

THE CUENCA DISPATCH

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Government claims coup attempt was orchestrated by Correa during protests

The Government of Ecuador insisted on Tuesday that it was the target of an alleged destabilization plan and that the last week's protests were due to an attempted coup devised by former President Rafael Correa, who, on the other hand, denounced the accusation as a witch hunt.

"We are not going to allow the war, the gang, the assault and theft to return," said President Lenin Moreno, in a speech to thousands of supporters in a public event outside the Government Palace in Quito.

Moreno waved a tricolor flag (yellow, blue and red) from the balcony of the Government House, where he returned after having moved last week to the southern city of Guayaquil during the protests against him. He said he would not tolerate a second revolt of this kind with destabilizing intentions.

"The second time they want to attempt against democracy, against the lives of citizens, it will not come, it will not happen," said the president.

The president, who has had to accept the indigenous protest, has denounced that behind it lay coup interests linked to Correa, his predecessor in office, with the supposed support of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.



The arrest of Paola Pabón, prefect of the province of Pichincha (whose capital is Quito) and leader of the Citizen Revolution movement, of Correa, has sharpened the tone of the internal political confrontation.

"These Correistas are being judged by the Justice, which is now independent," Moreno added and, noting that during Correism "the country was stolen," he said "there was a lot of money behind these demonstrations."

"The truth is that there is no meadow more cont. page 5.

10 former Correa officials now seeking asylum



The United Nations Agency for Refugees (UNHCR) has a clear concept about asylum: it is granted to those who have been "banished or persecuted for their race, social status, religion or political reasons."

This criterion is shared by Patricio Sánchez, dean of the Faculty of Jurisprudence of the Central University. He explains that asylum, according to the Caracas Convention, allows any State (i.e., country) to provide protection in case of political crimes, but not if it is a common crime.

The academic emphasizes that when a government grants refuge to a person, the act automatically becomes a sovereign decision, that must be respected by any other nation. But this benefit is achieved after an analysis of each case and is done by the recipient country. Subsequently, safe-conduct is requested so that the beneficiary can leave cont. page 6.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Cuenca's Original Real Estate Pioneer, Kathy Gonzalez



For many people who have lived in Cuenca longer than about 4-5 years, the name of Kathy Gonzalez is a very familiar one.

A native of Cuenca with roots from her mother's side of the family that go back over 600 years, Kathy was uprooted from Cuenca at the tender age of eight to begin the next phase of her life in the United States when her father was offered a position as a Classics Professor at a university in Idaho. Kathy lived and studied in the U.S.,

learning her English as if she were a "native" of the U.S., until she was 16, when her father repatriated the family back to Cuenca.

Fortunately, Kathy was able to use the English language skills she learned in the U.S. to teach English in a colegio (the equivalent of a U.S. high school) here in Cuenca for many years. cont. page 4.



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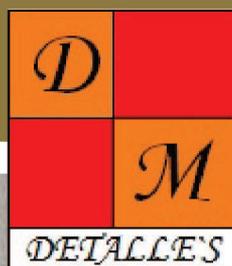
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I'M JUST SAYIN'

By Michael Soares

Did anything really get accomplished?

Over the last few years of writing my column, I've been called a "libtard," a "f#\$%ing liberal a#@hole," a "femi-nazi" (that was a real surprise!), a "neo-liberal academic idiot," a "moron of unfathomable length," and even a "Demo-dummy (my favorite)."

My fairly staunch New England views on politics even made one reader threaten me with bodily harm. Were he to meet up with me on the streets of Cuenca.

So, I think my standing as a liberal is bona fide.

And with that said, I just don't see how so many people are happy with the outcome of the recent national protests.

Let me back up and say that while I agree that the country has to remove itself from the burden of government subsidies for fuel, I do not believe that Decree 883 was appropriately released.

Nonetheless, the 12 days of chaos that ensued after Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno announced a package of economic measures (as part of a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to obtain \$4.2 billion in credit), accomplished nothing and was no more appropriate than Moreno's failure to explain the Decree to the population.

What we heard throughout the protests were how the removal of the subsidies would hit the poor the hardest, and how the government had no right to cut the subsidies.

First, let me challenge that the poor would be hit hardest by the Decree. Had the subsidies been cut for domestic liquid propane gas, I would agree that the poor would be hit the hardest (relative to income, the removal of those subsidies would have had a more drastic effect on the poor than on the middle class or the rich).

However, the subsidies were removed from gasoline and diesel fuel. Let's consider this, according to the Mayor of Guayaquil (during the height of the protests), only 30% of the poor have cars (I'm not sure where she got that statistic from). Let's assume she is correct. She said 70% of the poor population takes public transportation. So, in short, the majority of the gasoline costs are being pushed to the other income brackets. That does still mean, that for the 30% of the poor who own cars, the relative burden based on economic factors hits them much harder.

