

THE CUENCA DISPATCH

Ecuador's Original English-Language Newspaper

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Moreno announces deep economic cuts and reforms

After warnings earlier in the week from Ecuador's Vice President Otto Sonnenholzner that citizens needed to prepare for harsh economic times, in a national address on Tuesday, President Lenin Moreno informed the population of new economic measures that would be going into force almost immediately. He began by noting that there will not be a raise in the "added tax value added" (VAT) from its current rate of 12%.

He followed this with saying, "Those who we are going to ask for an additional effort from, are those who have the most," and then communicated that those companies with incomes of more than \$10million a year will pay a special contribution for three years. Moreno said this special contribution would raise about \$300 million per year, that would be used exclusively for safety, education and health.

The President then laid out his plans to end the government's program of fuel subsidies. Through an Executive Decree, the prices of extra gasoline and diesel fuel will immediately be raised. [On Wednesday, Moreno



announced that fuel prices for extra gasoline would rise from \$1.85 per gallon to \$2.30 per gallon and that the price of diesel fuel would rise from \$1.08 per gallon to \$2.27 per gallon.]

The Ecuadorian government has been subsidizing fuel at a cost of \$1.3 billion annually."On the continent, the only [other] country that has the [fuel] subsidy is Venezuela. And it is not the best example to follow,"said Moreno.

With the goal of "protecting those who could be affected by the measure," Moreno announced that 300,000 families will be added to the social transfer programs offered by the Government cont. page 4.

Cuenca and Ecuador wake to a transportation paralysis



Long rows of paralyzed taxis, empty and silent streets, and dozens of people looking for ways to get to work were the scenes Cuencanos awoke to on Thursday morning.

In Parque Calderon, dozens of protesters congregated to join the national "paro" (paralysis) called by carriers in rejection of the economic measures announced by the Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno on Tuesday. At the center of the protest is the government's plan to end the fuel subsidies that now cost the country approximately \$1.3 billion a year.

Protesters blocked passage on the roads near Parque Calderón. Mariscal Sucre and Bolívar streets were closed from Padre Aguirre to Borrero. Citizens who arrived at the site set tires on fire as a measure of rejection of the government's austerity measures. cont. page 7.

Moreno talks about the false socialism of the 21st century, Maduro, and the future of Ecuador at the United Nations

The socialism of the 21st century "never existed," said Ecuador's President, Lenin Moreno.

Moreno also says he is okay with taking responsibility for a sharp political turn from his predecessor, Rafael Correa—he says it has prevented Ecuador from following "the path of Venezuela."

"We have come out of that deception, the false socialism of the 21st century, that socialism never existed. On the contrary, (they were) a group of gang members, of gangsters, that the only thing they took care of is to corrupt and be corrupted," said the president, who spoke this week at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In the high-level event, one of the primary focuses was the Venezuelan crisis, a scenario that Moreno says could have been reproduced in his country if the postulates of his predecessor had been maintained

"Ecuador has also managed to leave without hard traumas ... and now walks at certain steps," said Moreno, who was vice president of Correa. He cited as an example the return to "track" the confidence of multilateral organizations, with offerings of credit and more than \$10 billion for investments in development.

"Neither forget nor forgive" Nicolás Maduro

President Moreno says one of the current challenges of Ecuador is how to manage the unprecedented avalanche of cont. page 7.



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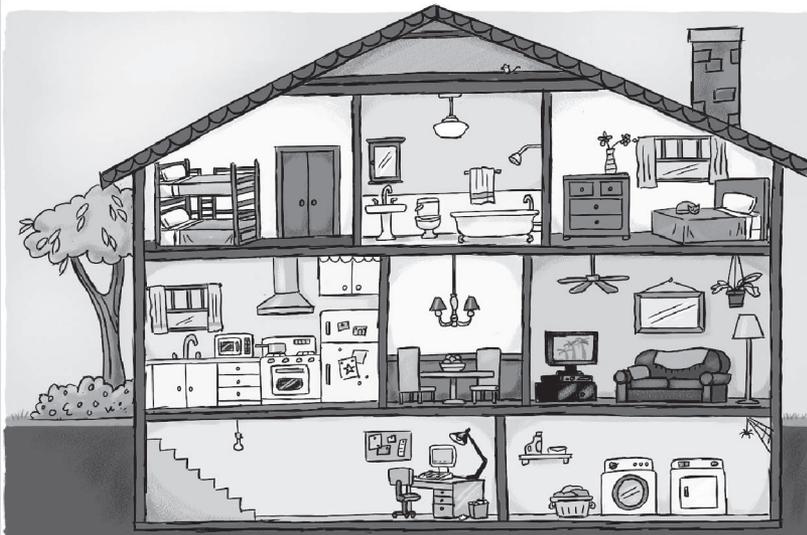
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I'M JUST SAYIN'

By Michael Soares

Just the facts ma'am

Wow. I mean really. Wow. What a circus the US political situation has become. You all know I hate Trump. I'm not going to try to argue with those of you who love him. I'm not going to try to convince you to see what I see.

I feel he's a liar to an extreme that I've never seen before. I think he's a criminal and I wonder what history will dig up on him after he is gone. And I don't care if you call me a "libtard" or any of the other cute 5-year old names you (and your leader) want to call me. Schoolyard bully. That's what he is.

Okay, all that said, enough. Enough already. I can't stand opening up the news every day to see how much more of a circus the entire political system of the US is becoming.

There is almost no value anymore to reading about it because it won't matter. While I don't think everyone in Washington is corrupt, clearly a lot of them are. And they stopped caring about the people of the US a long time ago. So, reading all of this nonsense every day is not going to change anything. I know who I won't be voting for next November. I don't need any more of this nonsense to sway my opinion.

