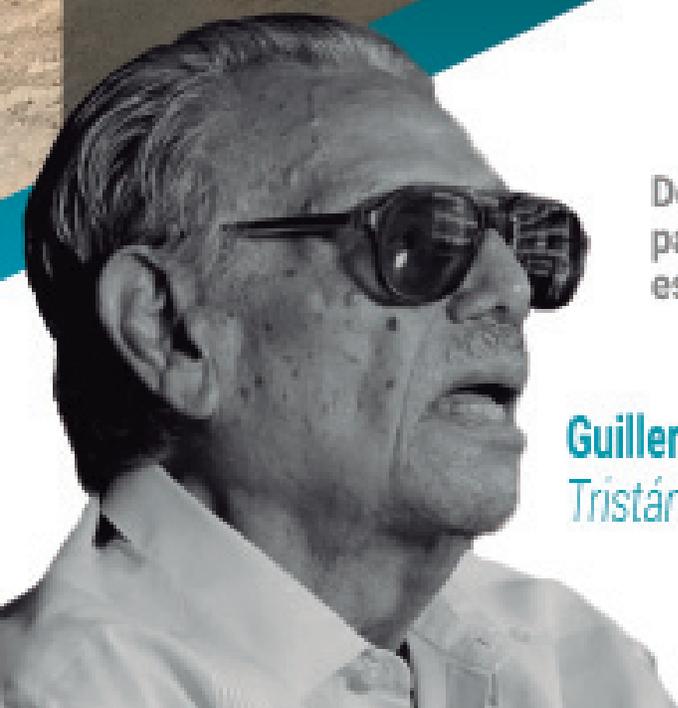


De listas grises y negras, paraísos fiscales y dobles estándares

Moratoria para el pago de ciertos tributos

**Guillermo Sánchez Borbón**  
*Tristán Solarte (1924-2019)*

¿Por qué la **MARCA** es una herramienta importante para tu empresa?



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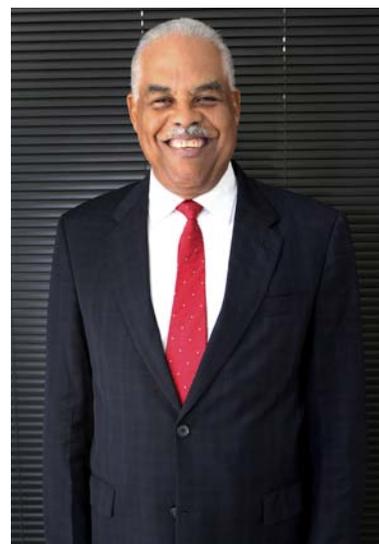


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# Editorial

## An unprecedented electoral tournament

**A**fter the reforms to the Electoral Code and the issuance of a series of main regulations, applicable to the upcoming elections, for first time the country is living a tournament that will mark a turning point in our political history. On the one hand, the propaganda doesn't visually suffocate us and has a suitable content for the two months that have been given to the candidates to do their proselytizing.

While some have complained about the lack of a debate in its deepest sense, there is no doubt that candidates for the country's presidency and vice-presidency have had to study, prepare and sustain their proposals on issues that were not previously part of the content of the public forums, namely: health, education, tourism, agricultural production, environment, opportunities for young peo-

ple, logistics, crime, inequality, among others. The disruptive elements have been participation of young people in specific campaigns to eliminate re-election of deputies and representatives, and the phenomenon of social networks as an effective vehicle to reveal candidates' background, their patrimonial status, their family ties and to topics of a personal nature.

Another point to note is the existence of independent candidates in all positions of election with an overwhelming force if compared to the immediate antecedent of the 2014 tournament.

But perhaps the characteristic feature of greater depth in the political analysis, emanates from the rejection of the population towards the political parties that have been in force in our country since the beginning of the Republic.

Although it is true in the last 30 years, the country has been characterized by an unshakable decision not to allow immediate presidential re-election, therefore, no government as such has been able to re-elect, now what emanates from the sap of the national tree, it is that it seems that voters are disenchanted with political parties.

This requires an invasive surgery of political body, to extract as if it were a cancer, those practices that have constituted pri-

mer of parties that now must be destroyed. It is nothing less than bringing to the national arena a kind of decalogue or commandment that allows new life to political parties because they represent the backbone by which democracy is erected.

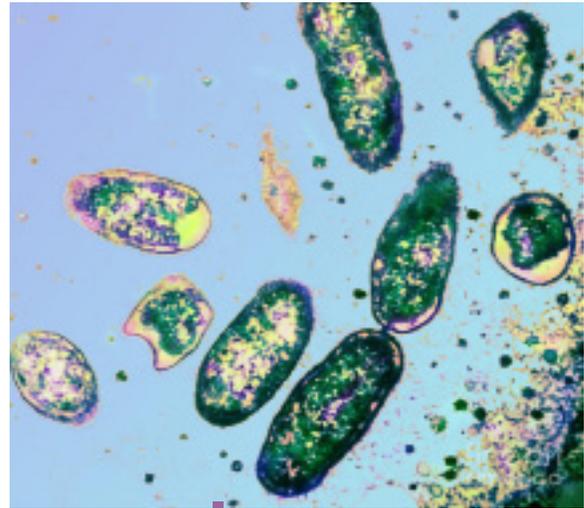
At the present time, none would pass the re-validation exam, therefore, it would have to rethink and show profound changes.

We are a little over 30 days in the general elections and everything seems to indicate that the electorate will make good use of their right to choose their best candidates.

Lack of a debate in the Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture in Panama, which will surely capture the attention of nationals and foreigners living here and set the parameters for the final choice on May 5 of this year.

The future of the country is positive, but there is no doubt that once the election is over, an agonizing period will begin to take dramatic actions to prepare the Panamanian nation to undertake great pending tasks.

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



## Rickettsia Rickettsii: mortal reemergent disease

Nancy Falcón  
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**R**ecently it was detected in the community of Quebrada Negra, Comarca Ngäble Buglé the outbreak of a disease caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia Rickettsii*, transmitted to humans mainly by ticks, fleas, lice or mites, through the bites of these blood sucking agents, causing five deaths at the start of the outbreak.

*Rickettsia Rickettsii* is a disease caused by a microorganism that shares characteristics of both bacteria and viruses. The human is an accidental host in the life cycle of the tick-rickettsia and is not required to maintain the rickettsia in the environment.

The deadliest of these febrile diseases is known as the Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, transmitted by mites and fleas and caused directly by the bacterium *Rickettsia Rickettsii*. In addition, there is Endemic Typhus, transmitted by lice and fleas, caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia Typhi* and the Epidemic Typhus caused by *Rickettsia Prowazekii*.

In Panama, cases of murine typhus (*Rickettsia*

*Typhi*) were diagnosed at the beginning of the last century; of this disease, no fatal cases were reported. At the beginning of the 1950s, the first five cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever were confirmed, where two deaths were reported.

Ten new cases of this disease have been recorded between 2004-2017, of which nine were fatal. In this last sequence, cases have been reported in rural areas of Panamá Oeste and Coclé (4), Panama City (4), a wilderness area of the Canal basin (1) and another in Colón (1).

*Rickettsia Rickettsii* has been classified as a lethal and reemerging disease in our country, but mostly forgotten in our environment, due to its sporadic appearance.

As we can see, this disease is not of recent date, it has been classified as “re-emerging”; however, a single appearance has claimed the lives of five people. It is important that the health authorities take the necessary measures to prevent its spread and spread. The resurgence of diseases such as *Rickettsia Rickettsii* and others is due

in large part to the general mismanagement of public health activities, especially surveillance and the lack of laboratories in the different provinces and counties with the necessary conditions to identify this type of diseases.

Unfortunately, the most affected are the inhabitants of extreme poverty populations, as is currently the case in rural, indigenous and comarcas populations, where environmental and sanitary conditions are precarious and health centers do not have the minimum conditions, there is not enough medical staff that can cope with these situations and thus avoid regrettable events, such as those that occurred recently.



At present there is no vaccine for this disease, so it is essential, as a population, to educate ourselves about prevention to avoid new outbreaks, both of this disease and many others that year after year are manifested in our country. L&E

info



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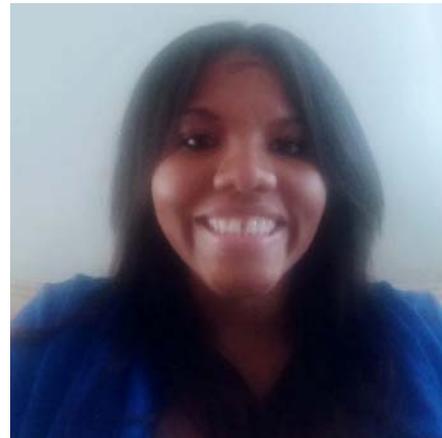
¿Quieres estar actualizado en cuanto a información legal?



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# Invited Writer

## Of gray and black lists, fiscal paradises and double standards



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The Panamanian system has been under the microscope of several countries and international organizations such as the OECD and the FATF as a consequence of international scandals such as Panama Papers and fiscal practices considered as “deficient”. In this sense, the last organization that seems to be obsessed with our country is the European Union.

The European Union is an economic and political association, composed of 28 countries, covering a large part of Europe. It arose after the Second World War in order to boost economic cooperation among European countries with the idea that as economic interdependence increased, the possibilities of conflict

would diminish; However, today the European Union is also responsible for fostering and welcoming the common integration and governance of the States and peoples of Europe.

In its energetic fight against tax evasion, the European Union has repeatedly issued a list of jurisdictions with fiscal deficiencies because they are not sufficiently cooperative in the fight against tax evasion. Although the inclusion in this list doesn't imply sanctions, it does reduce the competitiveness of the country since, due to the reputational loss of prestige that this represents, the commission can request additional controls to its banks, which could lead to a possible loss of international deposits

in the banking sector, among other damages.

### Where do they come from?

Lists of this type always emerge as a mechanism of pressure on the part of international organizations (almost always shaped and controlled by powerful countries) to ensure that the actions of nations (almost always the most vulnerable) are routed in accordance with their criteria without get to violate their sovereignty. In recent years, many countries qualified as “tax havens” have agreed to make certain concessions in tax matters, especially in relation to exchange of information and in relation to collaboration in clarification of serious crimes as a result of this type of crime pressures.

At first glance the classification is quite simple to understand, in the black lists are countries with fiscal deficiencies and that haven't made enough progress to solve them, or that haven't committed to develop a plan to solve those deficiencies; in the gray lists, countries identified as having strategic deficiencies and that have elaborated an action plan to overcome them, celebrating written commitments to overcome them.

Some organizations also conceive a darkened gray list, which contains countries that are aware of the risk of moving from the gray list to the black list due to the lack of sufficient progress in their action plans. However, white lists don't exist, after all, at school the teacher only wrote down the misbehaviors on a list.

Not only international organizations create their lists, a large number of countries have their own list of jurisdictions considered as “tax havens”, however, the criteria to fall within this classification are similar.

Thus we find the case of the European Union,

whose criteria for evaluating jurisdictions of third countries that don't cooperate with the Union in tax matters, revolve around three fundamental points that serve for determination of a tax haven:

- The level of fiscal transparency. Through the strengthening of cooperation and exchange of tax information.
- The application of measures recommended by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to avoid erosion of the tax base or profit transfer practices. Implementing, for example, new methods to calculate the rent subject to a tax exemption or preferential treatment or the application of the Transfer Pricing Regime under the principle of free competition.
- The degree of justice of its tax policy. To avoid harmful tax practices, such as facilitating the transfer of profits or setting up opaque companies.

Failure to comply with any of the aforementioned criteria guarantees countries like Panama, Uruguay, South Korea, Bermuda or Barbados the title of “tax havens” as well as a seat in the infamous gray or black lists of the European Union; not so to countries such as Cyprus, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta and the Netherlands (members of the European Union) who are too influential to belong to the list of “poorly behaved” despite not meeting the EU criteria.

### Why Panama?

The Panamanian financial system has been questioned internationally for years by various organizations and countries due to the characteristics of its tax and financial systems conceived more as a response to the Panamanian reality than as a method for tax evasion.

A system of territorial rent that rivals that of world income—followed by most of the countries—, a solid financial system that protects confidentiality, a tempting system of tax incentives aimed at attracting foreign knowledge and capital, are some of the benefits that granted Panama an important advantage in the international competition between countries for attracting taxpayers.

However, at some point in the game, developed nations decided to change the rules, turning competition into cooperation.

A cooperation conceived through rules directed by the international community and whose purpose was directed towards the standardization of rules and transparency.

To achieve transparency, we implement exchange of information between various jurisdictions; To suppress tax evasion, we promote fiscal planning strategies such as BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) that are common to all players, and for those who resist, discriminatory black and gray lists that hurt where money doesn't heal, in reputation.

Every week we find at least one piece of news in which the Republic of Panama is related to the term "fiscal Paradise" or the famous lists of bad fiscal practices, but despite this, the booming Panamanian economy continues to be one of the most attractive region of.

Truth be told, in the last five years Panama has opened its eyes to the irremediable reality, the changes are here to stay and we cannot be a regional financial center while we are part of the gray and black lists of the international community.

In response to this, important fiscal reforms have been carried out, such as the criminalization of tax evasion, reviews of special tax regimes, as well as adjustments related to the

exchange of fiscal and financial information, changes that, in accordance with the requirements of the agencies international, negatively affect our economy and competitiveness.

For this reason, the Panamanian financial world didn't have the indignation at the end of last year, when they announced the inclusion of the infamy of the European Union to the list; Then came the calm when in March of 2019 Panama managed to succeed after reviewing and acknowledging all efforts made in tax matters.

The truth is that the only sure thing is change, and the OECD often makes "recommendations" and evaluations, which, if not followed, make you again a creditor to a position in the lists of tax havens, thereby affecting your international reputation.

The European Commission considers that being on the list of infamy can serve as an incentive for countries (influenceable) adjust their tax systems to EU standards for fear of being identified and embarrassed, and, although this doesn't apply to All of them, therefore, some member countries of the European Union are exempt from applying the OECD recommendations to the letter and live with their undamaged reputation to tell it, without a doubt this idea is working to a great extent, so that Panama doesn't it is more than adapting or perishing, rejecting privacy and tax erosion as part of the Panamanian strategy for attracting businesses, focusing efforts on reinventing our service platform in order not to lose prominence in the bloody competition for raising capital. *L&E*



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Law 79 of March 20, 2019 was enacted through which a period of moratorium for six months is granted for the payment that falls on interest and surcharges caused by real estate taxes, obligations of social security contributions that must be paid Individual taxpayers and by workers who receive salaries and fees.

Moratorium period that is granted will be counted from January 1 to June 30, 2019.

On the other hand, it establishes the right to taxpayers to make payment arrangements for up to two years, to cancel obligations determined by the General Revenue Office as a result of property tax updates.

It has been established that during this term you can pay without surcharges or interest.

The norm establishes that same legal effect will be granted for the interests caused by the obligations of the Social Security Fund contributions that must be paid by independent taxpayers and by the workers who receive salaries and fees.

As it is of public domain, Law 49 of September 11, 2018 had granted a moratorium on the payment of such taxes until December 31, 2018, which was the reason for long lines in General Directorate of Income in MEF and in National Land Authority. *L&E*



## NEW REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED FOR SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION OF TOURIST COMPANIES

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The World Tourism Organization (WTO), has indicated that tourism that fully takes into account the current and future economic, social and environmental impact to meet the needs of visitors, industry, environment and host communities.