But, from those same numbers, we need to add to the equation that the bus fare was projected to go up \$0.10 to mitigate the losses that the buses would suffer from the increased diesel fuel cost. So, for the average worker, assuming they take the bus to and from work, the increased burden each month would be an additional \$4.00/month (\$0.10 per trip, 40 trips a month) in their cost of travel. I agree, not insignificant.

Turning to the 100% increase in diesel fuel, there is no doubt that this would have had an impact on the poor. However, it is important here to think about HOW that diesel fuel is used. At least here in Cuenca, that fuel is used in the trucks that transport goods, either by large carriers who are taking goods across national routes, or by pick-up style trucks that are transporting people and/or goods over relatively short distances. The thing to take into account in either scenario, is the volume of goods being transported.

Let's consider the large transport trucks. Imagine that they are transporting say, \$10,000 worth of goods. And the average price of those goods is \$7.50 (think of a sweatshirt). That means roughly 1,300 people will buy the sweatshirts from that truck. Now, let's say that the truck has a cost of transporting from Guayaquil to Cuenca (roughly 200 kilometers) of \$13-\$15 (15km/gallon). The new price by Moreno's Decree would have doubled that. So, an additional \$15 would have to be recouped from the sale of the sweatshirts to 1,300 people. Or approximately \$0.011 per sweatshirt sold.

Clearly, that's not an issue for anyone, poor or middle class. The more relevant issue would be the cost of bringing foods to market. And since we are talking about the poor, let's consider a local person buying food from Fiera Libre in Cuenca.

Much of the food bought to that market comes from the San Joaquin valley, no more than 5Km from Fiera Libre. So, what is that cost for that trip? Was it \$1.00 before and \$2.00 under Moreno's Decree? Probably less, but that's ok. From that, let's assume that this truck is delivering \$200 worth of potatoes, that will sell for \$1.00 per purchase. That's means 200 customers will have to bear the burden of another \$1.00 in fuel costs. So, less than a penny per consumer.

Now, my numbers may be WAY off here. But at least I'm trying to look at numbers. And that is something that was sorely ignored during the entire 12 days that the country was held hostage. No one bothered to look at what the impact on the poor would actually be. They just assumed that it would be huge.

Granted, an increase of \$4.00/month in bus fare would be almost 1% of the average wage of the poorest people in the country. However, as part of Decree 883, Moreno said that there could be a stipend of \$15.00 to the poorest people in the country to make up for the extra costs they would be burdened with.

So, what does all this mean? Well, a few things. First, the idea that anyone "won" here is ridiculous. This entire country lost. The national debt problem did not improve. The people who protested and were out of work for 2 weeks (most who are not on contracts) will never regain that income (so it they lost \$200 for those two weeks, that would have been 50 months of increased bus fare). The country lost millions in revenues. The real estate market will surely tumble (good luck seeing a bunch of Americans in town buying condos for quite some time). The government looked foolish.

And most of all, people died. No one looked hard at the true impact of the Decree before letting chaos ensue. And people died. How was that a win for anyone?

As I said above, Moreno handled this all wrong. He lost some of my respect for that. But I still respect him for trying to get some of this country's financial burdens/debts off the books. Both of these are topics for a much longer column. And they will become a part of Ecuador's history that will be studied for a long time.

The indigenous leaders should also take some blame for letting things get out of control. They now say there were "interlopers" who were funded by Correistas who caused all the destruction. If they knew that, why didn't they stop them from turning the protests into riots? History will also look hard at them once the lens of time is pulled back far enough from the events.

I'll close by saying this. Moreno should have seriously examined what the real cost to the poor would be by his Decree 883. He then should have met with indigenous and community leaders first, before he took any action. Then, he should have educated the country as to why he felt the Decree was necessary and what the impact would be on everyone. And he should have been very clear that the poor would receive additional government help to offset their increased economic burdens.

Then, maybe, all of this could have been avoided. People would not have died. The country could have moved to more stable financial footing. And everyone would have gotten the respect they deserved by participating in and making such an important decision for the country.

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!

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

See answers on page 11

Cuenca's Original Real Estate Pioneer, Kathy Gonzalez (Cont.)

While still teaching English, Kathy took advantage of the growing global popularity of Cuenca as one of the top retirement destinations in the world by founding "Cuenca Real Estate", the first real estate agency in Cuenca, which she began nearly 18 years ago. For most of those 18 years, Cuenca Real Estate was the ONLY licensed real estate company in Cuenca.

As many of you may already know, publications and programs such as International Living.com, Conde Nast, CNBC, and several other sources, touted Cuenca as "the #1 retirement destination in the world", and today Cuenca still ranks very high in the Top Ten for retirement destinations by many of those same publications. While Cuenca's popularity grew with retirees from North America, Kathy met and was selected by Lee Harrison of International Living.com to become their real estate expert for buying and selling properties in Cuenca.