So, from this point on, I am promising myself to read twice as much daily Cuenca/Ecuador news as US news. I might even try for more. That's what I've been doing since last week. I read El Mercurio, El Tiempo, El Telegrafo and El Comercio almost every day. And I don't know, maybe the government controls the media here, but I don't think so. Because pretty much everything across all of these papers is consistent.

Truthfully, sometimes one of them gets facts wrong (i.e., numbers, locations, names), but most of the time they are all telling the same story. They all try to add different nuances to their versions, but they are still close to each other. Of course, some cover different stories than the others. That's why I try to read them all.

And you know what was really refreshing this week? The President of Ecuador announced some of the most sweeping economic and labor reforms that anyone could imagine. Probably the most shocking is that he decided to stop kicking the can down the street on the gasoline subsidies. There are going to be riots in the streets over that, and he knew that. But he did it anyway because he believes it needs to be done. Good for him.

But back to the newspaper part of this. So, Moreno announced these huge changes and every one of the newspapers covered the story with factual information. They printed facts. They did not pontificate about the facts. They just printed them. Yes, there were opinion pieces as well, and a slew of Ministers of the Administration out touting about why these changes are so important. Still, most of the reporting was just simple, straight forward dishing up of facts.

After reading all of the stories over the last two days on this huge reform platform, I walked away feeling that I knew the facts of what was being done. I don't mean the behind the scenes deals or actions that happened before these changes were announced, I mean the day to day facts of how this will affect most citizens.

It was so nice to feel that I had actionable information that was clear and without the political frosting that goes over everything in the US. This was news. That's it.

And though I've only started my 2:1 ratio of newsreading this week, I have been reading the Ecuadorian newspapers weekly for a couple of years. Just kind of catching up on things that weren't on CuencaHighLife. So, I've been paying attention to the news that is printed here for quite a while. It's honestly almost rudimentary in it's reporting. There is no analysis by a dozen talking heads. There is no constant banging home of the same points over and over.

It reminds me of the simple newspaper I grew up reading in Fall River, Massachusetts. The Herald News. A local paper that just gave us "flat" information. And that's really all we need, right?

I mean why do we give any of the pundits our time when they spout off their opinion in a newspaper (or on TV)? Is it just because they held some high-level government job before (or still)? So what? They are just going to cloud the information with their views.

Now I'm not one of those people who buys this "Fake News" bullshit. I think most of the mainstream media is reporting the truth. But it's always slightly swayed so that all it does is provide cannon fodder for the other side! If they just printed facts, without speculation, without accusation, without supposition, then maybe (just "maybe"), the two sides of thought could see a little bit more truth in what the other side is saying.

I for one am glad I live here and not there. I'm glad I am reading local (and national) news here that tells me what I need to know about Cuenca and the country as a whole. Because it's really refreshing to not have to pull facts out of a story like I'm digging for gold in my grandfather's back yard. Simple is better.

I'm just sayin'.

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love Sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your Sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9X9 grid, broken down into nine 3X3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the number will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

			9	3		2		5
	6				2		1	
	5				6	8		
						6		4
3	1						8	2
2		6						
		9	7				2	
	7		4				5	
5		1		9	8			

See answers on page 11

Moreno announces deep economic cuts and reforms (Cont.)

(through bonds) and will receive an additional \$15 per month to offset any fuel related costs.

For the business sector—who will be the most adversely affected by the increase cost of diesel fuel—the government has offered to eliminate or reduce tariffs for machinery, equipment and raw materials and to give automatic tax refunds for exporters. In addition, the advance of the income tax will be eliminated. Moreno said the government would also be abolishing taxes on the import of technological devices such as mobile phones, computers, tablets, etc.

Without delving too deep into details, Moreno also said there will be significant changes in the labor laws, to create a better environment for businesses to start, to expand and to thrive. There will be a new contract created for those starting a venture, a contract for employee replacement in case of leave for maternity and paternity leave, a telecommuting contract, contracts with fixed periods, and changes in the formula for employer retirement. He clarified that the new contracting modalities will apply to new employees, while those who currently have an employment relationship will maintain their current benefits.

There are also other measures that are aimed at the public sector employees. In order to reduce the government's wage bill, Moreno indicated that "occasional contracts" will be renewed with 20% less pay. Also, government employee vacation time will be cut from 30 days to 15 days annually.

"The decisions I have made are because of decades of delayed decisions. Many of my opponents, critics, and future candidates are not going to say it in public. But they say it in private," concluded the President.

In addition to those economics reforms mentioned above, Moreno also announced that starting in November, the government would make \$1 billion available for mortgage loans at a rate of 4.99%.

The President also shared several other tax and labor reforms including:

1. Single income tax for bananas.
2. Halving of the foreign exchange tax (ISD) for raw materials, inputs for capital goods, according to a listing.
3. Reduction of the tax on vehicles of less than \$32,000 for productive use.
4. Public company workers will contribute one day of salary every month.
5. New form of employer retirement: employers increase monthly contribution by 2% for new workers. This value can be saved in the IESS or in private funds.

Extracted from Diario EL COMERCIO

Your personal information may be for sale every day on the Deep Web



"Buy a database of millions of people's personal information for a monthly fee"

The offer circulates on the Internet. Hackers, and even legally constituted companies offer information of entire families. They say that those interested can access the names of parents, children, ID cards, addresses, emails, telephone numbers and

even monthly salaries and that you only need to pay from \$500 to \$1,000 per month.