Under these parameters, Executive Decree No.22 of March 18, 2019, modifies Articles 159 and 161 of Executive Decree No. 83 of December 23, 2008 that regulates Decree Law 4 of 2008 that creates the Tourism Authority from Panama.

The modification to article 159 that deals with the adoption of international criteria or parameters, focuses on the introduction of a paragraph that establishes that the criteria and indicators that are part of legal sustainability will be established in the Technical Standard DGNT-COPANIT 510-2017 Legal Sustainability Standards of the General Direc-

torate of Standards and Industrial Technology.

Regarding article 161 on sustainability certification, it is restructured, since it is established that regulations on tourism sustainability in Panama will be applied to sectors that carry out tourist activities, among which are mentioned:

1. Sites that offer services of food.
2. Tourist public accommodation.
3. Community groups that develop tourist activities.
4. Tourist guides.
5. Tour operators.
6. Land and sea transport.

The power of the ATP to delegate the evaluations to natural or legal persons that meet the

established requirements is retained, while the Authority retains the ability to perform random inspections of the certified companies and determine the correct application of the parameters for each type of tourism activity.

Another aspect to be highlighted is the introduction of article 161-A, which provides for the creation of a Consultative Commission for Certification of Legal Sustainability Standard to support the Tourism Authority in the maintenance, dissemination and promotion of the standard of tourism sustainability, as well as to make suggestions on the granting of the seal to companies that voluntarily apply for this certification.

The objective of reforms is to establish minimum criteria so that tourism companies can include tourism sustainability standards in their operations and, in this way, increase the competitiveness of tourism products nationally and internationally. *L&E*

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# THE PLACEMENT OF ADVERTISING IN TREES IS PROHIBITED

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The Ministry of Environment through Resolution No. DM-0090-2019 of March 18, 2019, resolved to prohibit the placement, by any method, of advertisements and/or election advertisements on trees and palms, which affect or impair its function and condition, as well as putting themselves at risk and/or damaging said natural resources.

Within this context, advertisers are given a term of fifteen to voluntarily remove advertisements and election advertisements placed in trees and palms.

It is worth mentioning that the prohibition of placing advertisements of any kind on existing trees nationwide that endanger the life of these resources, was established by Resolution JD-017-93 of March 4, 1993 and since we were in an electoral period, it is wise that the issuance of Resolution No. DM-0090-2019 to remind political activists of the prohibition, thus avoiding the imposition of fines and sanctions. *L&E*



# VISA ONLINE TO ENTER PANAMA

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MIGRACIÓN  
EN LÍNEA



**W**ith the issuance of Executive Decree No. 100 of February 21, 2019, the National Immigration Service establishes the Visa application procedure online to enter Panama to enter a foreign country that doesn't have a consular presence in its country of origin or residence. our country and require a Tourism Visa.

Through this procedure, applicant must apply for his Visa online through the form on the SNM website, attaching the required requirements, for this purpose and once the Visa is authorized he will be sent via email, which must print and that will have a reference number. *L&E*

# Consult Doctrine and **JURISPRUDENCE**

Source: Office of the Administration  
Attorney General

## ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC AGENCY PANAMÁ PACÍFICO, IS COMPETENT TO FINE COMPANIES THAT BREACH THEIR OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY CEASE OF WORK RELATIONSHIP WITH A FOREIGN WORKER

The Office of the Administration Attorney General issued Consultation C-022-19 of February 28, 2019, which absolves the question posed by the National Immigration Service in the sense that they are competent to fine companies located in the Special Economic Area of Panama. - Pacific, who fail to comply with the obligation to notify the termination of the employment relationship of a foreign worker.

In order to answer the question, the Public Prosecutor's Office indicated that the competent authority to fine companies located in the Panama-Pacific Special Economic Area that fail to comply with the obligation to notify the termination of the employment relationship of a foreign worker who provides service for an employer located in that area, is the Administrator of the

Panama Pacifico Special Economic Agency. The Authority maintains that, although it is true that this is a situation in which two different legal exemptions assign sanctioning authority to two authorities of different entities so that they can apply pecuniary sanctions for the same omission, it is also true that the law foresees the mechanism to solve this apparent normative conflict.

It states that Article 103 of Law 41 of 2004 and the ruling that regulates it, attribute competence to the Administrator of the Special Economic Area of Panama - Pacific to sanction the employer who fails to make the notification about the termination of the employment relationship of a foreign worker who has rendered his services, and on the other hand, article 56 of Decree Law 3 of 2008, also empowers the Director General of the Migration Service, to sanction that same factual assumption.

After analyzing the Political Constitution, Law 38 of 2000, Law 51, Decree Law 3 and the Civil Code, indicates that it could be said that this is in the presence of a prevention competition, according to which the first entity that knows about the fault prevents the other from being able to exercise punitive action for the same fault, and not from a private jurisdiction of the person who administers the Panama - Pacific Special Economic Area.

This area is managed by an entity with legal status, its own assets and autonomy in its internal regime, called the Special Economic Area Agency Panama - Pacific (hereinafter the Agency), created by Article 4 of the aforementioned Law 41 of 2004, and Among its functions is to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of Law 41 of 2004, the regulations and rules that are issued in its development, conduct the corresponding investigations for such purposes, and impose administrative or pecuniary sanctions to the "Companies" to the "Developer" or the respective "Operator".

It concludes by pointing out that the sanctioning authority of the Administrator of the Agency to apply pecuniary measures to employers who fail to make the notification established in Article 103 of Law 41 of 2004, is limited to those who hire foreign personnel to provide their services, within the Panama-Pacific Special Economic Area; while the sanctioning authority of the Director General of the National Immigration Service is exercised over all employers, agents, contractors or intermediaries who have omitted to notify the termination of the employment relationship of foreign personnel, in any part of the national territory, that is, their competition is more encompassing than that of the Agency Administrator. *L&E*

# SEXUAL AGGRESSION IN LESS OF AGE

**COMPETITION:** Supreme Court of Justice, Panama

**DATE:** March 22, 2018

**SPEAKER:** Jerónimo Mejía E.

David Rodríguez - Legal Assistant  
david.rodriguez@rbc.com.pa

**S** EEN:

"The present process begins with complaint filed by Mrs. ROSENDA ERNESTINA MARTINEZ CAMAÑO on December 4, 2010 against young JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA for offense against integrity and sexual freedom to the detriment of minor MLMM, stating that for day Three of December of that year, approximately at two-thirty in the morning (2:30 AM), she was interrogating her daughter M., and latter said that she had sexual intercourse on November 28 and December 5, 2010.

The minor M.L.M.M. in her respective affidavit states that on November 28 she had sex with the young man JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA in the house of a friend of JOSE named BRIAN, and on December 5 of that same year it was the second time she had relations sex with JOSE in the house of a friend of hers called ROSMERY.

The legal medical examination of the minor M.L.M.M. describes Annular Hymen with cutout at 5 o'clock according to the dial of the watch.

JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA is investigated on thirteen May 13, 2011, noting that there were only kisses and caresses, but that he never maintained relations with her, thus denying the charges against him.

The representation of the Public Prosecutor's Office issued Criminal Judgment 299 of May 30, 2011, in which it requests a Call to Trial.

Once the preliminary hearing was begun, which was presided over by the Eleventh Criminal Court, the technical defense attorney requested that the process be carried out under the abbreviated process rule, after the request was admitted, a Summons Appeal was issued; Once the ordinary hearing was held, the Eleventh Court issued the Absolute Judgment 33 of June 13, 2012, in which it pronounces an acquittal in favor of the young JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA.

The aforementioned sentence was appealed by the Representative of the Public Ministry.

Upon hearing the appeal the Second Superior Court of Justice, decided to revoke the Absolutory Judgment of First Instance and consequently dictates the Final Judgment of Second Instance 004 of January 10, 2014, by which he condemns the young man JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA, to the penalty of six (6) years of imprisonment and disqualification from the exercise of public functions for a term of two (2) years as the perpetrator of the crime of Sexual Violation.

### REASONS THAT SUPPORT THE RESOURCE

First Reason: "A mistake of right is made in his assessment of the evidence, because although the place indicated as occurrence of alleged crime was never corroborated. Hence, that testimony lacks probative force against the young JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA, and in assessing it violates rules of the force of the testimonies, since they don't represent full evidence against my client, besides being the only testimony, and in that sense the law doesn't give it the courage to issue a conviction."

Second Reason: "The Second Superior Court of Justice of the First Judicial District of Panama, when evaluating in the contested decision the investigatory declaration of the young JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA, as soon as he accepted that he kissed and caressed the minor, he committed an error of law in his assessment. because based on this evidence it is proven that the young JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA is the perpetrator of the crime of Sexual Violation, although it is not the best way to do so The assessment of testimony of young JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA violates the Law because our Code of procedure doesn't give value to that diligence as evidence to issue a criminal decision, and likewise violates the rule of the force of the testimonies."

### OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General in relation to the first reason, indicates that as for the lack of verifica-

tion of the places where the wrongful act was perpetrated, in her opinion doesn't constitute per se an error of valuation that weakens the accusations of the victim, in her interventions the minor offended has not expressed that she has any intention of harming the accused JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA OJO, but that she was discovered by her mother on December 5, 2010, when she returned home after having left that night and Find out what she did.

She maintains that the victim's testimony is corroborated with the legal medical expertise and the psychological interview of the Victims Unit, and with the physical examination that shows that he has an annular hymen with a notch at 5 o'clock, which proves sexual relations of the victim who indicates as responsible the accused, who claims to have flirted with her.

The representative of the Public Ministry in relation to the second reason, indicates that the challenged item of evidence was not the only object of analysis, is also not prohibited by law, doesn't infringe fundamental rights or is contrary to morality and public order.

In this regard, it states that the accused in his investigation states that he knew the offended, which denies having had sexual relations with the victim while claiming that there was a flirtation, so the representative of the public vindict is of opinion that the Superior Court made a correct intellectual exercise in affirming the defendant's responsibility based on the evidence against him given the proximity to the minor offended that was accepted by the accused.

### OPINION OF THE ROOM

First plea: This Chamber considers that the reasoning of the fact that the Superior Court made an error of assessment in estimating statement made by the girl M.L.M.M. On the contrary, we note that testimony given by the girl M.L.M.M.

She was categorical, firm and invariable in

terms of consensual sexual relations with the accused JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA OJO, whom she even identified as her boyfriend.

Second Reason: In this regard, this Collegiate Court agrees with the representative of the Public Ministry, in the sense that the statement made by accused JOSUE ANTONIO HERRERA OJO was not the only element of conviction examined, weighed and valued to conclude the responsibility of the aforementioned HERRERA OJO for the crime of rape to the detriment of the girl MLMM. This Judiciary considers that the violation of the procedural rules is not proven, based on the reasoning already explained in the sense that the Superior Court did not rely on the testimony of the victim as the only incriminating element against the accused, but in application of the principle of unity and community of evidence, gave probative value to other incriminating elements that corroborate and give probative force to the direct accusations of the offended against the accused.

#### PERSONAL OPINION

The crimes of rape maintain a thin line between the crime committed or the accusation for revenge. Hence the importance of expert evidence in a timely manner and the evidence supporting the approaches of both parties, will largely defeat any presumption or failing to prove the crime.

Making it clear that a complaint against sexual freedom and integrity, for any person, will result in a heavy burden and stigma difficult to erase. It is important to take into account the latest national events and popular outcry, that through the National Assembly created the register of Sex Offenders, according to bill 625 approved in the third debate and waiting to be sanctioned by the executive, to persuade the offenders of this type of crimes. And according to one of its articles, any person who has been entered in the registry will be kept on this list up to a term equivalent to twice the maximum of the penalty for which he was convicted. *L&E*





## Why is the brand an important tool for your company?

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Intellectual Property refers to an economic good that includes intangible products, as well as physical products, recognized in most countries' legislations and subject to economic exploitation by the legal owners of said property.

Then, being accepted by most companies, both local and international, its main objective is to differentiate its products from competitors. However, most of these companies have opted for the use of logos or brands developed for products or services.

### Let's talk about brands:

A brand is the symbolic figure of everything linked to a company, product or service. It includes that everything that together creates those associated expectations that are usually manufactured to delight the consumer.

A brand not only identifies the article and its creator, but acts as a kind of badge that

summarizes all the content of a product, the company that produces it or its preparation with which we create prestige.

### What does the brand contain?

Debetener elementos que sobresalgan de la competencia y tener como fin cubrir las necesidades del público. Algunas características pueden ser:

- Elocuencia
- Originalidad
- Sencillez
- Armonía

This lead us to ask ourselves...

### How much is your company's brand worth?



The market changes constantly and being a country that has a potential source of income such as the Panama Canal, we must evolve, since client doesn't always seek to find the

same; says a wise old man that the viewer is carried away by what he sees with the naked eye before taking into account quality in depth.

So what they are really looking for is that which, in exchange for an economic value, provides their own value.

Keep in mind that magic of brand is to fall in love with its customers, go beyond their tastes and preferences within current market, as this way, you will gain their trust, if your brand doesn't have that contact or connection with client, be sure it will fail.

### Did you know that your brand is an asset for your company?

Any symbol with something distinctive that differentiates it from other products on the market is an asset that will increase your value.

Taking into account that an asset is a good that the company owns and can become money; the company must protect it legally.

The brand is that intangible asset that deserves a lot of attention, because in order for it to become a memorable experience in the mind of the consumer, you must constantly cultivate it.

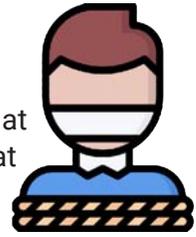
Focus whenever that intangible asset is much more than a symbol, a name or an emblem; it will be the connection of the client and the company.

### Should we keep firmly in mind that the brand is a bank guarantee?

If your brand has gained prestige even without registering it and gets the appreciation of the public, surely your opponents will want to look for an attack mechanism, then that's when the market starts to appear other signs that, while they may be identical to yours, can confuse the consumer.

This attempt to make the consumer fall in error of using other services and products

of another company thinking that it is the original company that promotes it, takes you to risk.



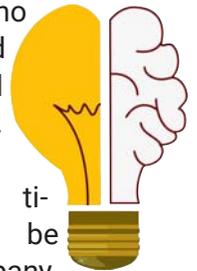
That is why you must register your brand no matter how small it is, because it is your face towards the market, what represents you.

### Could they hijack your brand?

To avoid risks and be able to efficiently take care of the market sector you have chosen, it is necessary to register your brands.

By registering your brand, this wall of defense is created against those who try to enjoy the reputation acquired by you. The validity of a registered trademark in Panama is 10 years.

Always recommending timely professional advice can be very beneficial for your company.



### Create fame and lie down thinking about new ideas of progress...

Dwight L. Moody

If this saying that since 1540 is popular and that refers to the prestige of a person. Once your personal brand is managed, people will talk about you, positively or negatively, it depends on what footprints you want to leave in others, and not only the footprint but the form and depth of it.

Secure it, protect it and exploit it in the best way and with the best advice. If you want to know the parameters that the law establishes for trademarks in Panama, I leave as reference Law No.35 of May 10, 1996 on which provisions on intellectual property are issued.

Also in our offices we have professionals who can give you all the support to enforce and protect your brand. *L&F*

# THE DISCRETIONALITY IN THE ADMISSIBILITY OF THE EXPERT PROOF

Resolution No. TAT-API-004 of february 20, 2019

Yinnelle Smart - Legal Assistant  
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“Discretion generates uncertainty, and this drives away investment”  
Victor Gobtiz.