While working with International Living, Kathy supported many of International Living's Ecuador retirement workshops in the United States. Working with International Living exposed Kathy to the expectations of many people from North America when it comes to purchasing homes in Cuenca. It was during this period that Kathy was also approached by HGTV's International House Hunters, for which she became their featured Cuenca real estate agent in several of their episodes.

Knowing the real estate market as she did, it was Kathy who first recognized the need for rental properties in Cuenca, which did not exist 10-12 years ago. Working with homeowners, investors and builders, she was able to convince many of them that there was a market for rental properties, and today, rental properties abound in Cuenca, and some builders own entire buildings that only have rental units.

Kathy has witnessed a vast change in the real estate market here in Cuenca, where today, almost anyone can "hang up his or her shingle" and call themselves a real estate agent without benefit of any training, without a license, and without any knowledge of Cuenca's real estate market and neighborhoods.

According to Kathy, "it can be very dangerous, both financially and legally, to the unwary real estate buyer from North America who is accustomed to working with licensed real estate agents. In addition to the lack of government oversight for the actions of people who advertise themselves real estate agents, there are also people who claim to be real estate agents who are, indeed, not authorized on the behalf of a property owner to sell their property."

Kathy's help and support to her clients do not end with the sale or rental of a new home. Kathy is keenly aware that many people moving to Cuenca from North America do not speak Spanish and that many of them need help with not only purchasing or renting a new home, but also with transitioning from their former homes to their new ones in Cuenca. She truly considers each of her clients to be her friend, and she gives her clients 110% of her effort to ensure they are happy with their new home and their decision to move to Cuenca.

With the help of her very experienced and knowledgeable team of relocation experts, visa attorneys, and real estate attorneys, as well as additional resources, such as health insurance providers, architects, construction contractors and builders, space planners, decorators, furniture builders, and other sources and experts, Kathy helps her clients find the right companies and persons to help ensure their move to Cuenca is as easy and painless as possible.

Many people ask Kathy about obtaining mortgages for their property purchases here in Ecuador. Per Kathy's brother, who is an attorney and holds the position of President of Mutualista Azuay, an Ecuadorian bank, a few North Americans have been able to secure mortgages, but the requirements for qualifying to obtain a mortgage are very stringent, requiring extensive amounts of financial information, current credit reports from North America, the need for many official "apostilled" documents (meaning that the documents have been notarized by the Department of State in the state in which the applicant(s) for the mortgage have their credit history). Most mortgages obtained in Ecuador, though, are cost-prohibitive, since the interest rate for mortgages here (as of this writing) is 15%. Kathy does, however, work closely with the only attorney in Cuenca who is able to help

people from the U.S. obtain mortgages for that are based their IRA savings.

Most of the properties Kathy lists and sells or rents are located in Cuenca; however, Kathy also sells homes and other properties in neighboring towns and areas within an hour's driving radius of Cuenca. If a client is looking for a lot on which to build a country home, to buy an existing farm or ranch, to buy a condo in the Cajas, or to buy an existing modern home with scenic mountain views, look no further than Kathy to help with such a purchase.

Kathy may be reached at

Kathy@CuencaRealEstate.com;

from within Ecuador at 099 450 0325;

from outside Ecuador at +593 99 450 0325;

or at her U.S. land line, 817 642 9912

(leave a message at the U.S. phone number, and she will call you back as soon as possible).

Propane supplies back to normal, subsidized gas and diesel prices return



Two days after the end of the national strike, supply routes have been fully opened and domestic liquid propane gas (LPG) supplies have been replenished. Also, the Government of Azuay reported that gasoline returned to the previous price.

"The city regains peace," said Governor Xavier Martinez.

Domestic gas tankers began arriving normally starting on Monday night and the supply was controlled by the Azuay Police Administration to prevent the product from being monopolized. Cuenca Mayor Pedro Palacios said that this week he will try to prioritize the sale of gas and will limit home delivery "to prevent gas from deviating from the route to those who need it most at this time."

Gas stations woke up with the price of diesel at \$1.03 and eco-pais gasoline at \$1.85, down from the \$2.30 and \$2.39 per gallon they rose to during the time that Decree 883 was in place.

The mayor toured service stations with the heads and political lieutenants of Azuay to verify that the change in prices had occurred. Governor Martinez announced that the controls in the price of domestic fuel and gas will be permanent.

Extracted from Diario EL Tiempo

Cuenca Medical Resources

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

Need to call an ambulance, the police or other municipal service? There are three services that are available in the Cuenca area, ECU911, 911 and Tia Poli.