Investigations carried out in this regard show that these companies and hackers buy the databases in the illegal market and then store and resell them through other legal companies—sort of like money laundering for data.

In the last month, Ecuador's Prosecutor's Office has investigated two



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cases in which information on millions of Ecuadorians was stolen and offered for sale. Just last week it was discovered that these files were offered through monthly subscriptions. Companies that subscribed to this "service" were able to access information on the civil status of the people, sociodemographic situations, family trees, ID numbers, professions, labor information, economic activities, and salaries that ranged from 2016 and 2019.

For Diego Yépez, Security Manager of the data center of CenturyLink, these data can be obtained in two ways. The first is legal and consists of collecting information that is stored in the base of any public institution. For example, on the internet you can find values for taxes. The only thing information required by any number of websites is the identification number, RUC or names of a person. But people also provide information when filling out forms, for example, for raffles, when they publish their data on social networks or when disclosing their resumes.

And these databases are often stolen through computer viruses, or the information is illegally purchased. In fact, the personal files discovered in the last hack show that the origin is not legal.

The Telecommunications Regulation and Control Agency monitors these cases. Last week, the entity filed a complaint with the Ecuadorian Prosecutor's Office to investigate a group of "companies that would be illegally using personal indicators."

The sale of these stolen databases is usually specific to the so-called Deep Web. Only those with a certain degree of specialization in computer technology can access this space. Transactions are usually through electronic currencies such as Bitcoins, which due to their digital nature are difficult to track. And because information tends to become outdated—people change homes, acquire new cars or divorce—firms pay for monthly updates. Those who are behind the updates are the same people who have access to the databases of a private company or public institution from which the personal information originated. People who prefer to not pay monthly for the data, but to have them in full and permanently pay up to \$30,000 for the entire package offered.

But the theft of personal information is not only large-scale. There are also private individuals who use the files of others and sell them. A person who prepares computers in his home, in northern Guayaquil, has managed to collect 20 files with more than 65,000 contacts. This data base is offered on a website for only \$50. This hacker says it is a reasonable price, but he also has packages for \$80 and \$100. Each folder contains names, phone numbers, home addresses and emails. "I have compiled them from the companies where I repaired computers. First, I used them to offer my services. I sent mass emails or sometimes called, but then I decided to sell the databases."

* In September, the IT security firm vpnMentor, revealed a security breach that exposed the information of 20 million Ecuadorians (including deceased). According to the vpnMentor report, the security gap that exposed these files has already been closed, but the database has likely already been copied.

Extracted from Diario EL COMERCIO

Cuenca will host entrepreneurship congress in 2020



This week in Cordoba, Spain, Cuenca was designated to be the headquarters of the VIII International Entrepreneurship Congress of the Association for Training, Research and Development of Entrepreneurship (AFIDE) in 2020.

Andrés Ugalde, councilor of Cuenca and member of the Housing Promotion Commission of the Cantonal Council of Cuenca, announced Cuenca's selection. He is also a member of the Infrastructure and Public Works Commission.

The city will also host the XI International Summer School Of Entrepreneurship (ISSE-2020) in 2020. This coincides with the celebration of the Bicentennial of Cuenca.

AFIDE, led by a team of professionals, entrepreneurs and academics interested in entrepreneurship, is made up of 22 countries, 90 researchers, 60 universities and 650 affiliates.

Its main purposes are to promote the study, teaching, research and development of entrepreneurship, as well as the exchange of information on these topics.

Among its tasks is the transfer of knowledge with other national and international associations interested in achieving the same objectives, to contribute to greater collaboration in relation to the development of the person.

The meetings have the endorsement of the University of Salamanca.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

Patients receive cochlear implants thru Ministry of Health program

Fifty-two patients from 13 Ecuadorian provinces, have benefited from Ministry of Health grants that are giving them cochlear and osseointegrated implant processors. The medical interventions, which will help them improve their quality of life, were carried out this week at the Vicente Corral regional hospital.



About \$700,000 was invested to bring hearing 34 patients with cochlear implants, and 18 with osteointegrated implants, said a statement from the hospital.

A cochlear implant is "a small and complex electronic device that helps give some sense of hearing of sounds to a person who is deeply deaf or has serious hearing difficulties."The implant consists of an external part that is located behind the ear and an internal part that is placed by surgery, under the skin.

Antonio Sigüenza, medical director of the health house, said that with these technical aids, the aim is to improve the quality of life of people with these types of problems. "It is the obligation of the Ministry of Health to support people with disabilities," said David Ordonez, coordinator of Health Zone 6.

RUC holders receive email notice to pay municipal fee immediately



Last week, an email notification alerted about 88,000 holders of a 'Single Taxpayer Registry' (RUC), that they must go to the municipal tax office to pay their "municipal patent."

This payment must be made even if taxpayers have not maintained recent economic activity or work without a business premises or office. In fact, the deadline for the contribution expired in June, so the corresponding fines and arrears will apply.

The financial director of the Municipality, Jaime Patricio Abad, indicated that the amount to be collected by the Municipality is approximately \$8 million, of which more than 80 percent is still to be collected. He said citizens need to go to the Municipal payment windows located at Mariscal Sucre and Benigno Malo, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., or at the Municipal office at Av. 12 de Abril and Paucarbamba from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., to make their payments.

Some taxpayers are unaware of their obligation to pay the municipal patent. Arturo Grijalva, for example, points out that his professional activity as a designer means that he needs a RUC to work under the modality of 'services provided.'But he does not maintain an office or design studio, so he had never considered he had to pay the patent before.