Former president of the Institute of mining engineers of Peru.

**D**iscretion is the ability to discern what must be done or not in various circumstances of life, is a faculty by which it is left to the discretion of a person or authority a decision to regulate it.

We face discretion from our childhood, subject to the discretion of our parents, and later, using our own discretion to make decisions that directly or indirectly affect our life and environment.

In the law, discretion is a faculty that arises from the legal norm, but it differs from the regulated act, because while in the latter a norm determines with precision the procedure of the administrative organs in a certain factual situation, discretionary acts allude to the cases in which there is a certain margin of freedom

to make an understanding and later application of the rule due to the ambiguities in the normative formulation, the vagueness of its concepts, the inconsistency or insufficiency of the legal norms, among other situations That the Administration must face in its actions.

However, discretion, like everything in life, has limits, the actions of the Authority must meet requirements established in the legal system, be duly substantiated, and satisfy the purpose of the rule within the limits of what is reasonable, otherwise we could find ourselves before an arbitrariness.

Arbitrariness and discretion are antagonistic concepts, but intimately related to each other,

since acting with discretion could be arbitrary.

While a discretionary administrative act tends to satisfy the purposes of the Law as the public interest, the arbitrary act, being a misguided freedom, deviates from the purpose to which the act issued must respond, and may in some cases, even violate rights of the administered.

## BACKGROUND

The present controversy has its origin through Resolution 201-1553 of March 21, 2018 through which the General Directorate of Income of the Ministry of Economy and Finance issues additional liquidation in concept of income tax and dividend tax for the fiscal period 2014 and 2015 to the taxpayer.

Upon hearing the decision of original administrative act, taxpayer filed a formal appeal for reconsideration through attorney-in-fact on April 23, 2018, in which he also adduced and presented various evidence, including a request for expert evidence.

Once the evidentiary stage has begun, the Tax Administration decided to reject the request for the practice of expert evidence presented by the taxpayer through the resolution of evidence No. 201-0013 of June 6, 2018.

Said resolution is motivated in accordance with the provisions of articles 1240-A and other concordants of the Fiscal Code; 143 of Law 38 of 200 and in articles 780, 967 and 968 of the Judicial Code, indicating the following:

“ ...  
That some of documents presented by taxpayer don't correspond to evidence. Such is the case

of Original and a copy of Certificate of power issued by the Public Registry, which includes legal personality of the taxpayer and power of representation of legal representative, which are requirements to appear before the process and prove the legitimacy of the appellant.

That this Tax Administration observes that taxpayer didn't indicate in his request the point or points on which the expert opinion has to be, reason why the request for expert evidence doesn't meet the requirements established in article 968 of the Judicial Code.

That in accordance with article 968 of the Judicial Code and based on the request submitted by the taxpayer, it is not possible to specify the points on which expert's report would fall.

That, therefore, this Tax Administration considers that the request for expert evidence presented by the taxpayer is not appropriate.  
... ”

Once the Resolution has been notified, the taxpayer filed a formal Appeal through the legal representative in a timely manner.

The arguments raised by appellant, revolve around admissibility of expert evidence under Article 140 of Law 38 of 2000, since this rule doesn't expressly require that formulation of the same indicate points on the which must be the test, coupled with this, the Judicial Code itself in articles 967 and 968, cited by the Treasury, allow the practice of an expert test, even when the same had been announced incompletely, as the orientation of the norm is clear as to the extent of its admissibility and the possibility on the part of the judge to notify the parties in order to be able to correct or complement the re-

quest for expert evidence for it to be practiced. He also pointed out that it wasn't entirely true that taxpayer had not indicated the points on which evidence should fall, since throughout the brief of reconsideration and in his formal request he requested that an expert opinion be carried out, firstly questioning objections made by the DGI regarding non-acceptance of the adjustments made by its representative in its transfer pricing studies, and second, by dismissing 6 of the 8 comparable companies used in its studies.

He concluded by stressing importance of requested expertise, because the additional settlement issued by the DGI had its origin in the audit of transfer prices by which the Tax Administration determined that the margin used by its represented in 2014 and 2015 was incorrect, reason why additionally requested hearing before the Administrative Tax Court.

Through Resolution No. TAT-ADM-273 of August 13, 2018, the Tax Administrative Court admitted the Appeal against the evidence resolution No. 201-0013 of June 6, 2018, duly transferring the parts. In its opposition notice, the Directorate General of Revenue reiterated its position that the taxpayer did not specify in his request the points on which the expert evidence was to be made, considering the evidence requested by the taxpayer unnecessary, given that the issues raised in this case did not escape the common experience, nor the formation of the Transfer Pricing team of the General Directorate of Revenue.

### CONSIDERATIONS OF THE COURT

After analyzing arguments of parties, the Court proceeded to conduct an analysis of the dispute, stating that it focused on determining

the admissibility of the expert evidence requested by the appellant, that is, if it complied with the legal formalities for your admission.

For this, the Court examines the rules applicable to specific case, that is, article 1240-A of the Fiscal Code; 140 of Law 38 of 2000 and articles 783, 967 and 968 of the Judicial Code.

From the reading of article 1240-A of Fiscal Code, it concludes that in Reconsideration Appeals within Ordinary Fiscal Procedure are admissible all means of evidence recognized in the General Administrative Procedure enshrined in Article 140 of Law 38 of 2000, between which makes expert opinions, so it is clear that the expert evidence is a valid test in tax administrative procedures, and therefore, must be evaluated for admissibility in response to their conduct regarding the facts that must be proven and according to the legal norms that govern the probative matter.

In this regard, the Court notes the provisions of articles 783, 967 of the Judicial Code, which refer to the conduct and effectiveness of the means of evidence, and the requirements for the request and presentation of the expert evidence, as well as the possibility of cleaning it if it is incomplete.

In accordance with the above analysis, the Tax Administrative Tribunal considers that the Tax Administration can only deny the admission of an expert evidence if it does not constitute legal proof of those allowed by our legal system of evidence or, if it is not suitable, legally effective, conducive or pertinent to be considered a probative instrument.

In the same order of ideas, the Court of Appeals considers that although it is true that the Tax

Administration has a specialized team in Transfer Pricing, this should not be an argument to deny an expert opinion in this matter, given the level of subjectivity in the determination of the facts, circumstances and particularities of each transaction and because the application of transfer pricing methods is not an exact science and, consequently, can generate a range of values (according to the comparability factors) that They manage to be equally reliable.

In this regard, the court cites sections 4.8 and 4.9 of the OECD Guidelines 2017 edition, which follow this sense, considering that it is common for the choice of methodology for determining full-price prices not to be an ambiguity-free process. , so when in a case of transfer prices poses difficult problems due to the complexity of the facts to be evaluated, even the best-intentioned taxpayer can make a mistake in good faith, just as the best-intentioned inspector can reach conclusions wrong about the facts.

Therefore, it is vital that tax administrations consider this observation when carrying out inspections regarding transfer pricing, showing flexibility in their criteria with the first purpose of, first of all, avoiding requirements of an inadequate precision to the facts and circumstances of the case in the determination of the transfer prices, and as a second point, to promote that the inspectors consider the commercial point of view of the taxpayer on the application of the arm's length principle, so that the analysis responds to the business realities .

Coupled with this analysis, the Court disagrees with interpretation issued by the General Directorate of Income of Article 967 of the Judicial Code, regarding the denial of proof for non-compliance with legal formalities by omit-

ting the points on which it must refer. the expertise; qualifying this view as contrary to the principles of effectiveness and guarantee of the timely performance of the administrative function and at the same time violating due process, given that the standard specifically indicates that when an expert report is requested without filling the required requirements, the judge may practice such proof, after notification of the parties, correcting the defect incurred.

From what the collegiate court observes that expert evidence was adduced in a timely manner, it is one of those admissible by law, which is conducive to the facts in dispute, and through which it is intended to comply with the legal obligation that the taxpayer has prove the facts or data that constitute the factual assumption of the rules that are favorable, which is why the fact can be perfectly remedied.

## RESOLUTIVE PART

In virtue of aforementioned considerations, the Court in plenary session ordered to revoke in all its parts Resolution No. 201-0013 of June 6, 2018 issued by the General Revenue Directorate of the Ministry of Economy and Finance through Resolution No TAT-API-004 of February 20, 2019, ordering the DGI to admit and practice the expert evidence requested by the taxpayer, upon request to the taxpayer to specify the point or points on which the opinion of the expert should be.

It also decrees closing and filing of file once resolution is executed, as well as the return of the background file to the DGI and sending of an authenticated copy of the resolution issued to the Directorate General of Revenue of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

As is evident in the case in point, line between discretion and arbitrariness can sometimes be diffuse, but it is essential that the actions of the Administration are aimed at the fulfillment of the purposes and elements regulated by the Law, in order not to become whimsical judgments of the Authority that affect fundamental rights and generate uncertainty in the administrated.

It is known by all, the adage that says “Better bird in hand than a hundred flying”, popular saying that reflects how conservative the world of business can be and the negative impact that uncertainty has on investment, therefore, it should be a priority for the State to censor arbitrary actions in order to boost our slow economy, since when uncertainty is high, the response of investors to economic policy is minimal or non-existent. *L&E*

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## THERE WAS THREE PRESIDENTIAL PERIODS WITH FIVE PRESIDENTS

In our national political history there have been political events that attract a lot of attention. From counts of presidential votes in some electoral processes, decisions of our Supreme Court of Justice where in some cases “legitimized” coups d’état; detention and threats against vice presidents so that they did not assume the position that corresponded to him. In short, there are several examples of these and other cases to which I have referred in previous articles.

In this opportunity I will refer to a case that is unknown to most of my fellow citizens, which is that three presidential periods are recorded in our history, in each of which there were five presidents of the republic.

-- The first case corresponded to the election as president of the republic from Chiriqui and lawyer José Domingo de Obaldía Gallegos, elected as the first president by the indirect popular vote on July 2, 1908, a member of

the Conservative Party, nominated by members of the Liberal Party and dissidents of the Conservative Party agglutinated in what was called the Republican Coalition, for the quadrennium October 1, 1908 until October 1, 1912. In August 1903 he was appointed governor of the Panamanian province, a position he held for three (3) months because on November 3, Panama proclaimed its independence from Colombia. Don José Domingo was provisionally in charge of the presidency

of the republic due to the absence of President Manuel Amador Guerrero between May and December of 1907 in his capacity as First Appointed (Vice President) elected by the National Assembly of Deputies in 1906.

On March 1, 1910, in full exercise of his presidency, President of Obaldia died at 65 years of age of a heart attack, after completing one year and five months of holding presidency. It corresponded to replace him to the Doctor in Laws Carlos Antonio Mendoza in his condition of Second Appointed (Vice President), since the First Appointed, José Agustín Arango had died in turn on May 19, 1909 at age of 68 years.

When Doctor Mendoza took office as president, the Liberal Party occupied the Presidency of Panama for the first time. His government lasted only seven months, from March 1, 1910 to October 1, 1910. Dr. Mendoza sought re-election as Appointed (Vice President) for the period that ran from October 1, 1910 to September 30, 1912 and thus to finish the period of the President of Obaldía, this claim that didn't prosper by the opposition of the American legation and interpretations on the constitutionality of his re-election.

Thus, on September 14, 1910 the National Assembly of Deputies elected as First Appointed (Vice President) to Dr. Pablo Arosemena Alba, Second Appointed to Federico Boyd López and Third Appointed to Rodolfo Chiari Robles.

It is important to note that Doctor Pablo Arosemena, First Appointed, occupied the position of Ambassador of Panama in Chile, so that, while returning to the country, the lawyer and businessman Federico Augusto Boyd López was in charge of the presidency of the repu-

blic. October 1, 1910 until October 5, 1910. Mr. Boyd previously held distinguished public offices, as a member of the Provisional Board of Government of Panama, Independence hero, deputy, minister, consul general among others.

Once Dr. Pablo Arosemena Alba returned to the country, on October 5, 1910 he took possession of the presidency of the republic. temporarily occupied the presidency of the nation since the October 5, 1910 to October 1, 1912. On February 2, 1912 Dr. Pablo Arosemena was separated from the presidency in order to seek reelection and therefore the Third Appointed, Rodolfo Chiari Robles, was in charge of the executive power, since the Second Appointed (Vice President) Federico Boyd López, excused himself to exercise the Presidency of the Republic.

Dr. Arosemena Alba occupied important positions before our independence in 1903, during government of Colombia and after our independence he presided over National Constituent Assembly and other public offices before serving as president. For his part, Rodolfo Chiari Robles occupied the presidency of the republic temporarily from February 2, 1912 until March 7, 1912, when Dr. Pablo Arosemena resumed the post.

Don Rodolfo Chiari Robles was subsequently elected president of the republic for the period from October 1, 1924 to October 1, 1928.

– The second case contemplated in our republican history where five presidents occupied the first magistracy of the nation in a single presidential period, happened when in the presidential elections held on June 14, 1916 Dr. Ramón Maximiliano Valdés was elected

as president of the republic as a sole candidate, supported by the Liberal Porrist Concentration and the strong support of President Belisario Porras for the four-year period from October 1, 1916 to October 1, 1920.

Dr. Valdés, originally considered a conservative and after independence as a liberal, was a jurist of proven intelligence and great academic preparation, a talented writer, a music lover and spoke and wrote several languages fluently. Before being elected president he was government secretary and held diplomatic positions on behalf of Panama in London, Washington and was a representative at the Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

Despite having been anointed and recommended by Ex President Belisario Porras, during the exercise of his presidency, he had differences with Expresión Porras to the point that two groups emerged within the Liberal Party and the government, the Porrists and the Valdesistas, who for various reasons The Valdesistas had the intention of reforming Article 70 of the National Constitution, which opened the possibility of promoting the presidency in the future to Dr. Eusebio A. Morales, who had been born in Colombia.

President Valdés didn't take sides in this confrontation, not so the Valdesistas, who advocated reform without achieving their objective, since Dr. Belisario Porras aspired to replace President Valdés for the next presidential term.

Suddenly the President of the Republic Dr. Ramón Maximiliano Valdés died on June 3, 1918 of a heart attack, without completing his presidential term, at 50 years of age. Dr. Ciro Luis Urriola, 55 years old, succeeded the late President Valdés in his capacity

as First Appointed (Vice President), whose two-year term ended in September 1918.

The doctor and President of the Republic Ciro Luis Urriola tried to be reelected as First Appointed (Vice President) in the election of appointees (vice presidents) to be held on September 11, 1918, with the purpose of continuing in power, however he could not achieve it and his performance as president of the republic was limited to the period from June 4 to October 1, 1918, when the biennium for which he was elected ended.

On September 11, 1918, the legislature, in accordance with Article 67, Section 4 of the National Constitution of 1904, elected the three appointees (vice-presidents) for the biennium 1918-1920 and these were the following:

First appointed: Dr. Belisario Porras Barahona;

Second appointed: Mr. Pedro A. Díaz de Obaldía, y

Third appointed: Mr. Ernesto Tesdel Lefevre.