To find out more about these services and how to contact the authorities, visit our website www.cuencaMedicalResources.com and look under Support Organizations and Services.

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.



Government claims coup attempt was orchestrated by Correa during protests (Cont.)

conducive to the miserable than a people who live in peace, confident, who have been living during this time in freedom, democracy, tolerance and respect," said the ruler.

Correa, who has remarked that the indigenous protest against Moreno originated from social discontent to his administration, has rejected the arrests of several of his supporters who are accused of rebellion.

From Belgium, through his Twitter account, the ex-president has stated that Moreno's regime has unleashed a persecution against Correísmo to try to justify the harsh repression exerted during the indigenous protests.

He even said he had doubts about the legality of the arrest of the prefect Pabón, because he said that the crime of "rebellion" does not fit reality and opposes the "right to resistance" that assists Ecuadorians.

A judge in Quito on Tuesday issued a 90-day order of preventive detention—for the purpose of investigation by the Prosecutor's Office —of Pabón, the highest popularly elected authority in Pichincha, for the alleged crime of rebellion.

"This is an affectation to human rights; this is political persecution. My only crime is to be a member of the Citizen Revolution," Pabón noted in her defense, according to a message posted on social networks.

On Tuesday, feminist organizations in Argentina and Peru expressed their solidarity with Pabón and denounced a possible persecution by the Government and the Prosecutor's Office.

From the Paridad Perú platform, composed of the organizations Calandria, Flora Tristán and Manuela Ramos, guarantees for Pabón's safety and prompt release were requested, which was also joined by former Peruvian congresswoman Marisa Glave, of the left-wing New Peru block.

In the same vein, the Women's and Gender Equality Front of Argentina accused Moreno's regime of "using judges and prosecutors to imprison opponents of his Government" and "preventing any type of organization" in protest against the adjustments applied in the framework of agreements with the IMF.

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

Azuay dairy festival launches next week



The First Dairy Festival of Azuay will take place on Saturday, October 26, starting at 9:00 a.m. The festival will be held in the EDEC square on Bolívar and Huayna Cápac streets.

The festival has been organized by the Prefecture of Azuay. Patricio Abad, Director of Economic Development

of the Provincial Government, said that this event will have two specific objectives: first to deliver marketing spaces to small and medium producers and second to function as an educational platform to promote the importance of milk consumption in improving human health.

The event will feature 27 exhibitors, divided into 3 groups. The first group consists of 17 small producers; the second, 5 medium producers; and the third, 5 Gastronomy Schools who will demonstrate foods made from dairy products.

Abad also said that with the support of the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Cuenca, a forum will be held with 4 exhibitors participating and discussing:

- María Augusta Molina, will address the issue of the incidence and nutritional value of dairy products in humans;
- Vanesa Abad, will talk about good manufacturing practices in the dairy industry;
- Tania Chicaiza, will outline the incidence and statistics of dairy

production in Ecuador; and

- Germán Mora, will present the incidence of dairy production in the province.

Planners are hoping to have at least 250 people attend the festival.

Cuenca Mayor inspects city damage



On Tuesday morning, Cuenca Mayor Pedro Palacios, took a tour through the streets of the historic center of the city to assess the property damage that occurred during the demonstrations of the national strike.

Palacios, accompanied by municipal authorities, toured

several areas of damage and met with residents of the sector to verify concerns and to find solutions.

So far, it's estimated that the damage in the historic center amounts to at least \$150,000; other identified problems still need to be quantified. According to Palacios, San Francisco square is the area with the greatest amount of damage.

On October 10th, in the middle of the crisis, the Municipality of Cuenca declared a state of emergency throughout the territory of the canton. At that time, the National Institute of Cultural Heritage, under the coordination of Patricio Zamora, became very concerned about the damage being done to the older buildings in the center.

By declaring the state of emergency, funds will be released to be used to repair damages and to restore basic services such water purification, garbage collection and public order.

CUENCA consignments

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10 former Correa officials now seeking asylum (Cont.)

the country.

Sanchez argues that if this safe-conduct is not granted, applicants can live in the diplomatic headquarters indefinitely. In this year, 10 supporters of the Rafael Correa government have requested asylum from several countries.

The first was Carlos Ochoa, former Supercom leader who requested refuge in Bolivia. He was joined by the former Assembly woman Sofia Espín. The two still open trials against them. Ochoa, for falsification and use of adulterated documents. While the ex-legislator is accused of influence peddling because she allegedly tried to convince a witness to change her testimony in favor of Correa. In February, the Bolivian Government informed the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry of the process to grant asylum to the two former officials.

Now, Mexico has accepted the request for political asylum from former Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño. There is an order for preventive detention against him and he is being investigated for the alleged offense of instigation during a political convention in Latacunga, Cotopaxi.