Another taxpayer, Rosa Argudo said that although she maintains a RUC, she has not issued any invoice for three years, so she assumed she had no debt. But she does in fact have to pay the fee for the having the RUC.

Abad believes that part of the surprise to taxpayers is that they received notification of this payment via email, a method of collection management that was implemented this year as part of the technological improvements of the Municipality. He added that ignorance of the law does not exempt citizens from paying.

Cuenca students join world march for climate awareness

This past Friday, a contingent of Cuenca's students joined in the worldwide call for a march for climate awareness. This initiative is part of the global march that took place in countries all over the world.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., in the Parque de la Madre, the march began with the sound of drums, maracas and tambourines, with students chanting the slogan: 'We are all family.'

Ernesto Arbeláez, a member of the Cuenca for Climate Collective, explained that this initiative brought together various citizen groups and young students from educational centers in Cuenca He said it is a part of the global movement promoted by environmentalist Greta Thunberg .

The march wound through the streets of Cuenca, eventually arriving at Calderón Park. There, a fair was held with various activities that tried to show the effect climate changes has had on the planet and in the Cuenca canton.

"Cuenca is a city that does not have a climate agenda. We are isolated from these environmental actions, and this is the wake-up call we give to the municipal authorities," said Arbeláez.

The 'Greta generation' is even happening here in Ecuador



Andrea Lema next to a jar where she keeps all the garbage she has generated since December last year, waste that she has not yet been able to give a second use. Photo: Patricio Terán / EL COMERCIO.

Greta Thunberg is the most visible face of a generation of children and young people who have waged an epic battle: fight to stop the warming of the Earth. In Ecuador, activist Andrea Lema, who feels part of what many call the "Greta generation," reflects on how the youngest have appropriated the fight for environmental care.

How would you define the Greta generation?

I would define it as a generation composed of people who, in addition to being passionate about caring for the environment, have really managed to understand the importance of the relationships that are built between nature and human beings. It is a generation that has a deeper knowledge of environmental problems, because it lives on a daily basis. In my case, that understanding lies in having grown up in a family that loves nature and that always had me close to rivers, seas and forests.

In the speech she gave at the UN, last Monday, Greta said she does not want to promote hope in adults but panic. How in practice can panic help the planet to stop heating up?

Panic, like other emotions, can lead you to take concrete actions on issues that you think have to change. In my case, panic was activated with the issue of garbage generation. Seeing how plastic debris fill the oceans moved me inside. The environmental crisis we are experiencing disrupted my spirit so much that I had to move from discourse to action and not only in my daily life but on a more collective level.

Has globalization helped connect the Greta generation?

Of course, it is now much easier to talk with people who are in Europe or Asia to share experiences and organize joint actions, with the aim of having more impact. We must understand that the new generations work in a network and for that we use all the technology we have at hand.

So, for the new generations the theory that everything is connected is a maxim?

Definitely, for us everything is connected, and we see it in practice. There are activists who protect animals, others who decide to become vegetarian or vegan, others—like me—decide to become 'zero waste'. We are all trying to contribute to the care of the planet from our own space and what is within our reach. For us nobody does more than the other. The important thing is to create awareness of what is happening with the planet and that is something that the previous generations failed to do.

Is there frustration in the new generations about the passivity of political leaders in relation to the consequences of climate warming?

We live in constant frustration. We have a lot of representatives who do not understand well what is happening with the Earth. They think that everything the scientific community says is not an emergency, when it definitely is. Current generations have grown seeing the impact and effects of climate change on our environments. We are concerned that the other generations are not taking radical actions on these issues.

What would you answer to someone if they told you that stopping the famine in the world is also an emergency?

I would say that the problems of famine in the world and climate change

are two things that go hand in hand. All sustainable development goals are interconnected. It is very important to meet the goals we have already set. That overconfidence is not going to take us anywhere. We are really at a point where being an activist through social networks and sharing information through memes is not enough. We need to start making changes in our day to day, even if they are small. It seems to me that at this point, more important than sharing information about excess plastics in the oceans is ideal that we stop using one or two disposable plastic items.

The French philosopher Bruno Latour talks about the 'climatic quietists' in reference to people who trust that without doing anything everything will improve. Where can that excess of confidence lead us?

There are also the radicals they call 'apostles of climate change denialism.' Think of characters like Trump or Bolsonaro, what does the Greta generation have to say?

These types of characters even cause grace, because they seem to live on another planet. I don't understand why they refuse to listen to scientists. They have information that has not come out of nowhere but from a lot of research. Behind that denial, there are surely political and economic interests. They are people who only think about their business, or that their passage through the planet will end soon and they are forgetting that behind them there are a lot of generations to come and that they are leaving us a planet about to collapse.

In 2016, 195 countries signed the Paris Agreement. Seeing how little progress has been made in these years, do you think the signing of another agreement is necessary?

I think the important thing is that everything signed in that agreement is complied with. It is necessary that all countries of the world declare themselves in a climate crisis and that they work on their public policies and their programs related to environmental care, based on that declaration. I believe that social pressure and scientific information must continue. There is a phrase that I always share and that says, "if you think that the economy is more important than the environment, try to hold your breath while you count your money". Let's think for a second to what extent the economy or markets may be more important than taking care of the forests that generate the oxygen we all need to live.

Is activism enough to stop global warming?

The new generations of activists are made up of people who are not only demanding things, but we also take daily action to mitigate the impact of global warming. Maybe now we are thousands, but surely tomorrow we will be millions. For us it is important to generate political influence and have dialogues at that level. However, I am convinced that daily actions add up to more than a protest.

Does defending the environment mean having a different way of life or not necessarily?