At the end of the biennium of Dr. Ciro Luis Urriola, he was responsible for the presidency of the republic to be elected as the new First Appointed, Dr. Belisario Porras Barahona, who was acting as Ambassador of Panama in Washington. While Dr. Porras Barahona arrived in Panama, the presidency was exercised temporarily by the Second Appointed Pedro Antonio Díaz de Obaldía of the Conservative Party, from October 1 to October 12, 1918. Pedro Antonio Díaz de Obaldía was also an industrialist and some opportunities he held public offices during the governments of José Domingo Díaz, Ramón Maximiliano Valdés and Belisario Porras.

Once he returned to the country, Dr. Belisario Porras Barahona took office as Head of the Executive Branch on October 12, 1918. Then, with the intention and aspiration to be a candidate for the presidency of the republic for the four-year period 1920-1924, the Dr. Porras resigned and separated from the Executive Branch on January 26, 1920, in compliance with a controversial explanation of Article 83 of the Magna Carta of 1904.

Then and therefore, Mr. Ernesto Tisdell Lefevre occupied the First Magistracy of the Nation in his condition of Third Appointed for the period from January 26 to October 1, 1920 as the Second Appointed, Pedro Antonio Díaz de Obaldía had died months before, on May 8, 1919 at 67 years of age.

Mr. Ernesto Tisdell Lefevre was a prominent businessman and he occupied on several occasions the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He ruled for eight months and died on April 19, 1922 at age 45.

-- The last and third example we can mention was during the four-year period for which the President of the Republic, Don Domingo Díaz Arosemena, was elected on May 9, 1948, Dr. Daniel Chanis Pinzón as First Vice President and Mr. Roberto Francisco Chiari Remón as Second Vice President, for the period 1948 to 1952.

Don Domingo Díaz Arosemena had previously been Mayor of the District of Panama, President of the National Assembly of Deputies and had been second appointed (vice president) to the presidency and was in charge of the presidential term before the absence of the holder from October 1 to October 30, 1933 and presidential candidate in the elections of June 7, 1936. The businessman and

President of the Republic Don Domingo Díaz Arosemena governed nine months and twenty-seven days, as a result of his death on July 28, 1949 in the city of Panama at 74 year old.

He was immediately replaced by Dr. Daniel Chanis Pinzón, in his capacity as First Vice President of the Republic, and was in charge of the Executive Branch temporarily from July 28 to November 20, 1949. Dr. Chanis Pinzón previously held the position of Minister Treasury and Treasury, Consul of Panama in Liverpool and London, among others. Four months later, problems with the National Police and pressure from the head of the same, Remón Cantera, brought his dismissal and was replaced by the Second Vice President Don Roberto Chiari Remón, who held the position for four days, from 20 to 24 November 1949.

Don Roberto Francisco Chiari Remón was later a candidate for the presidency in the electoral tournament held on May 11, 1952, losing those elections. Later he was elected Constitutional President of the Republic in the general elections held on May 4, 1960 for the four-year period 1960-1964. Before the resignation of Don Roberto Francisco Chiari and the uncertainty in the country, the National Police ordered a recount of votes of the 1948 elections and declared as triumphant Dr. Arnulfo Arias Madrid, who according to the original count had been in second place.

Dr. Arnulfo Arias Madrid governed the country from November 25, 1949 until May 9, 1951, when he was overthrown for the second time in a bloody coup. Dr. Arias was previously President of the Republic from October 1, 1940 to October 9, 1941. Dr. Arias Madrid was subsequently elected Constitutional President for the four-year period

1968-1972, when only eleven days after governing was again overthrown, for the third time, by the military on October 11, 1968.

When Dr. Arias was overthrown on May 9, 1951, he was replaced by his First Vice President, Don Alcibíades Arosemena Quinzada, who was President from May 10, 1951, until October 1, 1952, and was the fifth President to hold that position. in the presidential term from 1948 to 1952.

Therefore, as a curiosity and historical teaching, our country had three presidential four-year periods in which it had five presidents of the republic, summarized as follows:

#### **Presidential period October 1, 1908 to October 1, 1912 (four years):**

- 1.- JOSE DOMINGO DE OBALDIA (elected) - October 1, 1908 to March 1, 1910.
- 2.- CARLOS ANTONIO MENDOZA – March 1 to October 1, 1910.
- 3.- FEDERICO AUGUSTO BOYD LOPEZ – October 1 to October 5, 1910.
- 4.- PABLO AROSEMENA ALBA – October 5, 1910 (he separated from the position from February 2 to March 7, 1912), resumed the position on March 8, 1912 and ended the period on October 1, 1912.
- 5.- RODOLFO CHIARI ROBLES –February 2 until March 7, 1912.

#### **Presidential period October 1, 1916 to October 1, 1920 (four years):**

- 1.- RAMON MAXIMILIANO VALDES (elected) – October 1, 1916 until June 3, 1918.
- 2.- CIRO LUIS URRIOLOLA – June 4 to October 1, 1918.
- 3.- October 1 to 12, 1918.
- 4.- BELISARIO PORRAS BARAHONA – October 12, 1918 until January 26, 1920.
- 5.- ERNESTO TISDEL LEFEVRE – January 26 to October 1, 1920, ending the presidential quadrennium.

#### **Presidential period October 1, 1948 to October 1, 1952 (four years):**

- 1.- DOMINGO DIAZ AROSEMENA (elected) – October 1, 1948 to July 28, 1949.
- 2.- DANIEL CHANIS PINZON – July 28 to November 20, 1949.
- 3.- ROBERTO FRANCISCO CHIARI – November 20 to 24, 1949.
- 4.- ARNULFO ARIAS MADRID – November 25, 1949 to May 9, 1951.
- 5.- ALCIBIADES AROSEMENA QUINZADA – May 9, 1951 to October 1, 1952, ending the presidential term.

In the three cases presented, the substitution of the presidents of the republic originated as a result of the death of the incumbent presidents. All present, in one form or another, an internal struggle between political figures, con-

flicts between rival political organizations and economic interests, as well as the determined and evident role that the military had in the past in the political development of the nation. That assiduous replacement of presidents in our political history entailed limitations in terms of political freedoms, political violence, which showed short and long-term political risks related to changes of power based sometimes on force. Over the course of time our imperfect democracy has fallen into anomalous situations that only remember them should lead us to reflection so that without distinctions of any nature we all strive to consolidate and achieve positive effects in all aspects for the benefit of the country. *L&E*



## Report on Russian interference in 2016 presidential elections

By: The New York Times March 24, 2019

Source: nytimes.com

Dear President Graham, President Nadler, Feinstein ranking member and ranking member Collins:

In addition to the notification provided on Friday, March 22, 2019, I am writing today to inform you of the main conclusions reached by Special Advisor Robert S. Mueller III and to inform you of the status of my initial review of the report. has prepared.

### Report of the Special Council

On Friday, the Special Counsel presented me with a “confidential report that explains the decisions of prosecution or rejection” that he has reached, as required by 28 CFR § 600.8 (c). This report is entitled “Report on Russian Interference Investigation in 2016”. Presidential election”. Although my review is ongoing, I think it is in the public interest to describe the report and summarize the main conclusions reached by the Special Adviser and the results of his investigation.

The report explains that the Special Counsel and his staff thoroughly investigated allegations that members of the presidential campaign of Donald J. Trump and other associates conspired with the Russian government in their efforts to interfere in the 2016 presidential election in United States, or sought to obstruct related federal investigations. In the report, the Special Adviser noted that, upon completion of his investigation, he employed 19 lawyers who were assisted by a team of approximately 40 FBI agents, intelligence analysts, forensic accountants and other professional personnel. The Special Adviser issued more than 2,800 citations, executed about 500 search warrants, obtained more than 230 requests for communication records, issued almost 50 requests authorizing

the use of ballpoint records, made 13 requests to foreign governments to obtain evidence.

The Special Advisor obtained a series of accusations and convictions from individuals and entities in relation to his investigation, all of which have been publicly disclosed. During the course of his investigation, the Special Advisor also referred several matters to other offices for further action.

The report doesn't recommend any additional accusation, nor did the Special Advisor obtain any sealed accusations that have not yet been made public. Below, I summarize the main conclusions presented in the report of the Special Advisor.

### Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election

The report of the Special Council is divided into two parts. The first describes the results of the Special Advisor's investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States. The report describes the Russian effort to influence the election and documents the crimes committed by people associated with the Russian government in relation to those efforts.

The report further explains that a primary consideration for the Special Advisor's investigation was whether any Americans, including individuals associated with the Trump campaign, joined the Russian conspiracies to influence the election, which would be a federal crime.

The Special Advisor's investigation did not find that Trump's campaign or any of the people

associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia in its efforts to influence the US.

Of 2016 presidential elections. As the report states: "[The investigation] did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in their interference activities in the elections."

The Special Advisor's investigation determined that there were two main Russian efforts to influence the 2016 elections.

The first attempts involved by a Russian organization, the Internet Research Agency (IRA), to carry out disinformation operations and social networks in the United States were designed to sow social discord, and with the objective of interfering in the chose.

As noted above, the Special Advisor didn't find that any US person, Trump campaign official or associate conspired or knowingly coordinated with the IRA in their efforts, although the Special Advisor brought criminal charges against several Russian citizens and entities in connection with these occupations.

The second element involved the efforts of the Russian government to carry out hacking operations designed to collect and disseminate information to influence the election. The Special Advisor discovered that Russian government actors successfully pirated computers and obtained emails from people affiliated with the Clinton campaign and Democratic Party organizations, and publicly disseminated those materials through various intermediaries, including WikiLeaks.

<sup>1</sup> In assessing possible conspiracy charges, the Special Advisor also considered whether members of the Trump campaign were "coordinated" with the interference activities in the Russian elections. The Special Advisor defined "coordination" as an "agreement, tacit or express, between the Trump Campaign and the Russian government on electoral interference."

On the basis of these activities, the Special Adviser brought criminal charges against several Russian military officers for conspiracy to hack into computers in the United States in order to influence the election.

But as noted above, the Special Advisor didn't find the Trump campaign, nor any other person related to it.

### Obstruction of justice

The second part of the report addresses a series of actions by the President, most of which have been subject of public reports, which the Special Adviser investigated as a potential concern for obstruction of justice. After conducting an "exhaustive objective investigation" on these matters, the Special Advisor considered whether to evaluate the conduct according to the Department's rules governing the decisions of prosecution and rejection, but finally decided not to make a traditional judgment.

Therefore, the Special Adviser didn't draw a conclusion, in one way or another, as to whether the conduct examined constituted an obstruction. In contrast, for each of the relevant actions investigated, the report presents evidence on both sides of the question and leaves unresolved what the Special Advisor considers to be "difficult issues" of the law and the fact about whether the actions and the The President's intention could be seen as an obstruction. The Special Adviser affirms that "although this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, he does not exonerate it either".

The Special Adviser's decision to describe the facts of his obstruction investigation without

reaching any legal conclusion leaves the Attorney General to determine whether the conduct described in the report constitutes a crime. In the course of the investigation, the Special Adviser's office participated in discussions with certain Department officials regarding many of the legal issues and facts in question in the Special Advisor's obstruction investigation. After reviewing the final report of the Special Adviser on these issues; consult with officials of the Department, including the Office of Legal Advice; and by applying the principles of federal prosecution that guide our indictment decisions, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and I have come to the conclusion that the evidence developed during the Special Council The investigation is not sufficient to establish that the President committed a crime of obstruction of justice. Our determination was taken without regard, and is not based on, the constitutional considerations surrounding the indictment and criminal prosecution of a sitting president.

In making this determination, we note that the Special Adviser acknowledged that "the evidence doesn't establish that the President was involved in an underlying crime related to the interference of the Russian election" and that, although it is not determinative, the absence of such evidence is related to with the President's intention regarding the obstruction. Generally speaking, in order to obtain and maintain a conviction for obstruction, the government would have to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that a person, acting with corrupt intentions, engaged in obstructive behavior with sufficient nexus for a pending or contemplated state. .

In cataloging of actions of the President, many of which were carried out in full view of the

<sup>2</sup> See the President's Amenability in Sentencing and Criminal Prosecution of a Sitting President, 24 op. OLC 222 (2000).

public, the report doesn't identify any action that, in our opinion, constitutes an obstructive conduct, had a link with a pending or planned procedure, and they were carried out with corrupt intentions, each of which, according to the principles of the federal prosecution department that guide imputation decisions, should be proven beyond a reasonable doubt to establish a crime of obstruction of justice.

#### Estado de Revisión del Departamento.

The relevant regulations provide that the report of the Special Adviser will be a "confidential report to the Attorney General. See Office of Special Counsel, 64 Fed. Reg. 37.038, 37.040-41 (July 9, 1999). However, as I said earlier, I am aware of the public interest in this matter. For that reason, my goal and intent is to disclose as much of the Special Adviser's report as I can in accordance with applicable Department laws, regulations and policies.

Based on my discussions with the Special Adviser and my initial review, it is clear that the report contains material that is or could be subject to the Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6 (e), which imposes restrictions on the use and disclosure of information related to "Matters that occur before [a] grand jury." Fed. R. Crim. P. 6 (e) (2) (B). Rule 6 (e) generally limits the disclosure of certain grand jury information in a criminal investigation and prosecution. I.D.

The disclosure of 6 (e) material beyond the strict limits established in the rule is a crime under certain circumstances. See, for example, 18 USC § 401 (3). This restriction protects the integrity of grand jury proceedings and ensures that the unique and invaluable investigative powers of a grand jury are used strictly for their intended criminal justice function.

Given these restrictions, the timeline for pro-

cessing the report depends in part on how quickly the Department can identify material 6 (e) that, by law, can not be made public. I have requested the assistance of the Special Adviser to identify the 6 (e) information contained in the report as soon as possible.

Separately, I must also identify any information that may affect other matters in progress, including those that the Special Adviser has referred to other offices. As soon as that process is completed, I will be in a position to move forward quickly to determine what can be published in light of the applicable laws, regulations and Department policies.

As I observed in my initial notification, the regulations of the Special Council establish that "the Attorney General may determine that the public disclosure of" notifications to their respective Committees "would be in the public interest." 28 CFR § 600.9 (c). So I have decided, and I will divulge this letter to the public after delivering it. *L&E*

To be honest,  
William P. Barr  
Attorney General.

*L&E*

# Panamanian

## ECONOMY

Source: CGRP

### COMMENTARY ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI): FEBRUARY 2019

The groups that showed an increase in the National Urban CPI for February compared to January 2019 were: Education with 1.0%; Transportation with 0.5%; Restaurants and hotels with 0.4%; Furniture, articles for the home and for the ordinary conservation of the home with 0.3%; Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, Housing, water, electricity and gas, and Recreation and culture all with 0.2%.

Education group presented an increase in three of its four classes. The classes with greatest variation were "Secondary education" with 1.7%, and "Preschool education and primary education" with 1.3%. The increase presented was due to increase in price of tuition in pre-school, primary, pre-secondary and secondary education.

The increase observed in the Transport group was due to the increase in three of its seven classes. The greatest variation was in the class "Fuel and lubricants for personal transportation equipment" with 3.4%, as a result of the increase in the price of fuel for automobiles.

Group Restaurants and hotels showed rise in its two classes. The class with the greatest variation was "Restaurants, cafés and similar establishments" with 0.4%, due to the increase in the price of meals prepared to go.

The increase reflected in group Furniture, articles for the home and for the ordinary conservation of the home, was due to the increase in four of its eleven classes.

Class with the greatest variation was “Domestic and home service” with 1.8%. The group Alcoholic beverages and tobacco registered an increase in its four classes. The biggest variation was in the “Wine” class with 0.4%.