To this list were added the Assembly members Gabriela Rivadeneira, Soledad Buendía, Carlos Viteri and Luis Molina, who along with relatives requested the protection of the Mexican State.

At the meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), the representative of Mexico, Luz Elena Baños, said that such protection does not mean that there is a disagreement with the Ecuadorian government. She stressed that this "receipt" of the asylum requesters, responds to a historical tradition of Mexico welcoming anyone who requests their help.

For the Ecuadorian ex-chancellor José Ayala Lasso, there are no conditions to say that there is political persecution in the country. However, he clarifies that the right to decide whether the petitioner is persecuted politically or a common criminal, belongs to the country that grants this status.

"In the first place, in the case of the people who are in the Mexican Embassy, it is stated that they have provided protection, since they have not yet been granted asylum."

He argues that in these cases they are not party to political persecution, but rather are accused of an attempt to break democracy in Ecuador. "The activity of the former president (Rafael Correa) and his followers in trying to destabilize Ecuador is known."

Extracted from Diario EL TELÉGRAFO

Cuenca celebrates an end to the national strike with two parades



This past Monday morning, Cuenca finally saw a peaceful gathering of people who were celebrating an end to the national strike. University students, social and indigenous organizations and citizens greeted each other on the streets of Cuenca's Historic Center.

After 11 days of marches and protests throughout the country, this Monday was different. Students from the University of Cuenca led a group from the central campus with drums, charangos (lute), guitars and other Andean instruments accompanying the parade. Another march, led by the

prefect of Azuay, Yaku Pérez, left from San Blas park. Both groups met in Parque Calderón.

The President of the National Council of Parish Governments Azuay (Conagopare del Azuay), Janeth Garzón, said the celebration was due to the agreement reached between the government and the various indigenous groups protesting the presidential Decree to remove the fuel subsidies in the country.

She affirmed that Conagopare will be vigilant to the new economic measures so that "they do not affect the people who have less or that diminish the resources that are destined to the parish governments of the country."

Extracted from Diario El Tiempo

After ending protests, Ecuador faces dire economic outlook



President Lenin Moreno survived the toughest political crisis of his presidency by negotiating an end to indigenous anti-austerity protests. Now he faces an even tougher challenge.

Ten years of populist rule and a drop in oil prices have left Ecuador with a \$64 billion public debt, which is more than half the gross domestic product, and the government has a \$10 billion annual budget shortfall, about a third of the entire budget. Moreno persuaded indigenous protesters to return home Sunday night by restoring fuel subsidies that cost the government \$1.3 billion a year.

The streets were calm Tuesday afternoon, but Moreno and his administration were struggling to figure out how to stabilize the budget, reassure international lenders and put Ecuador on a path of economic sustainability.

The indigenous protests have robbed Moreno of the ability to make deeply unpopular cuts in subsidies and social benefits that cost the country billions annually. Because Ecuador switched to using the dollar two decades ago, when it was on the brink of hyperinflation, it is hard to compete against countries with exports priced in cheaper currencies.

The protests of the last two weeks were themselves a grave blow to Ecuador's economy, costing it \$2.3 billion in lost productivity, spoiled goods and reduced oil production, according to the Industrial Chamber of Guayaquil, the country's most important economic center.

"Public finances are in a sort of stranglehold," said Jaime Carrera, an analyst at the Quito-based Center on Fiscal Policy. "If there's no way to raise taxes or eliminate subsidies, the only other option is reducing the state budget, laying off public employees and investment, and that's not viable either."

Without a drastic improvement in 2020, Ecuador may have to start delaying payments to state workers and suppliers, Carrera said.

The Energy Ministry said Tuesday that the country's production of oil had begun recovering after protesters withdrew from production facilities in the Amazon. The ministry said it could take weeks, and \$30 million in repairs, to restore full production of 430,000 barrels a day. Output had dropped to 176,029 barrels a day during the protests, and production losses totaled some 1.2 million barrels worth approximately \$100 million, the ministry said.

Fernando Martín, an economic analyst at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Quito, said that for the moment government would be forced to keep taking on debt at high interest rates in order to keep functioning.

"In the current situation it doesn't look like there are many alternatives," Martín said.

The International Monetary Fund forecast Tuesday that Ecuador's economy would contract 0.5% this year after growing 1.4% in 2018. The projection, made before the protests, was that the economy would expand 0.5% in 2020.

Ecuador joins Argentina, Barbados, Nicaragua and Venezuela as the only countries in the Western Hemisphere projected to have shrinking economies in 2019.

The IMF welcomed the Sunday night deal, and Norman McKay, a Latin American research analyst with the Economist Intelligence Unit, said he doesn't think a three-year \$4.2 billion IMF credit line is at risk, despite being contingent on Ecuador's ability to implement austerity measures.