In a way, yes, because the idea is to move from discourse to action. When I started on the issue of environmental conservation, I worked from the desk very passionately. However, in my day to day I continued to consume and transport myself like any other person, until I understood that I had to be consistent with what I was demanding and with the things I was doing. For me to make garbage or continue consuming things that ended up in waste was no longer an option, that's why I decided to cut all the plastic of my life.

In the past, the ideal in relation to caring for the planet was for people to learn to recycle garbage, what is the ideal for the Greta generation?

The ideal of the new generations is no longer only linked to recycling, which was the lie of the 90s, in terms of waste. They said that if we recycled the garbage problem it would end and 20 years later, we see that this is not the case. On the issue of waste, now more important than promoting recycling is talking about reduction and rejection of products that end up being garbage.

This interview was originally published in Diario EL COMERCIO

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Cuenca and Ecuador wake to a transportation paralysis (Cont.)

Even the prefect of Azuay, Yaku Pérez, met with union representatives of the Federation of Indigenous Organizations of Azuay, the Equarrunari, and announced he would be joining them in the national paralysis. Pérez even called for a march for later in the day.

In Quito, where the paro began, the absence of buses and taxis affected all of the nation's capital. In the Carapungosector, in the north of Quito, hundreds of people walked along the path of the Panamericana Norte in search of a means of transport to reach their destinations.

And along the different avenues and streets of Guayaquil, owners of private vehicles took up the roles of "gypsy taxis," ferrying people about town at exorbitant rates.

Across the country, trade unions, social and indigenous organizations announced the start of gradual and permanent mobilizations as part of a national strike against the economic measures announced by the government of Ecuador.

As of Thursday afternoon, no end to the paro is in sight, and the outcome of the protest is still questionable. Moreno has made it clear that the country can simply not afford to continue to subsidize the price of gasoline and diesel fuel.

Political landmine

Ecuador's fuel subsidy program is an issue that has been a boiling point for years for both the administration of Moreno and his predecessor, Rafael Correa (and many Presidents before them). Past attempts to increase the price of fuel have led to similar protests that have managed to push back on the issue.

Ecuador's fuel subsidy programs started in the 1970's during the country's first oil boom and continued until the late 1990's. The removal of the subsidies, followed by exaggerated attempts to increase the cost of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), are considered to be part of the causes for the overthrow of Ecuador's Presidents Abdala Bucaram in February 1997, and Jamil Mahuad in January 2000.

Prior to an increase in the cost of regular gasoline and high-octane gasoline by the Moreno government in August and December of last year, gasoline prices had been fixed since February of 2003. After those increases, the price of high-octane gasoline rose from \$2.19 a gallon to \$2.98 a gallon in August and the price of "extra" gasoline rose from \$1.48 a gallon to \$1.85 in December.

The removal of the subsidies will raise gasoline prices within a formula based on the price of a barrel of oil. Currently, that would raise the price for extra gasoline from \$1.85 a gallon to \$2.39 a gallon and the price for diesel from \$1.03 a gallon to \$2.29 a gallon.

Only time will tell who will have the longer staying power this time around, the protestors or the government.

Moreno talks about the false socialism of the 21st century, Maduro, and the future of Ecuador at the United Nations (Cont.)

Venezuelan migrants, of which it has already received almost half a million in a diaspora that the president described as "desperate and desperate," like "walking dead looking at a horizon without any direction".

"So, I think definitely that man [Maduro] should be separated from power and pay for their crimes, there is no forgiving and forgetting. Stop extorting people, stop stealing from the people of Venezuela, stop abusing, violating and murdering so many people," snapped the Ecuadorian leader in reference to President Nicolás Maduro.

Ecuador is one of the more than fifty governments that recognize the leader of the Venezuelan Assembly, the opposition's Juan Guaidó, as interim president.

Beyond the political crisis, Moreno was concerned about the implications of receiving the Venezuelan diaspora: "What will be the desperation of these poor people who have decided to go to countries that may have the same difficulties as them," he reflected. He explained

that his country so far has provided more than 500,000 with medical care, integrated into the education system to almost 20,000 young people and children and is gradually absorbing them in labor, while next week will begin a census of Venezuelan citizens to schedule and budget attention to this collective.

"The situation is not easy. Without a doubt, the social, economic and somewhat political circumstances of the country have changed. But the solidarity we must give is more important," he said.

"We are going to allow the transit of Venezuelan migrants in transit"

Moreno said that Ecuador will allow the transit of Venezuelans in transit in cases where they can show that they "need to arrive to see their wives, their children, or maybe they have any alternative to work or have a visa that provide some of the fraternal countries".

Since August 26th, Venezuelan citizens have needed a humanitarian visa to enter Ecuador, which left hundreds of them—who wanted to cross their territory on the way to other countries such as Peru or Chile—stranded on the border with Colombia.

The requirements to allow or not the passage of these migrants have caused friction in the Ecuadorian Government in the last month due to differences in criteria between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior.

The president was clear about it: "Yes, we will allow passage in transit." He also considered it important to "help with transit, other than traveling hundreds of kilometers on foot," an "extremely painful" subject.

Multilateralismo, always

Regarding Foreign Affairs, and despite the tune of his Government with the United States in recent times, Lenin Moreno declared himself an unequivocal supporter of multilateralism, of "being able to talk and dialogue," in front of the nationalist postulates of the tenant of the White House, Donald Trump.

"Everyone has the right to express themselves freely and I have a duty to listen to them. And that multiple rationality allows one to make better decisions and conclusions," he said.