The group Housing, water, electricity and gas presented an increase in three of its eight classes. The class with the greatest variation was “Other services related to housing n.e.p.” with 1.5%, due to the increase in the price of the administration fee.

The increase registered in group Recreation and culture is product of increase in five of its sixteen classes. Biggest variation was in the class “Tour packages” with 2.3%.

Health group remained unchanged. The groups with negative variations were: Food and non-alcoholic beverages, and Communications both with 0.3%; Clothing and footwear with 0.2%, and Miscellaneous goods and services with 0.1%.

The group Food and non-alcoholic beverages showed decrease in seven of their eleven classes. The greatest variation was in the class “Sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and sugar candy” with 0.9%; however, the class that most influenced the decline was “Meat” with 0.6%, as a result of the decrease in the price of beef and pork in cans.

The decrease reflected in the group Communications was due to the decrease in one of its two classes, “Telephone equipment” with 2.8%.

Group Garments and footwear presented low in two of its four classes. The class with the greatest variation was “Shoes and other shoes” with 0.4%, due to the reduction in the price of shoes, slippers and sandals for women.

The decrease observed in the group Miscellaneous goods and services, was due to the decrease recorded in four of its ten classes. The biggest variation was in the class “hairdressing salons and personal care establishments” with 0.7%, due to the reduction in the price of personal care services.

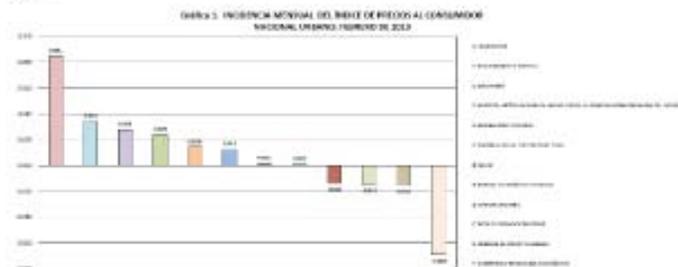
- National Urban CPI for February 2019 compared to its similar figure for 2018 showed a variation of -0.5%.

When comparing the National Urban CPI of February 2019, with its similar of 2018, the following decreases were observed: Transportation 3.7%; Communications 1.5%; Clothing and footwear 1.2%; Recreation and culture 0.5%; and Housing, water, electricity and gas 0.3%.

The group Furniture, articles for the home and for ordinary conservation of the home remained unchanged. The groups that presented increases were: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco 1.2%; Restaurants and hotels 1.1%; Health 1.0%; Education 0.8%; Food and non-alcoholic beverages, and Miscellaneous goods and services both 0.6%. *L&E*

COMENTARIO SOBRE EL ÍNDICE DE PRECIOS AL CONSUMIDOR (IPC) febrero 2019

A continuación, gráfica con la incidencia mensual por grupo del IPC Nacional Urbano de febrero de 2019:



Incidencia: corresponde a la contribución de cada grupo respecto a la variación total del Índice Nacional Urbano, por ello, la suma de las incidencias da como resultado la variación del índice.

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

Grupo de artículos y servicios	Ponderaciones	Incidencia	Variación mensual
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Alimentos y Bebidas no Alcohólicas	22.4	-0.369	-0.3
Bebidas Alcohólicas y Tabaco	0.7	0.301	0.2
Prendas de Vestir y Calzado	7.7	-0.315	-0.2
Vivienda, Agua, Electricidad y Gas	8.5	0.313	0.2
Muebles, Artículos para el Hogar y para la Conservación Ordinaria del Hogar	7.8	0.324	0.3
Salud	3.4	0.302	0.0
Transporte	16.8	0.385	0.5
Comunicaciones	4.3	-0.313	-0.3
Recreación y Cultura	9.7	0.314	0.2
Educación	2.4	0.329	1.0
Restaurantes y Hoteles	6.7	0.334	0.4
Bienes y Servicios Diversos	9.8	-0.314	-0.1

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

# MOODY'S

## IMPROVES RISK RATING OF PANAMA CANAL FROM A2 TO A1

Source: ACP

The rating agency Moody's Investor Service improved the risk rating of the Panama Canal from A2 to A1, with a stable outlook, based on the solid performance of the interoceanic highway since the opening of its expansion.

According to the rating agency, the strong performance of the Panama Canal has resulted in better financial metrics than anticipated, as the expanded route has increased tonnage traffic and attracted the transit of new market segments. "A significant increase in the generation of load flow and relatively low leverage have resulted in very strong financial metrics," Moody's stresses.

"This improvement in the risk rating of the Panama Canal is the result of financial strength of the ACP (Panama Canal Authority), its track record of institutional soundness and a successful governance regime that continue to be key to success of the Panama Canal," said Francisco J. Miguez, Vice President of Finance for the Panama Canal.

In its report, Moody's highlights that the A1 rating is one step above Panama's A2 sovereign ceiling and three steps above the stable Baa1 rating of the government of Panama.

According to the credit agency, the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama grants autonomy to the Panama Canal. However, it notes that "any change to the ACP law that affects its autonomy or any weakening of the Canal's corporate governance practices could also exert downward pressure on the ratings."

In August 2018, Fitch Ratings also reaffirmed, for the third consecutive year, the 'A' rating of Investment Grade, with a stable outlook, for long-term debt and bonds of the Panama Canal. In July 2018, Standard & Poor's (S & P) Global Ratings also improved the Canal's outlook from "stable" to "positive", and affirmed its 'A-' rating of corporate credit and long-term debt for the Panama Canal. *L&E*

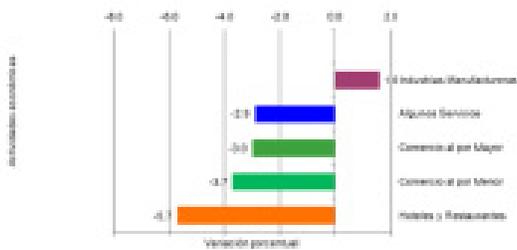
# QUARTERLY ECONOMIC SURVEY (EET): JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017-18

Source: CGRP

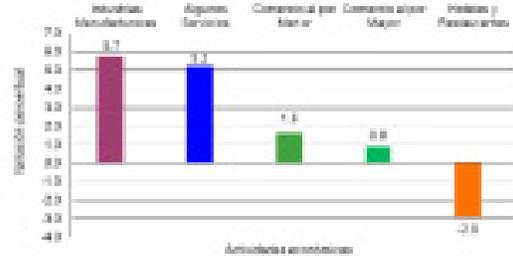
The TSE from January to December 2018, with respect to the previous year, in the Employee variable reflected an increase in Manufacturing Industries of 1.6%; while the rest of the economic activities decreased in: Hotels and Restaurants 5.7%, Retail Trade 3.7%, Wholesale Trade 3.0% and Some Services 2.9%.

From January to December 2018, compared to the previous year, the economic activities that registered positive variations in the Paid Remunerations were: Manufacturing Industries 5.7%, Some Services 5.2%, Retail Trade 1.6% and Wholesale Trade 0.9%; while Hotels and Restaurants decreased by 2.9%.

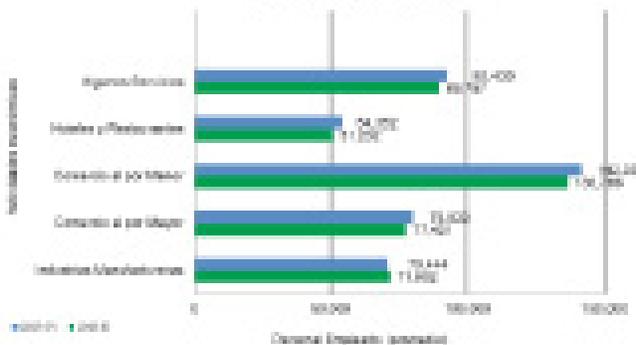
**Gráfico 1. VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL DEL PROMEDIO DEL PERSONAL EMPLEADO DE ALGUNAS ACTIVIDADES ECONÓMICAS, EN LA REPÚBLICA: ENERO - DICIEMBRE 2017-18**



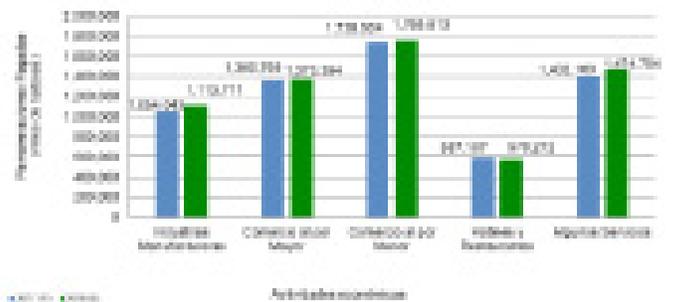
**Gráfico 2. VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL DE LAS REMUNERACIONES PAGADAS DE ALGUNAS ACTIVIDADES ECONÓMICAS, EN LA REPÚBLICA: ENERO - DICIEMBRE 2017-18**



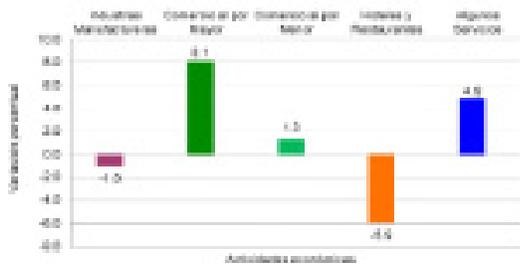
**Gráfico 3. PROMEDIO DE PERSONAL EMPLEADO DE ALGUNAS ACTIVIDADES ECONÓMICAS, EN LA REPÚBLICA: ENERO - DICIEMBRE 2017-18**



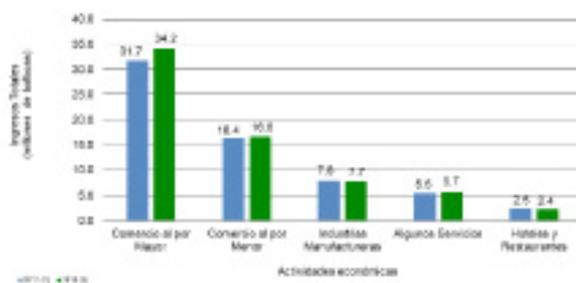
**Gráfico 4. REMUNERACIONES PAGADAS DE ALGUNAS ACTIVIDADES ECONÓMICAS, EN LA REPÚBLICA: ENERO - DICIEMBRE 2017-18**



Gráfica 5. VARIACIÓN PORCENTUAL DE LOS INGRESOS TOTALES DE ALGUNAS ACTIVIDADES ECONÓMICAS, EN LA REPÚBLICA: ENERO - DICIEMBRE 2017-18



Gráfica 6. INGRESOS TOTALES DE ALGUNAS ACTIVIDADES ECONÓMICAS, EN LA REPÚBLICA: ENERO - DICIEMBRE 2017-18



## II. Comments according to economic activity

### 1. Manufacturing Industries:

In the EET, Personnel Employed by Manufacturing Industries in the Republic from January to December of 2018, compared to 2017, presented an increase of 1.6%, reaching an average of 71,602 employed persons, of which 49,953 were concentrated in the province of Panama and 21,649 in the Rest of the Country.

Paid Remuneration grew 5.7% from January to December 2018, compared to 2017. In the province of Panama an increase of 3.7% was registered and in the Rest of the Country of 12.4%. Total Revenues decreased by 1.0%, from January to December 2018, compared to 2017.

In the province of Panama there is a 1.8% decrease, while the Rest of the Country increases by 1.8%.

### 2. Wholesale:

From January to December 2018, compared to the same period of the previous year, according to the EET, this economic activity decreased by 3.0%, with an average of 77,431 employed persons, of which 72,029 were concentrated in the province of Panama and 5,403 in the Rest of the Country.

The Paid Remuneration presented, at level of the Republic, a growth of 0.9%, mainly due to increase in Rest of Country of 1.8% and of 0.9% in province of Panama.

The Total Income presented, at the level of the Republic, a growth of 8.1%, due to the increase in the province of Panama of 8.4%; however, the Rest of the Country decreased by 1.4%.

### 3. Retail Trade:

During January to December 2018, compared to its similar figure for 2017, the average Personnel Employed presented a 3.7% decrease in this economic activity.

In the Rest of the Country a growth rate of 1.7% was registered; while the province of Panama fell by 4.4%. Paid Remuneration grew by 1.6%, due to the increase in the province of Panama of 1.1% and in the Rest of the Country of 6.6%.

From January to December 2018, with respect to 2017, Total Revenues showed an increase of 1.3% in the Republic, due to the 1.9% increase in the Rest of the Coun-

try and 1.2% in the province of Panama.

#### 4. Hotels and Restaurants:

The Personnel Employed in the activities investigated by this sector, from January to December 2018, presented a decrease of 5.7%, compared to the same period of the previous year, due to the decrease in the Province of Panama of 7.4%, while in the Rest of the Country increased by 1.5%.

Paid Remuneration in the Republic decreased by 2.9%, despite the 4.6% increase in the Rest of the Country, affected by the fall in the province of Panama of 4.6%. Total Revenues, from January to December 2018, showed a decrease of 5.9% in the Republic, compared to the same period of the previous year. The Rest of the Country increased 3.9%; however, the province of Panama fell 7.8%.

#### 5. Some Services:

The average of the Employee Personnel, during January to December 2018, presented decrease of 2.9%, compared to the same period of the previous year. The Rest of the Country increased 2.2%; while the province of Panama fell 3.6%.

The Paid Remuneration in the Republic reflected an increase of 5.2%, due to the growth in the Rest of the Country of 9.7% and in the Province of Panama of 4.5%.

Total Income showed an increase of 4.9%, reflected in the province of Panama with 5.4%; On the other hand, the Rest of the Country increased by 0.1%. *L&E*

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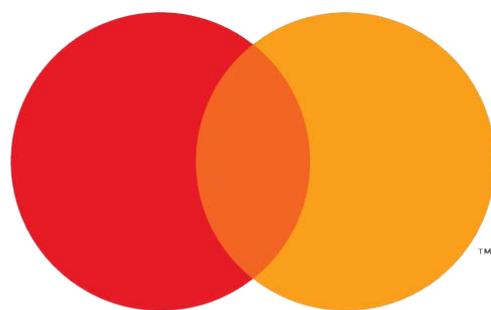


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## World

## ECONOMY

MASTERCARD FOUNDATION COLLABORATES WITH THE ILO TO ESTABLISH A NEW BASE OF DATA OF GREATER QUALITY ON SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE LABOR MARKET



mastercard  
foundation

Source: ILO

**T**he ILO and the Mastercard2 Foundation have launched a project to provide comprehensive national data on situation of young people in labor market, including indicators relating to the transition from the academic to the labor education stage.

Throughout the year-long project, the MasterCard Foundation will provide support to the ILO

to establish the new YouthSTATS database, which will be updated periodically. This database was first developed by the ILO as part of its collaboration with the MasterCard Foundation's Work4Youth project, which ended in 2014.