"Obviously this has been a setback," he said. "But I think the IMF sees the commitment from the Moreno government."

The IMF package is vital for Ecuador as its leaders try to shore up an economy weighed down by costly social programs, a strengthening dollar, declines in oil prices and difficulty obtaining external financing at reasonable interest rates, said Risa Grais-Targow, Latin America director for the Eurasia Group consultancy.

"It's huge," Grais-Targow said of the IMF package. "The government had been trying to do a very gradual adjustment on its own, but markets lost confidence in it, so borrowing costs were getting very high. They were forced to turn to the IMF."

The overall program requires a 5% GDP adjustment over three years - meaning that to stay on track Ecuador needs to come up with \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion in spending cuts or new revenue in the first year, Grais-Targow said.

One option already discussed is raising taxes on Ecuador's biggest companies, but even that is likely to fall far short of the needed amount. Given his dwindling political support, Grais-Targow said, a more likely possibility is that Moreno will be forced to ask the IMF for flexibility and renegotiate the package terms.

She said the president's ordeal might have been avoided if he had tried to phase in the fuel subsidy adjustment or create a buffer for the most vulnerable groups. Instead, Moreno is learning the hard way that once citizens are accustomed to receiving a benefit it is very difficult to take it away.

International wire story, by GONZALO SOLANO and CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

Local economy severely suffers during and after protests



In the 11 days of protest during the recent national strike, Cuenca companies lost approximately \$80 million. This according to the Chamber of Industries, Production and Employment (CIPEM).

Also, according to a study just released by CIPEM, 94% of the population in the city felt that the protests strongly affected Cuenca's economy and 88% believe that it will harm employment in general.

According to Roberto Maldonado, Executive President of CIPEM, the damage of this strike was mainly in the sectors of ceramics, appliances, technology, furniture, paper and cardboard.

"The blow is not only the big industry or the big business, but the population in general and the stability of the economy of this region ... Much has been lost in money and stability in the region," said Maldonado.

Making matters worse, Andrés Robalino, Executive Director of CIPEM, small businesses in the commercial sector lost between \$130 million to \$150 million.

"The [group] most affected in a strike is not necessarily the largest company, because it has the most economic capacity to endure bad days or days of crisis ... The most affected are small and medium businesses..." he said.

Cuenca tourism hit hard during protests

Tourism was also particularly hit hard. Usually, this time of year, the October 9th holiday is a big tourist draw. This year's protests essentially stopped all tourism in the city.

Patricio Miller, a tourism entrepreneur and President of the Chamber of Tourism of Azuay (CTA), said that the accumulated tourism loss during the protests was approximately \$3.5 million.

Jaime Moreno, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce of Cuenca (CCC),

said that they still had no official amount on the total damage caused by these protests to businesses. The most affected were those in the historic center.

He acknowledged that the air transport provided by the National Government by means of Armed Forces (FF.AA) aircraft, was essential to avoid shortages of products, especially foodstuffs and medicine.

Extracted from Diario EL Mercurio

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Secretary of the Presidency says subsidies dialogue is transparent



The Secretary General of the Presidency, José Augusto Briones, confirmed that discussions for the construction of a new decree related to fuel subsidies are taking place.

"We are seeing what is convenient for the country and how to guide the resources collected to those who have less," said Briones on Wednesday October 16th, during an interview with Public Television.

He indicated that under the premise of focusing resources, discussions with the indigenous movement and social organizations are being carried out with the participation of United Nations representatives in Ecuador.

Briones said that the working groups that were derived from the direct dialogue last Sunday, October 13th, with President Lenin Moreno, are made up of representatives of the Government, of the Ministries of Economy and Finance, of Economic and Social Inclusion, and of Labor.

The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie) is participating with the working groups in order to analyze aspects related to finances and how to channel the resources of fuel subsidies that represent an expenditure to the Treasury about \$1.4 billion annually.

The secretary of the Presidency also pointed out that the talks are held with individuals seeking peace, progress and stability in the country; not with terrorists.

"As President Moreno has said, the dialogue is open, transparent and with all sectors that are interested in the stability and progress of the country. The government does not talk with terrorists," he emphasized.

Briones said that the infiltrators who sought to destabilize the government have been identified. He cited the figures given by the Ministry of Government that show the apprehension of 1,330 people, of which 57 are foreigners. Briones insisted that there were groups that wanted to knock down the government. He said it "is not about persecuted politicians" who were arrested after the eleven-day protests in different areas of the country.

Extracted from Diario EL TELÉGRAFO

Protest damages to ECU911 exceeds \$214,000



A total of 80 video surveillance cameras and other infrastructure were damaged by acts of vandalism during protests in the country, said Juan Zapata, head of the Integrated Security System ECU911.