In addition, he advanced that by the end of the year, or early 2020, he expects his country to be a full member of the Pacific Alliance, with all the benefits that this represents, since he is currently not a full member of the regional bloc that makes up Chile, Peru, Colombia and Mexico.

Re-election discarded

Two years before the next presidential elections in Ecuador, Moreno reiterated that he maintains, for now, his word not to appear again in office, in which he has no desire to revalidate because he believes that although, "if the power knocks on the door, one should not shy away," it is also necessary to "abandon it as soon as possible."

Without advancing names, he would like to see as the head of his country "a person to continue the program transparencia, honesty and service to the community," driven by his Government.

"I did not have it before, I do not have it now and I want to think that I will not have it later (the desire for another mandate). I do not like to anticipate the future, to behave like a pythoness is not to my liking. But if you ask me if at this moment, I would like to be a candidate, I say no," he emphasized.

And he added: "Neither power nor money provide happiness, when human beings will finally understand it."

Election promises of two new land terminals won't be kept any time soon



The promise of two new terrestrial terminals for Cuenca made in Cuenca's most recent Mayoral election are not going to come to fruition this year, or next.

This was announced by the mobility manager at the Terrestrial Terminal of Cuenca, and manager in charge of the Mobility, Transit and Transportation Company (EMOV), Esteban Molina.

According to the Molina, the Mayor's office says there are still plans for the new terminals, but project construction will not start in either 2019 or 2020.

The former manager of EMOV, Adrián Castro, said that during the previous administration a project was advanced for a new terminal in Cuenca and a consultant was hired to create a plan for the project. However, that plan has never been received by the municipal company. He said he does not know the reasons for the delay in delivery.

Molina agrees that there is a consultant group working on the project and that he is in constant communication with the project managers working on the studies. "Once the consultant's work is delivered, we will analyze it and see if it is viable," he said.

He also said that for now, the Municipality will make improvements in the current station, including adding air conditioning and renovations to the waiting room and the food kiosk areas. There will also be improvements that include a change of the electrical connections and greater internal lighting, for the Terrestrial Terminal of Cuenca.

Work on the improvements in the Terminal began last Friday, with the technical intervention of the Agency of Regulation and Sanitary Control (ARCSA), at the food stalls located in the building.

The zonal coordinator of ARCSA, Diana Rodríguez, explained that training will be provided to 200 merchants in the terminal, responsible for the existing 93 stores, to improve their food handling practices, and they will be reviewed to comply with current health regulations.

The measure seeks for the Terrestrial Terminal to become "the example of the city's gateway," and will be complemented by security, control and order measures, Molina explained.



Cuenca Medical Resources

A web-based directory of English speaking healthcare professionals and services in the Cuenca area.

Anthony Guillén MD is a primary doctor who is known by his patients to be a skilled diagnostician and can refer, when needed, to many of the excellent medical specialists in Cuenca.

To contact Dr. Guillén for an appointment, visit our website www.cuencamedicalresources.com

To subscribe to the Cuenca Medical Resources website and receive future updates and information, to go <http://eepul.com/gx5AMP> or click on 'JOIN US' from our website's home page.



Ecuador Ministry of Tourism gives \$250,000 to help increase Cuenca tourist numbers



This past Friday, the Ecuador Minister of Tourism, Rosi Prado, announced that \$250,000 will be invested for the promotion of the Cuenca as a tourism destination.

Patricio Miller, president of the Chamber of Tourism of Azuay, said they will be attentive to how this capital is invested. "It would be good if they meet with us and invest according to the needs of the tourism sector in Cuenca." One of the plans the Ministry presented—"Tourism Police," who are National Police personnel that the Ministry has trained in hospitality issues, complaints management protocols and emergency care—was well received by the Chamber. "It is something that has been requested a long time ago and we are pleased to have security in trouble spots for the visitor's peace of mind," said Miller.

He also said that the Ministry should aim more at the international promotion of Cuenca, "not only in cities like Quito, Guayaquil and Machala, you can search for a market in Peru, Colombia and the United States."

The city had 985,360 tourists—253,204 were foreigners—visiting in 2018, slightly up from the 980,320 that visited in 2017. There was also a greater concentration of young visitors (between the ages of 18 and 29), compared to 2017.

The city receives tourists from various parts of the world. In 2018, and in 2017, the greatest proportion of foreign tourists come from Latin America and the Caribbean—about 35.3 percent. European tourists continue to account for around 31 percent, while American tourism fell slightly last year from 32 percent to 30.8 percent.

To increase those numbers, the Ministry of Tourism presented five areas where they will be using the \$250,000 investment. First, was the establishment of the Tourism Police force for the city; second is to increase the promotion of Cuenca as a tourist destination; another is to invest in rescuing the cultural sectors of Cuenca's traditional neighborhoods; and to develop conference and event tourism; and finally work to strengthen citizen and institutional commitment to tourism.




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CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

*A truck from the Azuay Governorate crashed on the Cuenca - Loja highway on the Tuesday afternoon, injuring four government officials who were traveling in the vehicle.

The incident occurred around 2:30 pm at kilometer 21 of the highway, at the Rañas entrance, of the Nabón canton. At the time of the accident, there was hail on the road and the driver of vehicle lost control and overturned the truck off the road.

According to the first responders report, the officials suffered minor blows and were taken to Vicente Corral Moscoso hospital. They were reported to be in stable condition.

* Three people were hurt in two traffic accidents involving motorcycles this past week. The most recent event took place on Monday in Gualaceo and the other accident happened Sunday night in Cuenca.