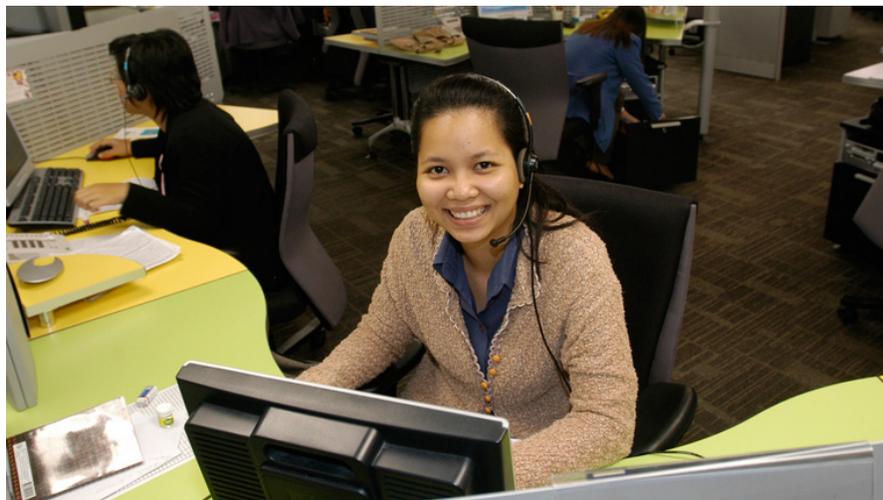
This database will provide a comprehensive set of indicators on the labor market situation of people aged 15 to 29, and will

constitute a central repository of international statistical data on the youth labor market. The ILO has the largest international register of microdata sets on labor force surveys, which include information on individuals and households for the preparation of official statistical data at the national level. In recent years, the ILO Department of Statistics has invested a large amount of resources to collect more than 9,000 sets of microdata on national labor force surveys in more than 140 countries.

The ILO experts systematically process these national microdata in order to obtain and harmonize new data sets, which are then incorporated into the ILO's harmonized microdata base. This process ensures the use of coherent international definitions and statistical standards with respect to the aforementioned base and facilitates a comparative examination at an international level and analysis between countries.

“One of the main advantages of incorporating YouthSTATS indicators into the ILO's microdata base is to facilitate the generation of disaggregated data in the long term, particularly with respect to variables on age, sex, economic or industrial activity, formal or informal sectors, profession or academic level. The disaggregated data will allow to obtain in-depth information about the challenges faced by certain population groups,” says Steven Kapsos, Director of the ILO's Generation and Analysis Unit.

“The innovative work of the surveys regarding the transition from the academic to the work-based stage highlighted the importance of understanding how young people around the world perceive that key transitory period,” says Lindsay Wallace, Strategy Director and learning programs of the Mastercard Foundation. “We are pleased that the ILO can put this information permanently at the disposal of decision makers at the global, regional and national levels”. *L&E*





## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN HAD IN 2018 THE BEST AND WORST CONDITIONS TO ACCESS INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

Source: ECLAC

Last year (2018) was a period of contrasts for financing conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean. The report Capital flows to Latin America and the Caribbean. Summary of the year 2018 (available only in English), disseminated by the ECLAC Office in Washington, reviews the main trends regarding capital flows to the region. According to the study, the region had the best and worst conditions to access the international capital markets in 2018: it went from 32.6 billion dollars in January, the highest monthly volume of debt in international markets in history, to one emission zero in December, which made it the worst December ever recorded for issuers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The report states that the total issuance of debt in international markets in 2018 was 94,000 million dollars, the lowest in the last three years and 35% less than in 2017. The bond activity in 2018 was affected by a calendar Electoral activity stirred up at the domestic level, and due to increases in US interest rates, the withdrawal of liquidity in dollars, the strengthening of the dollar and the instability in the global stock markets of the world stock markets.

Both shares and spreads of Latin American debt were negatively affected by the increase in volatility and perception of risk in international markets, the investigation adds.

While bond spreads showed an expansion trend, stock prices showed a narrowing trend since the end of January. The bond spreads of Latin America and the Caribbean expanded by 149 basis points in 2018, while the shares lost 9.3%.

The widening of the spreads was generalized and affected all the countries of the region incorporated in the JPMorgan EMBIG index. Spreads widened because the turbulence in financial markets linked to the increase in global interest rates and trade conflicts increased risk aversion towards the assets of emerging markets and Latin America and the Caribbean. The external context had a negative impact on countries that are highly dependent on external financing, says ECLAC.

The study notes that credit quality in the region continued to deteriorate in 2018. Negative credit rating actions exceeded positive actions by 15. Out of a total of 26 negative actions taken in 2018, 14 were rebates. Of the 11 positive actions taken, only 3 were uploaded. In the region, negative credit rating actions (which include downgrades and downward revisions of prospects) have outnumbered positive actions for six consecutive years.

The combined forces of higher US interest rates, a stronger US dollar and less liquidity in dollars boosted the assets of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2018, and ended the year weakly. However, in early 2019 the issuers of the region, and sovereign issuers in particular, returned to the international debt markets. Uruguay, Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador accessed the international bond markets in January, and Paraguay in early February. The total amount issued was 9,600 million dollars, a huge improvement compared to December 2018. However, it marked a 70% decrease compared to the 32,600 million dollars issued in January 2018.

Looking ahead, the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) affirms that the transition from a synchronized growth in the developed economies to a more mixed trend would continue to be a challenge for the issuers and assets of the region in 2019. Another challenge lies in the most uncertain economic prospects for China. There is also a risk that confidence in the financial assets of the region will deteriorate further, which could complicate access to international capital markets. *L&E*



## A CALL TO A RENEWED AND INCLUSIVE MULTILATERALISM: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AT THE FOREFRONT OF NEW FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Fuente: ECLAC

International cooperation needs a new impetus to address economic, social and environmental challenges, as well as other pitfalls that impede development in the region. This new impulse must be based on greater multilateral collaboration and must have a firm anchorage in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

According to the Economic Perspectives of Latin America 2019 (LEO) report, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) should be at the forefront in this rethinking of international cooperation. The report was presented in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the Second High Level Conference of the United Nations

on South-South Cooperation (PABA +40).

Judging by GDP statistics, LAC has made undeniable progress since the 1990s: per capita income in the region has increased by approximately 50%. Most countries have gone from being low-income economies to being now middle-high income countries. Some have even gone from being middle-income countries to high-income economies, such as Argentina, Chile, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay; while others, such as Costa Rica or Mexico, will do so in the coming years.

However, “the increase in national income

in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean has not automatically translated into higher levels of well-being for all the inhabi-

tants of the region, and the existing disparities in levels of well-being among countries in the region. With the same level of per capita income they are still important, and certain challenges, such as the disproportionate impact of climate change, inequalities and other vulnerabilities, still persist or are increasing, "said Neven Mimica, European Commissioner.

"After the end of the commodity boom of the 2000s, potential GDP growth has been lower than expected. A less favorable global context is aggravating the structural challenges of the region, such as the slow growth of productivity," said Pablo Sanguinetti, Vice President of Knowledge of CAF. The report classifies these challenges as four new development pitfalls, which are interrelated in the current context of Latin America and the Caribbean:

1. Social Vulnerability: 40% of the population of LAC is currently at risk of returning to a situation of poverty. This "vulnerable middle class" is caught in a vicious circle that includes low-quality jobs, low skills and unstable incomes.

2. Low labor productivity: in the last thirty

years, production per worker has remained stagnant at 40% of the level of the European Union.

3. Low confidence in institutions: 64% of Latin Americans say they have no confidence in their government, more than a third are not satisfied with the education provided in the country and more than half are not happy with medical care who receive.

4. Environmental threats: LAC owns 40% of the planet's biodiversity and has one of the lowest ecological footprints in the world; nevertheless, it suffers much of the consequences of collective inaction on a world scale. A striking example are the recent natural disasters in the Caribbean.

"Avoiding these four traps requires energetic reforms. It is necessary to improve public capacities and public-private dialogue in order to identify policy priorities and coordinate among ministries, through the adoption and implementation of a new generation of national development plans," said Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC .

These plans should focus on the wellbeing of citizens, and not just on GDP growth, placing it at center of development strategies. Likewise, they must align their objectives with Sustainable Development Goals in the entire range

of public policies and link the short and long term perspectives, mainly to favor transitions towards a more sustainable use of resources and towards development models of low carbon content. Given the great exposure of the region to global economic and technological trends, to overcome these traps, new, more intelligent international alliances will also be necessary, going beyond simple financial and technical assistance, which has become a resource of less importance in relation to tax revenues.

“We have to be attentive to our cooperation with these countries in order to make sure that no one is left behind,” said Neven Mimica, European Commissioner. The report proposes, therefore, three priorities to renew international cooperation as a facilitator for development:

- Form multilateral alliances between countries with all types of income level, treating all as partners in the same condition and taking advantage of their different contributions.
- Promote national and local development strategies for sustainable development that include the growing interrelationships between national and global challenges and opportunities.
- Expand cooperation modalities and include the exchange of knowledge, multilateral policy dialogues, capacity building and cooperation in

the fields of science, technology and innovation.

The Development Center of the OECD, ECLAC, CAF and the EU call on LAC governments to take up the challenge of leading the promotion of a renewed and inclusive multilateralism that contributes to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. “The LAC region offers fertile ground for moving towards a new paradigm of international cooperation, in an effort to overcome the pitfalls of development that it faces,” said Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Center and Special Adviser of the OECD Secretary General on development matters.

The institutions that prepare the report are the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF); the European Union, for the second year in a row; and the Development Center of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). *L&E*



# Environmental CAPSULE

## EL NIÑO PHENOMENON... AN ALARMING SITUATION

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

**T**he Phenomenon of El Niño is already wreaking havoc in Panama and that is evident at first glance in the intense heat that we have to face every day and without leaving behind affectation of crops, water scarcity and with it the shortage of food.

As indicated by Alcelys Lau, manager of research and climatic applications of the Com-

pany of Electrical Transmission S.A. (Etesa) there is a 50% probability that the El Niño weather phenomenon may continue until October.

She also indicated that light rains are expected between the months of April and May, while June would be the most critical month with low rainfall, due to this weak category phenomenon.

“The phenomenon is currently present worldwide and can last until October. We know that water is the most important asset of this country, with which all activity takes place and can affect the level of rivers,” Lau said.

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP), on the other hand, has also taken measures such as restrictions on the draft of ships, due to the fact that Gatun and Alhajuela lakes are below the average levels.

As of April 10, 2019, the maximum draft allowed by the ACP will be 45 feet in water, said Carlos Vargas, vice president of Environment and Water of the Panama Canal Authority. Likewise, the probable implementation of a sixth regulation on vessel draft for May is being studied.

The Vice President of Environment and Water of the Panama Canal Authority stressed that since December, our country has been experiencing the “worst drought in 106 years”, and that the most recent specialized reports indicate that “there is an 80% probability of that El Niño ends in June and 60% that extends to September. “

The storage of water in the rainy season is one of the biggest challenges for Panama, a country that government officials have said is suffering from “water stress” due to high human consumption, Vargas said.

Panama executes projects for more than 3,000 million dollars to guarantee its water security, but has the challenge of rushing to find better solutions to manage this precious resource.

Currently, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies for the Bayano area of a water purification plant or “water trasbase” are nearing completion, using the turbine waters of Lake Bayano; the conceptual design and complementary projects for a “multipurpose reservoir” in the Indio river basin; and feasibility studies of a “multipurpose reservoir” in the La Villa river and pre-feasibility study for “reservoirs” of the Parita, La Villa and Perales rivers.

The harvest of water in the rainy season is an alternative that allows us to reuse this water resource for different uses in times of drought and scarcity of water.

While it is true that many of these harvesting techniques sometimes represent a somewhat expensive initial investment, we can also use much simpler, more economical and effective techniques with which we will have similar utility and benefits.

Among techniques of harvesting water that we can have at our disposal with tools that we find in our home and surroundings and that are more economical, we can mention:

- Harvest water using the roofs and channels of our homes.
- Small ditch-type reservoirs using sheets or tarpaulins.
- Placing sheets or tarps to metal or plastic tanks to collect rainwater.
- Among others.

Climate changes force us to take more and more measures to regulate the use of water between the dry and rainy season, we must apply programs and initiatives that allow us to have a water storage capacity in times of drought to face the effects of the phenomena of the nature.

In our country drinking water is consumed three times the average consumption of the region and this amount is not necessarily used properly, that is, large quantities are wasted daily.

We urgently need to be aware of the savings and reuse of this important water resource and it would be interesting for each citizen to ask some questions, such as: "I will consume so much water ?, What do I do to save water?" *L&E*

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**Do you know it's a dry forest?**

Casilda Quiroz - Legal Assistant  
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**D**ry forests are forests that grow in areas that do not receive rain during many months of the year. Most of the trees are of low height, many of the plants and animals of these forests are in danger of extinction by cutting down trees, burning and hunting.

In dry forests, plants and animals have evolved to withstand long periods of drought, in these ecosystems spiny thickets and small trees are frequent; the leaves of many plants are covered with thick cuticles that are covered with waxes or powders, to prevent the water coming out.

When rains arrive, the plants of the dry forest re-green, fill with leaves and flowers that attract insects and germinate many of their

seeds. Fruit trees, such as plums and mangoes, are loaded with fruits and produce crops, animals return from nearby ecosystems and the forest is full of great activity: frogs, toads and beetles leave their shelters, iguanas and turtles eat buds from trees, birds brighten the environment with their songs and start the reproductive season, bats come out at night in search of insects, fruits and nectar of flowers.

The dry tropical forest and the dry premontane forest occupy 10% of Panamanian territory, although there are few vestiges of its original vegetation, this is because it is the area where humans have preferred to settle, even before the conquest.

In Panama there is the Dry Forest of Coronado, a young, accessible and very well preserved forest, this forest has a lot of trees



strengthened in order to avoid or reduce tree felling, burning, hunting and the elimination of our forests, since they are doing harm to the animals that live in them and also to the environment. ambient. L&E

such as jagua, palo de carne, chumico, guarumo among others, it also has a large number of animals such as armadillo, tile, carpenter, talingo, tortolita among others. This forest of approximately 48 hectares is located in Coronado.

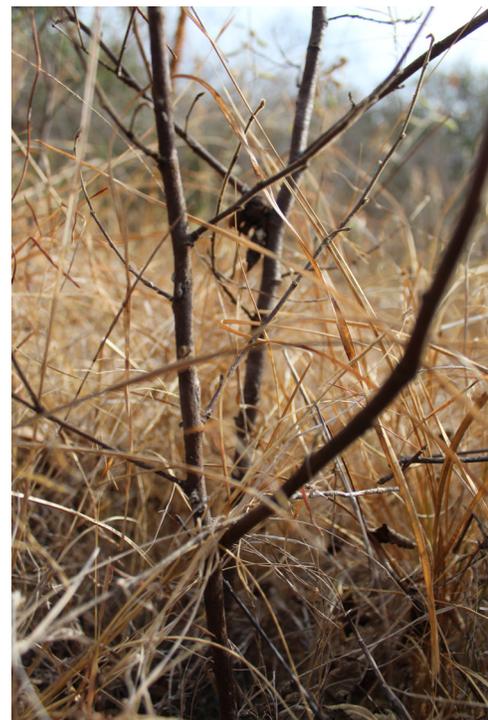


We have the Forestry Legislation in the Republic of Panama, Law No. 1, which allows all of that land surface in private property covered with natural or artificial forests to be exempt from any National tax payment, as long as they have a forest registry, after evaluation of the Ministry of the Environment.