In a press conference this past Wednesday, the agency presented a

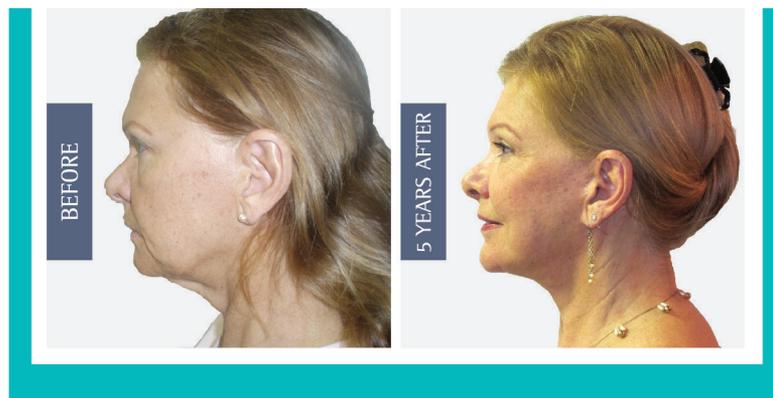
figure for the economic losses that amounts to about \$214,000.

Zapata also tallied the emergencies attended to and calls made during the 11 days of protests. As for calls, from October 3rd to the 13th, there was an historical record according to Zapata, noting that more than 88,000 communications were recorded to the system.

He also stressed that ambulances faced difficulties in transporting injured people due to the closure of roads in different areas of the country. The agency recorded 392 points of road closures nationwide during protests against the elimination of fuel subsidies.

Zapata said that the actions against the agency were planned and will be denounced under the figure of sabotage. He said the agency will present all the evidence it has to the judicial authorities

Extracted from Diario EL TELÉGRAFO





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CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

*The driver of a motorcycle was injured after being hit by a car in the circle of Avenida de las Américas and Avenida de la Independencia, in the Industrial Park sector.

According to ECU 911 records, the accident happened at 10:44 p.m. on Friday, October 11th. The ECU report notes that a 26-year-old man was injured in the accident, who was taken to the José Carrasco Arteaga hospital at IESS. Paramedics indicated that he suffered limb lacerations.

* Juan Cortez Criollo, 54, and his son Freddy, 29, died last Tuesday, October 8, at around 4:00 pm, as a result of the overturning of a truck that happened on a side road, in the Aguarica community, which is accessed by the Chaucha parish in Cuenca.

According to relatives of the victims, the traffic accident happened due to the bad road conditions; the vehicle with three occupants lost track and rolled. The third person in the vehicle survived the accident. Rescuers helped the injured person and transferred her to the Chaucha Health Center.

The road in which the accident occurred is "a trail that was built a year ago for access to homes and communities between Chaucha and Molleturo," said the relatives.

Cuenca and National Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) On Wednesday morning, the bodies of a married couple were found inside their home. The incident occurred in the province of Cañar. Agents from the National Police and an ambulance from the El Tambo Fire Department arrived at the couple's home where they found a woman's body with a rod pierced in her abdomen and the male who had hanged himself.

(Cuenca) On Wednesday morning, six people were arrested in four raids as part of an operation between the Prosecutor's Office and the National Police for drug trafficking in Cuenca.

(Cuenca) The Prosecutor's Office of Azuay is investigating the shooting death of Erick Stalin Guamán Peña, 17.

The young man's mother said that last Sunday, her husband and three children traveled from Buenos Aires de Sayausi to the Pimo community of the Chaucha parish, to do some work on a farm, where they are employed. She said that after noon she and her husband returned home and their three children were working on different activities, but at nightfall, Erick Stalin did not appear.

Jessica Guamán said that the family went out to look for her brother, finding him Monday morning in one of the rooms of the house of the estate.

Dinased agents reported that the victim had three gunshot wounds, blows to various parts of the body and that there were signs of struggle between the victim and the attackers.

(Cuenca) The Azuay Criminal Guarantees Court issued 60 days of preventive detention against the citizen Christian Marcelo QY, charged with the alleged crime of rape against a child under five years of age.

The arrest of the accused occurred last Saturday inside a gymnasium in the city near Gran Colombia and Colonel Talbot streets, near the church of San Sebastián.

(Paute) Citizens passing by the banks of the Paute River, Zhumir sector, on Friday found the body of a woman between 25 and 30 years old. Preliminary investigations indicate that the body was in an advanced state of decomposition, so it could not be determined if there were traces of physical aggression, therefore, the results of the autopsy will be necessary to determine the cause of death.

The young woman wore blue pants and pink sweater. According to the Police, there are no reports of missing persons from Paute.

Students return to classes in Azuay, Cañar and Morona Santiago

After eight days of paralysis, classes resumed on Tuesday for 297,440 students from the provinces of Azuay, Cañar and Morona Santiago.