According to transit agents in charge of the Guapán community, of the Gualaceo canton, they were called to the accident scene at 08:00 a.m. on Monday. Arriving at the scene they found that a bus of the Andacocha Cooperative, had crashed into a motorcyclist who was treated and transferred to the Moreno Vásquez Hospital. The bus driver was held for questioning and the vehicles were impounded while the cause of the accident is investigated.

On Sunday night, on González Suárez Avenue in Cuenca, a motorcyclist lost control of his bike and crashed. Two people had minor injuries and were treated on site by IESS paramedics.

*The Office of Traffic Accident Investigations (OIAT), reported that two rollover accidents occurred last Sunday afternoon in two areas in Cuenca.

The first rollover happened at 1:00 pm, at the intersection of José Ortega y Gasset and Fernando de Aragón streets, where a Daihatsu Terios vehicle rolled after hitting another car. Preliminary investigations indicated that the cause of the accident was a failure to respect a STOP sign by one of the drivers.

IESS paramedics reported that two children and their mother suffered minor blows, and they were treated at the scene of the accident.

Another accident occurred on the Cuenca-Molleturo road, in the Cajas National Park, when a truck after lost control and overturned. The driver and his companion were injured. No details were release regarding their conditions.

Cuenca and National Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) On Wednesday afternoon, September 25, 2019, Citizen Guard personnel arrested five suspected criminals in different sectors of the city for alleged assault and armed robbery.

The first arrest was made at 1:00 p.m. at Amazonas and Avenida de Las Américas near Feria Libre. Three women tried to rob a citizen who was traveling through the market. The victim was physically attacked and received scratches on her face. She was treated by first aid personnel.

The second arrest was carried out at 2:30 p.m. on two alleged thieves in the vicinity of the 10 de Agosto Market. According to municipal police, moments before the subjects stole a cell phone from a student, who was stabbed with a screwdriver in his left arm.

In both cases, the five alleged criminals were handed over to the National Police personnel of Ecuador to continue due process.

(Cuenca) In less than 24 hours, two agents of the public police force were attacked by citizens; three citizens where arrested and held in pretrial detention.

A Municipal Citizen Guard in the Historic Center was attacked Monday morning at Vega Muñoz and Mariano Cueva streets. The Guard's companions chased the suspect and intercepted him at Manuel Vega and Pio Bravo streets. The citizen was handed over to the National Police agents to follow due process. As an institution, the Municipal Guard filed a complaint with the Prosecutor's Office. According to the police, he was

arrested for attack and resistance.

Also, on Sunday afternoon, around 4:00 p.m., on Sara Urco and Río Paute streets, three citizens (two men and a woman) assaulted a National Police officer. According to the police report, a skirmish occurred when two officers asked a group of citizens to disperse and leave the area. Instead, the citizens responded by physically attacking the officers "with blows and bottles."

After more police arrived on scene, three people were arrested and charged with assault and resisting arrest. Darwin AC, Freddy A. Ch, and Liseth F. R are in pretrial detention.

(Cuenca) On Tuesday morning, Citizen Guard personnel arrested an alleged criminal who minutes before had stolen a large standing mirror from a commercial premise located on Tarqui and Presidente Córdova streets, in the center of Cuenca.

The arrest occurred at 10:00, after the owner of the business reported the theft. Municipal staff arrived at the scene and set up a motorized operation to find the alleged criminal. The accused was caught on Luis Cordero street between Mariscal Lamar and Gaspar Sangurima. The business owner arrived at the scene of the arrest and identified the thief. The alleged thief was handed over to the staff of the National Police of Ecuador to continue due process with the corresponding complaint.

(Cuenca) On Monday police captured two subjects who allegedly robbed a passerby on Avenida de las Americas, in the Jacarandá sector.

Two subjects involved in the theft of a cell phone and the wallet of a young man were captured by members of the Motorized Operations Group, when they escaped through the streets of Del Café and Del Maíz, in the Las Peñas neighborhood.

The alleged criminals were identified as Edwin Jefferson F. CH., 19, and Edison Santiago GU, 26.

Another alleged criminal was apprehended in the Chola Cuencana, after he allegedly stole a cell phone and other objects from a citizen.



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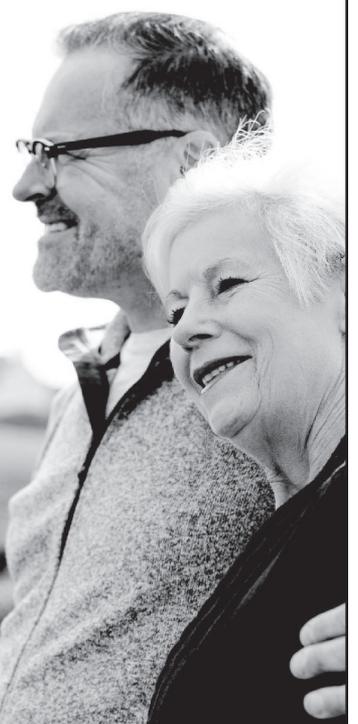
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Remittances are an important source of income for survival in Cuenca



Cuencanos receive more money—"remittances"—from abroad than any other segment of the Ecuadorian population, according to a recent report from the Central bank of Ecuador.

In the second quarter of 2019, Cuenca citizens received \$129.61 million from overseas family and friends; in the same quarter of 2018 they received \$121.4 million. That's a growth of 6.7 percent. At national level, remittances also increased during the first half of 2019. In that time Ecuadorians received \$1.546 billion, or 4.28 percent more than the same period of 2018 when \$1.482 billion were recorded.