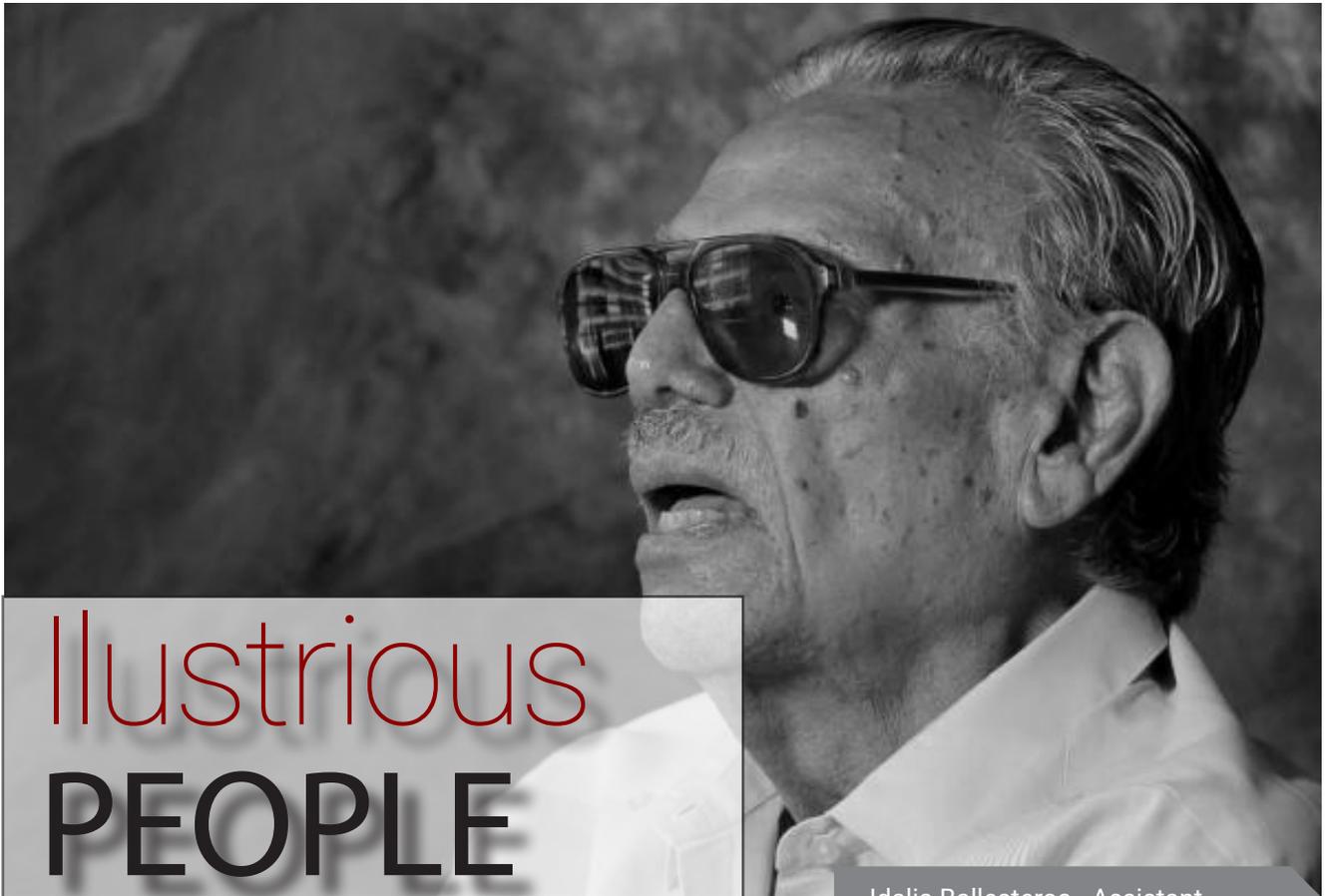


### OPINION

I believe that in Panama we are losing a lot of nature due to the large constructions that, although it is true they are of great help to society, we are not taking into consideration the conservation of nature, forests and mountains,



I believe that forest laws should be further



# Illustrious PEOPLE

**GUILLERMO SÁNCHEZ  
BORBÓN**  
(Tristán Solarte 1924 - 2019)

Idalia Ballesteros - Assistant  
idalia.ballesteros@rbc.com.pa

Guillermo Zacarías Bocas del Toro that at  
Sánchez Borbón that time had no light,  
known with the lite- neither drinking water  
rary pseudonym of nor aqueduct; a place  
Tristán Solarte was surrounded by jun-  
born in Bocas del Toro gle and sea in which  
on June 1, 1924 in anonymity reigned.  
a public hospital on As a child, Guillermo  
Isla Colón; a place in Sánchez Borbón prac-  
the middle of the so- ticed street baseball  
litary archipelago of with his childhood

friends in the humid streets of his native  
Bocas del Toro, these were violent games  
in very limited spa- ces and with some  
permissiveness. He completed primary  
studies in his home- town, and then tra-  
veled to Costa Rica,

where he entered the Minor Seminary,  
which had a high level of demands, where he  
learned classical and modern languages,  
from there he could learn Latin, as well as  
his domain of English. Because in the Major  
Seminary priests were

trained, and that wasn't his vocation, Guillermo Sánchez Borbón decided to complete his baccalaureate at the Domingo Faustino Sarmiento School, where he also achieved excellent training. At the end of the baccalaureate, he enrolled in Humanities at the University of Costa Rica.

When returning to his native country he practiced his profession of laboratory technician for several years; for the year 1950 he toured the whole country since he held a position in the 1950 Census.

He was Chancellor at the Consulate of Panama in Buenos Aires. He lived a season in Mexico and then returned to Costa Rica to work at the Central American University Press. He reinitiated studies in political science and sociology; He also studied the phenomenon of Nazism



at the University of Costa Rica.

He was a journalist and political columnist, as well as a writer, he worked as an opinion journalist in the column

"In few words" of the newspaper La Prensa, which cost him political persecutions during the dictatorship of Manuel Antonio Noriega.

For the year 1984 specifically on April 29 was physically attacked by individuals later identified as members of "Seventh Force" paramilitary group of the National Guard, the timely intervention of a colleague then saved his life.

After the fall of the regime in 1989, Sánchez Borbón maintained its vertical position in front of the governments of the democratic era, questioning any inadequate action head-on.

Guillermo Sánchez Borbón is one of the most outstanding Panamanian realist writers. Between its works they emphasize Voices and landscapes of life and death (1949), the guitarist (1951), El Ahogado (1954), Evocations (1955), Confessions of a magistrate (1968), Poetic approach to the death and other poems (1973 ), In few words (1989, 1990 and 1992), Time of tyrants (fragment translated from the original English version, 1990), The Crystal Snake (2000), Silhouettes (2001), They come from afar (2002), The way travel (2002), the light of this memory (2002) and Noriega and the beheading of Hugo Spadafora (2002).

During his life, he won numerous awards, including the María Moors Cabot International Journalism Prize in 1986; the Ricardo Miró Prize in the poetry and novel sections on several occasions; the award of the Order of Intellectual Merit of the Panamanian Academy of Language in 2001, and the Rogelio Sinán award, for his renowned literary career, in 2004. He is the only Panamanian author to appear in the Thousand Books Catalog, which selects the thousand best books of universal literature.

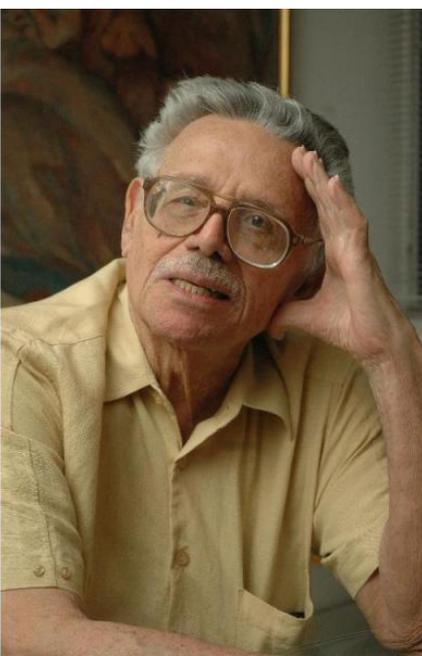
He was elected to seat E at the Panamanian Aca-

demy of Language on September 5, 1979, to succeed Víctor Florencio Goytía. On January 8, 2019 he received the



national decoration of the order Manuel Amador Guerrero, in the degree of Grand Officer for his contribution to literature, opinion and research journalism. It is important to mention that he was the director emeritus of the Academy from July 18, 2018 until his death, on February 24, 2019.

On February 24, 94 years of age, Guillermo Sánchez Borbón dies at the National Hospital. During the last goodbye of Guillermo Sánchez the words of gratitude were given by his niece who when referring to her uncle did it as the “Uncle Gui”, who declared that he was a close person, accessible, read stories, liked to tease to take his nephews to the river, and if any of his nephews got sick, he would look for a natural remedy to lower their fever; He emphasized



that he was always in the main events of the family, in baptisms, weddings and funerals; He was always in a good mood; He had no children but the “devil gave him many nephews” she said. *L&E*

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# Sports capsule



Ana Sofia Corrales  
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I have always thought that everything in life is based on attitude, how you decide to take things, whether you see them as an opportunity, a personal challenge, or as a stone in the shoe, anyway. Success in this life is made for those who love it most, and strive to work to achieve it, return actions their words.

And we don't achieve anything by feeling sorry for ourselves, or excusing ourselves for lack of time, etc. If you want it, you can do it. And there's nothing more satisfying than when you get to the top of the mountain, since life normally goes uphill, but up there the view is great.

The words of Pope Francis were very nice, when he spoke initially of cycling, and then referring to sports in general, because as we mentioned above, sport is synonymous with important values.

His words were referring to cycling as one of the sports that "emphasizes virtues such as: patience, integrity, altruism and team spirit". "If we consider cycling on the road, we can see how the whole team works together during races," he said.

"(Athletes) have this extraordinary opportunity to communicate to everyone, especially young people, the positive values of life and the desire to dedicate themselves to the pursuit of high and noble goals."

But the 82-year-old Pope warned that the opposite is true when "other interests such as prestige and profits" are imposed.

"I'm thinking about doping, dishonesty, disrespect towards oneself and rivals and corruption," he told participants at the annual congress of the European Cycling Union, which this year housed the assembly of the African Cyclist Confederation.

# BASEBALL

## Major National Baseball Championship

It is not long before the regular series of the National Major Baseball Championship ends, where the Veraguas team is already leading, already qualified, followed by a draw between Bocas del Toro, Chiriquí Herrera and Los Santos, with 8 games won and 4 lost, while that Panama Metro is in trouble for qualifying with just four dates to define the eight teams that will advance to the next round.

Results of this Friday, March 22:

- BCT 2-3 Los Santos.
- CHOcc 1-3 Chiriquí.
- Veraguas 10-0 Darién.
- Coclé 1-8 PEste
- Herrera 6-1 POeste.
- PMetro 9-1 Colón.



FEDERACION PANAMEÑA DE BEISBOL								76 CAMPEONATO NACIONAL DE BEISBOL MAYOR			
76 CAMPEONATO NACIONAL DE BEISBOL MAYOR								PANAMÁ LIGHT			
CDPA CERVEZA PANAMA LIGHT - 2019								móvil			
CARLOS G. McNULTY Y EUCLIDES QUINTERO											
BEISBOL MAYOR								TABLA DE POSICIONES			
								SERIE REGULAR			
								PENDIENTES			
	EQUIPO	G	JJ	JG	JP	PROM	CLASIF.	22	23	24	25
1	VERAGUAS	B	12	9	3	0.750		DAR	PE	PO	PM
2	B. DEL TORO	B	12	8	4	0.667		LS	PM	PE	PO
	CHIRIQUI	B	12	8	4	0.667		OCC	HER	COL	COC
	HERRERA	A	12	8	4	0.667		PO	CHI	LS	DAR
	LOS SANTOS	B	12	8	4	0.667		BT	COC	HER	COL
6	COLON	A	12	7	5	0.583		PM	DAR	CHI	LS
	PMA. DESTE	A	12	7	5	0.583		HER	OCC	VER	RT
8	PMA. METRO	A	12	6	6	0.500		COL	BT	OCC	VER
9	COCLE	A	12	5	7	0.417		PE	LS	DAR	CHI
10	PMA. ESTE	A	12	3	9	0.250		COC	VER	BT	OCC
11	OCCIDENTE	B	12	2	10	0.167		CHI	PO	PM	PE
12	DARIEN	B	12	1	11	0.083		VER	COL	COC	DAR
			144	72	72	LOCAL					

# KARATE

The Panamanian Hector Cención after getting his classification to the Pan American Games in Lima 2019, reached the bronze medal in the Pan American tournament that takes place in Panamanian lands.

According to the COP, this bronze medal gives Cención the classification for the World Beach Games, which will take place in the US city of San Diego from October 10 to 15, 2019.

Likewise, Yaremi Borzelli won the ticket for the Pan American Games in Lima 2019 (Peru), to

overcome the preliminary rounds in the 55kg, combat modality in this 2019 Pan-American Karate Championship, a regional event where Panama is based in the Arena Roberto Durán.



# SOCCER

On the other hand, the CAI (Independent Athletic Club) after having achieved a historic pass to the final of the Conca-champions fell in the quarterfinals when facing the Sporting KC of the United States.

In this game, is applauded the work of goalkeeper José Guerra, who kept the game with zero goals until the minute 74, where they fell 3 goals, ending the game 3 - 0.

On the other hand, the National Promotion League started on March 16 with the Claro Tournament, with the particularity that there will be no descents, since there is a minimum number of teams.

This is because the SD Atlético Veragüense and Río Abajo FC teams were descended into their respective corregimiento leagues as they didn't comply with the process established by the Licensing Commission.

## Lack of funds

Although it is true, it is known that Pandeportes

doesn't provide the same economic support to all disciplines. Among all, recently the Olympic Committee announced that the Panamanian triathlon will not be able to compete in the IV South American Games of Playa Rosario 2019, due to the lack of funds that Pandeportes must provide and they can not cover the expenses of the trip.

On the other hand, within the federations there may be disadvantages, and more if it is money, as it happens to the Panamanian Weightlifting Federation (FPLP) that announced that it will suspend, until second order, the National Interclub Championship and the participation in the Pan-American tournament of Guatemala.

The measure arises as a result of Pandeportes suspended all economic contributions because the past administration of the FPLP must report expenses.

The national tournament was scheduled for the 30th and 31st of this month and the Pan-American for April, valid for the Tokyo 2020 Games.

## What left us of the friendly game between brazil and panama?

Javier Said Acuña / Adán Araúz  
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**O**n Saturday, March 23, the soccer teams of Brazil and Panama played a friendly match at the Estadio do Dragao in Porto, Portugal.

The party generated many expectations most unfavorable to our Selection. For various reasons, the balance of the confrontations showed that Panama, until then we had played 4 matches with Brazil, we had all lost with zero goals in favor and 16 goals against.

On the other hand, the current interim coach of the National Team Julio César Dely Valdez, was taking over the command of the National Team of Panama and with a few days to have the squad together to prepare the match.

The international friendly served as preparation for Panama ahead of the 2019 Gold Cup organized by CONCACAF, a tournament to be held from June 15 to July 7, 2019, which brings together the most important football teams from North America, Central America and the Caribbean. 16 selections will parti-

cipate. For its part, Brazil is preparing to host the Copa América, which is the main soccer competition between teams from South America, with the participation of 12 teams, including the invited ones from Japan and Qatar.

Brazil didn't lead to speculation and except the injured Neymar Jr, and Vinicius Jr., lined players who play in the best leagues in Europe such as Militao, Miranda, Casemiro, Arthur, Paquetá the scorer, Gabriel Jesus, m. 60, Coutinho, and Roberto Firmino, among others.

On the other hand the Technician Dely Valdés bet by the sacrifice, the tactical order, a defensive line of 5 defenses, to leave to the contras when it was possible, to take something of attack against Brazil.



So things among others Panama aligned with our players who play in international soccer as Luis Mejía of good work in the goal, Michael Murillo, Fidel Escobar, Harold Cummings, Adolfo Machado, with a great goal of the head, Eric Davis, Alberto Quintero , Armando Cooper, Aníbal Godoy, José Luis Rodríguez and Gabriel Torres. Inclusive there was time to give some minutes to players of our Panamanian Football League.

The match surprised both locals and strangers, the game was developing as expected, a Brazil with possession of the ball and attacking, while Panama sought to close the spaces, playing with a system of 5 defenses 4 flyers and 1 attacker.

Despite the aforementioned Brazil's dominance didn't translate into real danger plays, until a change of front took something wrong to the Panamanian defense and Paquetá thrashed down with some force in a cross shot that Manotas reached to touch, but without being able to clear it of the goal. At the return of 4 minutes after Machado who served as captain of the selection of Panama, put the tables and finally the final score of 1-1 with a great header in a set piece.

The discipline, the tactical order, the willingness of all the players to run the entire field

and endure the attacks from Brazil, without paying the backlash, which almost culminated in the time of replenishment in favor of Panama, accounted for a great deal of work of the Panamanian Technician and his players who fully complied with the planned.

A historic match, as historical was its result. For the first time we scored for Brazil and we scored 1 point in a game against the five-time champion.

We congratulate the technical direction of the National Team and its players, for such an excellent result. It is a friendly first under the command of Julio Dely, who was accompanied by his twin brother Jorge and the other members of his coaching staff.

The result of the friendly is a good first step, the new composition of the National Team with some experienced players, others who play in the United States, Peru, Bolivia, Uruguay and in Europe, and in the LPF, with a lot of youth, they will give to the DT the possibility to form a competitive team in order to obtain again the classification to another world.

The most immediate goal is the Gold Cup to be played in a couple of months in middle of

year. It will be a good thermometer to gauge how our team is doing. If they put the momentum shown against Brazil, we will be a very difficult opponent to overcome. *L&E*



# FASHION

## Addiction to the mobile phones: THE EVIL OF OUR TIMES



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**D**igital media is designed to keep our brains entertained and wanting more; They are addictive by design. There is a term for this: "ningunfoneo"; It is the act of ignoring a person by concentrating on the use of the cell phone.

During my morning walk to the office, I have been able to observe the people around me as zombies checking their cell phones; In my case, I have been an intensive mobile user throughout my adult life. The statistics suggest that you, like me, have a problem, at least with regard to the use of the mobile phone.

Our jobs prevent us from completely disconnecting, but we can address the causes, including the triggers that cause you to keep your cell phone in your hand. We have developed a desire to be always entertained, and for that reason instead of interacting with our surroundings, we are numbed in an alternative reality.

The point is not to disconnect from the Internet or social networks, it is about disengaging your brain from the harmful routines that are adopted around this specific device, and accustom it to other things. More profitable things in terms of time and interaction with other people.

For example, we can start by reviewing the statistics of time spent in front of the screen of our mobile, in this way we can have an idea of how many times we check the cell phone per day; This is not difficult because some phones have specific and free applications to know the time of connection on the screen per day and per week.

**An average person checks his cell phone a hundred times a day, a disturbing figure if we think about it.**



It is important to have a good place to leave our device and you can follow some of the following recommendations to change your habits:

Disable notifications leaving only the calls, messages and emails.

You can make a list that includes family members, work contacts and some close friends.

Look for activities that replace the customs related to cell phone use.

Next, we can give our cell phone the treatment of Marie Kondo, reviewing all the applications and keeping only those that cause us joy and contribute to healthy habits. In my case it means to delete Facebook and other social networks, keeping the messaging services like WhatsApp and emails that do not distract me constantly.

Given the addictive properties of cell phones and the likelihood that they will continue to become more essential, there is always a chance that we will return to these bad practices; the important thing is to be aware of the relationship we have with our mobile devices and to continue to realize when and how we use it to go creating the habit in reverse: to go depending less and less on them and to develop the habit of creating space for interact more with our environment. *L&E*

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# The young vote, the golden eggs goose



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**W**ith the arrival of 2019, not only began a new year, in our country, also began the countdown to the general election, to choose who will take the reins of our country, for the next 4 years.

Unlike other electoral years, this has two particularities, the first, the great influence of social networks, where constant information is generated and it is impossible not to be informed of everything that surrounds those who aspire to power, on the other hand, and perhaps the most important part, is the number of young people who will exercise their right to vote, becoming, in the main objective of the candidates, either political parties or the independent line.

According to figures released by the Electoral Tribunal (TE), for this May 5, day of general elections, 521,535 young people will exercise their right to vote, including these, between the ages of 18 and 25, representing, to the youngest sector of the population. These figures represent 18.91% of the total of the Final Electoral Roll,

in which 2,757,823 Panamanians are registered to vote. It is important to know that, within these figures are also those young people who will vote for the first time, being these 56,062, of which 27,947 are women and 28,115, men. For candidates, the vote contributed by this sector of the population, is, so to speak, the goose that lays the golden eggs, therefore, they will look for all the possible ways to convince them that they are the best option, for the future of the country.

Rubén Darío, who was a Nicaraguan poet, journalist and diplomat, once wrote a sentence that reads as follows: **“Youth everywhere is attractive, courageous and victorious.”** Taking into account his words, it is easy for us to understand why, for politicians it is so important to reach this sector; However, it is not an easy task. On the one hand, young people today don't have that common ideology in their minds; to leave school, to study a career, to get a job, to form a family and so, following that same pattern, to educate their next generations,

on the contrary, they are enterprising, creative and live extremely influenced by technology. There are few who aspire to generate their income by working for someone, for 8 hours or those who see in the formation of a family, their personal growth. On the other side of the coin, there are those young people who are victims of social environment in which they grew up, feel that they don't have opportunities within society, as a consequence, they fall into illicit matters, there is a high number of unwanted pregnancies, school desertion, among many other social problems, common in Panama.

To get the attention of this sector of the population in order to obtain the vote, is not a relatively easy task, candidates should look for the right ways to focus and guide their strategies, based on youth thinking, especially in the short time left, so that it arrives on May 5.

Probably the most difficult situation for the candidates, was the electoral closure, established by the Electoral Tribunal (TE), through Decree No. 31 of October 13, 2017, which establishes scope and limitations of the electoral campaign. Based on this, for the general elections, the period to be able to campaign, is 60 days before the elections. Interestingly, this ban culminated during the celebration of one of the favorite festivities of young Panamanians, the carnivals, being from Monday of carnival the moment in which, we began to see all kinds of political proselytism.

The candidates, didn't miss opportunity to distribute items during the popular culecos, the interior area, the busiest during these holidays, was painted with the colors of different political parties, waterproof cell phone bags, hats, hats, shirts, among others flew among the crowd of young people. In the same way it was com-

mon to see their faces reflected the cars where the murgas of the queens of the different tunas were transported, in tank cars, platforms, among others and listen to their advertisements in the different animations, including, some of them made tours through the different cities.

Among other strategies used by the candidates, we have on the one hand the allying of known faces of the medium or of the so popular "influencers", which, thanks to their approach with young people and the great admiration they generate in them, can be a push to get votes, especially those who are still undecided. Some, meanwhile, seek to obtain the votes, under promises of subsidies or certain "facilities", for young people, especially the female sector, these in the end are very little approved practices by the general population and among young people of class worker, which mark this type of proposal as populist.

I believe that, beyond any campaign strategy, advice from their advisors, among other tools used in politics to obtain votes, candidates should analyze the fact that youth are crying out to be heard, to be taken consider. There are thousands of young professionals without even getting their first job, many others who, despite their experience, are not taken into account in growth of companies in which they work.

We can't leave aside, as I mentioned earlier, the fact that today young people are entrepreneurs and creatives par excellence, however, there is no real support for them. A young man who starts his business and goes out to look for clients, to promote his product, is rarely heard, just as there aren't many programs of support and follow-up, even having an institution directed specifically to the microentrepreneur. A few days ago, the Ministry of Labor (Mitradel), through a report

presented by the International Labor Organization (ILO), revealed the number of ninis (people who neither work nor study), existing in the country, indicating According to the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic, as of 2017 there were 119,340 young people, between 15 and 24 years old, in this category, highlighting that half of them are women, who they dedicate to the care of the home or are those that to become mothers at an early age, didn't continue their studies, much less find an opportunity in the labor field.

Young people don't need fanciful proposals that in the end will not be fulfilled, nor depend on financial aid without any effort. They, really need, proposals oriented to education first of all, that with bases promise them better opportunities to train professionally, first job programs, guidance programs for young pregnant women at an early age and teach them that being a mother is not synonymous with not overcome, provide support to those who seek to start their own businesses and above all, find the means to rescue those youth who are growing under a social risk, although they don't represent votes at present, they are basically the future that our country will have and that we could Expect a youth where school desertion abounds, unwanted pregnancies, crime, among other problems.

If the candidates manage to understand the importance of obtaining the highest approval of the youth that will go to the polls on May 5, they will have a large number of votes on their side and possibly among them is the vote that makes the difference and makes them obtain the victory. They must be cautious and speed up a little, there is very little time left for the final decision and the young people don't yet have a North, from whom it may be the best option for both their interests and those of the country in general. *L&E*

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## #trashtagchallenge

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At the beginning of March, a new challenge became viral in social networks, the surprising thing about this new challenge has a positive impact on the environment, the challenge basically consists in taking a picture of the before and after the place that is cleaning, showing all the garbage in bags to get an idea of the work done.



Illustration 1: Photo that reactivated Trashtag Challenge in 2019

The purpose of the campaign is to tag other people and thus create an infinite chain of users on social networks that are invited to clean the dirtiest and most polluted places nearby.

Although it wasn't until this year 2019 that it

has gone viral, the challenge dates back to September 2015, by the company Teton Gravity Research, a company of extreme sports media based in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA, founded

in 1996 by brothers Steve and Todd Jones, as well as friends Dirk Collins, Rick Armstrong and Corey Gavitt. The group launched the company to create products that emerged from the perspective of athletes, shows youth culture and fostered the growth of high-risk action sports.



From all parts of the world we see the pictures of people before and after collecting the garbage; this challenge would also serve as a wake-up call to the latest warnings that ex-

perts have expressed that we only have until 2030 to be able to make a profound change regarding the impending global warming. Many will say that it is a box office, what is left to each person, if he does it simply to appear or actually does it consciously, in the same way they are cooperating with the environment, which is what is most needed now.

Surely the planet, the living beings of the same and the future generations will thank us that this challenge becomes viral, even, we ourselves will appreciate it, no matter how small it is if it is possible to help the environment.. **DO IT.** *L&E*



Illustration 2: Picture of Polar Bears forced to leave their natural habitat and eat garbage to survive; This is happening in the northwest of Russia, in the New Zembla Arctic archipelago, beginning of 2019.



Illustration 3: In Australia since the hot summer began, tens of thousands of animals have died, including to the north the intense heat wave killed at least 23 000 of the so-called flying foxes, bats that eat fruit.

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# Cultural Capsule

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## THEATER

- El Ángel Theater: Defenders of Justice from March 24 to April 28.
- El Ángel Theater: I want to be president until May 4.
- La Estación Theater: Tarzan from March 23 to May 12.
- La Estación Theater: The Innocents from March 27 to April 28.
- Aba Theater: If my cell phone spoke !, until April 7.
- Aba Theater: Transylvania 3 from March 30 to June 16.
- Aba Theater: What men want from April 11 to May 26.
- Aba Theater: Negotiating my re-election on April 1,15 and 29.
- La Plaza Theater: Broadway @The Plaza from April 10 to 11.
- La Plaza Theater: The monologues of the vagina on April 29.
- Teatro en Circulo: Snow White from April 3 to 6.
- Anayansi / Atlapa Theater: La Granja de Zenon Farm on April 4.

## CINEMA

- IFF International Film Festival

## FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Tadoo Music and Arts at the EuroStar Hotel. from April 5 to 7
- City Fair at the Figali Convention Center from April 11 to 13.
- Gondwana in Panama Festival 4/20, in Coronado next to the Equestrian Club on April 20.
- Flamenco evening at Las Bóvedas Restaurant on April 26.
- Cooltural Fest 2019 at Parque Urracá on April 6.
- Festival of Congos and Devils in Portobelo on April 27.

## MUSEUMS

- MAC:
  - Dulemar: A contemporary look at Gunadule art and culture from April 3.
  - Interoceanic Museum of the Panama Canal:
    - Temporary Exhibition "Molas. Layers of Wisdom" until June 30.
  - Biomuseum:
    - On April 7: free admission Panamanians and permanent residents.
    - Invites you to the three new rooms: "Oceans divided", "The living network" and "Panama is the museum".

## CONCERTS AND SHOWS:

- World Music Panama 2019: Lito Vitale and Juan C. Baglietto at the Athenaeum of the City of Knowledge on April 25.
- COMPLICES UNPLUGGED at the Las Totumas Hall of Atlapa on April 9.
- Marco Antonio Solís at the Amador Figali Convention Center on April 9.
- Sex a Pill Theater & Cabaret on Latitude 47 on April 27.
- Reggae Gold 110 on Latitude 47 on April 30.
- Kenny G and Raul Di Blassio at the Atlapa Convention Center on April 23.
- 4 Latidos Tour - Camila & Sin Bandera at the Amador Figali Convention Center on April 30.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- April 2: International Autism Day
- April 2: International Day of Children's Literature
- April 4: National Day for the Prevention and Combat of Obesity
- April 7: World Health Day
- April 08: Buddha's birthday
- April 7: Good Actions Day
- April 10: Day of the Harpy Eagle
- April 14: Police Day
- April 15: Incident of the Watermelon Chop
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 23: World Book and Copyright Day
- April 24-30: World Immunization Week
- April 26: National Day of the Secretary
- April 28: International Day for Workers' Health and Safety.
- April 27: International Day of Awareness about Noise
- April 29: International Dance Day
- April 30: Day of Awareness about Noise
- April 30: International Jazz Day

## RELIGIOUS FESTIVITIES

- April 8: Feast of Divine Mercy.
- April 14 to 21: Easter week extended.

## CONFERENCES, TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

- Chamber of Commerce of Panama:
  - Workshop "Profitable Business - Free Owners", on April 10 and 24.
  - Seminar "Best practices for implementation of ERP", on April 23.
- The 16th Congress of the RedPop: from April 22 to 25 at the City of Knowledge.

## FAIRS

- Colón National Fair in Colón from March 27 to April 7.
- Expo-Orquídea Fair in Boquete from April 5 to 7.
- Santa Monica Fair in Penonomé from April 12 to 14.
- International Fair of Azuero in La Villa from April 4 to 15.
- Camarón Arriba Fair in Santa Rosa Bugaba from April 5 to 7.
- Capira Agricultural Fair from 11 to 14 April.
- Expovivienda 2019 from April 25 to 28 at ATLAPA.
- Expo Acobir Fair 2019 from April 20 to 24 at ATLAPA. *L&E*

## *Alianzas alrededor del Mundo*

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

**Guevara & Gutiérrez S. C. Servicios Legales- BOLIVIA**

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