This improvement in the income of remittances is a positive point for the economy of the country, says Rodrigo Mendieta, Dean of the Faculty of Economic Sciences of the University of Cuenca, "Remittances are countercyclical, when the economy is doing badly, remittances start to increase. They are a kind of cushion for families with relatives abroad."

He points out that migrant's remittances represent an important income of dollars to the country, "Not only to sustain the dollarization scheme, but because they move the local economy of cities like Azogues and Cuenca, for example."

Beneficiaries or remittances

The main beneficiaries of remittances in the city and province are relatives of migrants. That's the case for Bertha Gumán, who receives between \$300 and \$350 a month from her husband who is working in the United States.

Mendieta says that there are many studies that indicate that remittances supplement a salary; they are destined, in their greater proportion, to the maintenance of a home." He says that the studies show that "no more than 20 percent of that income is destined for productive investment, that is, the generation of a business or savings. However, that same flow is important, in local economies it takes on more importance."

Nonetheless, the investment of remittances in productive businesses is an important reality in the city. Rosa Chuchua, for example, set up a store with the monthly income she had from her husband from Italy. She points out that this helped her to not have to depend 100 percent on her husband's salary, because "some seasons he was out of work and with my children we were able to keep what we got in the store. Now we receive money for specific things, not like before it was a fixed monthly income because we had no income."

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58			59				60			61	62	63
64			65			66			67			
68						69			70			
71						72				73		

See answers on page 11

Across

1. Drinks slowly
5. Aide: Abbr.
9. Machu Picchu builders
14. Correct mistakes in
15. Ness, for one
16. Ship's load
17. Unassisted
18. Miles away
19. Web correspondence
20. London press locale
23. Sunshine State: Abbr.
24. Water__: dental gadget
25. School term
27. Adam's apparel?
31. "Shoo, Tabby!"
32. Bordeaux bye-bye
33. Lariat material
35. Once around the sun
39. Court arbiter
40. Little tykes
43. Lager kin
44. Spouse
46. Artist Magritte
47. Welles or Bean
49. Hearing organs
51. Gave to charity
53. Seafood selection
57. Set afire
58. Rainbow shape
59. Pre-color computer display
64. Game with numbered balls
66. Gen. Robert __
67. Mystical glow
68. Take an oath
69. "Gimme a break!"
70. Bed with bars
71. Conductor Previn
72. Author __ Christian Andersen
73. A looooong time

Down

1. Women's fitness magazine
2. Fan club's focus
3. Knotty wood
4. Bell tower
5. "Seward's Folly" purchase
6. Lenient, as on crime
7. Surgery souvenirs
8. Like some old bikes
9. Summer cooler
10. '60s conflict site
11. Manual skill
12. Like a gymnast
13. Alternative power type
21. Traffic jam
22. Show host
26. Pig's place
27. Old MacDonald's place
28. Notion
29. Special talent
30. First Amendment guarantee
34. Hold the deed to
36. Word after Near, Middle or Far
37. Burn balm
38. Rip apart
41. 2 + 2 = 5, e.g.
42. Part of SST
45. Moray, e.g.
48. Daily grind
50. 2000 presidential candidate
52. Mary-Kate and Ashley
53. Cancún condiment
54. Sovereign's headpiece
55. Played a role
56. 1965 civil rights march site
60. Broadway gas
61. Currency on the Continent
62. "__ Brockovich"
63. Runs in, as a perp
65. Roofing material

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN AND BEYOND....

"What's Happening..." is updated weekly with a large variety of events that both ex-pats and Ecuadorians will enjoy. If you have an interesting event you would like to publicize, email info@thecuencadispatch for consideration.

Classifieds and Events

CLASSIFIEDS

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 Hours of operation: Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 Contact: +593-74-08-6331, +593-98-458-4915

From Tuesday to Thursday 2x1 in kafta shawarma

El Jeque, is a small restaurant of Mediterranean food, specialized in shawarmas, falafel, hummus, pita bread, tabule and some dishes of Lebanese food. This month we have 2x1 on offer the kafta shawarma from Tuesday to Thursday for only \$ 5. Come and enjoy our delicious traditional food, with good attention and a lovely place. You can also enjoy our delicious burgers.
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Green pizza!

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 Address: Calle Larga 4-42 and Mariano Cueva (In front of Todos Santos church).
 Contact: 0962038891

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Worship Services

The International Christian Community

What: We are open to Christians of all backgrounds and our main goal is to love one another in the Lord. Come and enjoy "God With Us".

When: Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. (in English). Coffee fellowship after the service.

Where: Nicanor Aguilar and Solano (one block north of Monte Sinai Hospital).

Contact info: Email info@internationalchristiancommunity.org

Calvary Chapel Cuenca this Sunday - English and Spanish Services

What: Calvary Chapel has been formed as a fellowship of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When: Sunday's service in English at 9:30 a.m., in Spanish at 8 a.m. and also at 11 a.m.

Where: Our location is at the western end of bus line #22, Juan Pio Montufar and Primera Convención

Cost: Free

Contact: **Roger Quilty** 098 032 6390

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A	N	D	R	E		H	A	N	S		E	O	N	S	

Solution to Crossword puzzle on page 10

Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

1	8	4	9	3	7	2	6	5
9	6	3	5	8	2	4	1	7
7	5	2	1	4	6	8	9	3
8	9	5	2	1	3	6	7	4
3	1	7	6	5	4	9	8	2
2	4	6	8	7	9	5	3	1
4	3	9	7	6	5	1	2	8
6	7	8	4	2	1	3	5	9
5	2	1	3	9	8	7	4	6

Real Estate & Rentals



FOR RENT

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FOR SALE

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Kathy@CuencaRealEstate.com



FOR SALE
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