The "Zonal Coordination 6 of Education," confirmed that classes would be held as normal for morning, evening and night students. There have been no reported damages in educational infrastructure in the three provinces.

To recover the lost classroom time, the school terms may be extended. This measure will be confirmed in the territories by the coordinators. There will also be projects added on for the students, However the Ministry of Education has asked schools to not burden families with more projects. At this time there is no plan to extend classroom time to Saturdays.

According to the Ministry of Education, in the Sierra and Amazon regions, there are 1.9 million students who have had a month of classes so far in the 2019-2020 school year, which began between September 2 and 9.

Cuenca universities also announced the return to academic activities starting Wednesday.



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Moreno replaces two military leaders after protests



On Tuesday, President Lenin Moreno promoted two senior military commanders to be the head of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces and the General Commander of the Army, at the end of eleven days of protests and riots in which the Army had to intervene.

In a statement, the Ministry of Defense reported that Moreno appointed by decree 895, Major General Luis Lara Jaramillo as the new head of the Joint Command of the Ecuadorian Armed Forces. And through presidential decree 896 he appointed Brigadier General Luisa Altamirano Junqueira as General Commander of the Army, with responsibility for the ground forces in Ecuador.

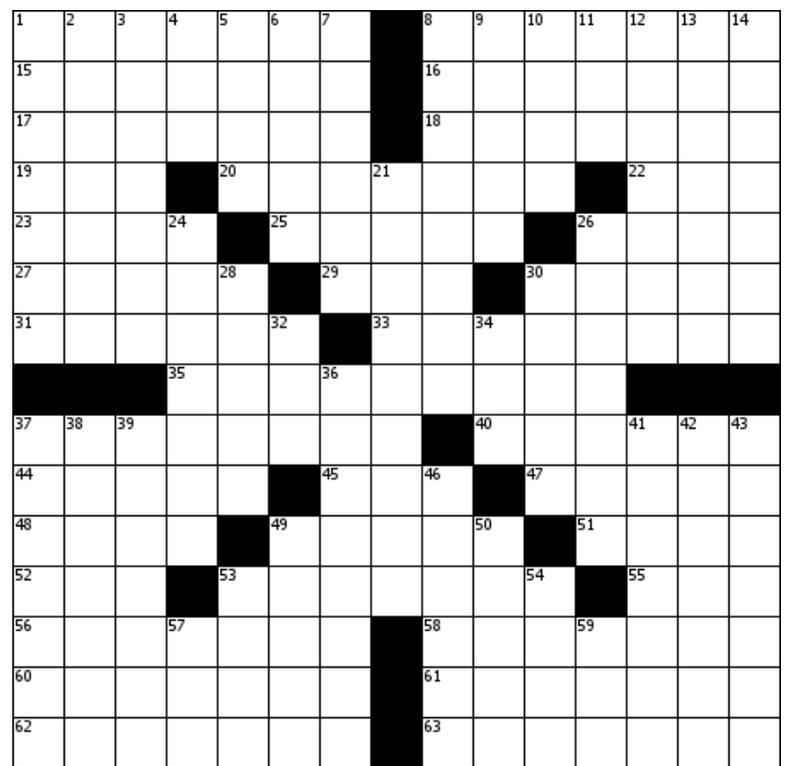
The bulletin concludes by thanking the "services provided" to the Commanders who leave their duties, the Division General Roque Moreira and the Division General Javier Pérez, who "have fulfilled professionalism within the military institution."

The Ministry of Defense has not offered more details about the circumstances of the new appointments, which occur one day after the Ecuadorian government repealed the controversial decree that eliminated fuel subsidies and unleashed eleven days of protest of the movement Indigenous and other social actors.

The Army had to intervene in this social and political crisis by decreeing on October 3rd, the State of Exception throughout the country, to ensure security, enable roads that were cut, protect public and strategic institutions, and guarantee the supply of basic resources.

On Saturday, the president decreed a curfew in Quito and the neighboring valleys as well as the militarization of the capital, a measure that was de facto suspended on Monday after reaching an agreement between the Executive and the indigenous leadership.

On Monday, Ecuador resumed normalcy once the government and the leaders of the mobilized indigenous people reached an agreement on Sunday night, which ended the protests, many of them of a level of violence never seen before in Ecuador.



See answers on page 11

Across

1. Subject of a curse until 10/27/04
8. A.E. Housman contemporary
15. Entertained
16. Shoe lift
17. Really easy to understand?
18. Quite recently
19. '60s "New Left" gp.
20. Gymnastics figure
22. Eponymous general
23. Tewkesbury transport
25. You can turn its head
26. Composer __ Carlo Menotti
27. Prophet during the reign of King Ahaz
29. Hades, in Norse myth
30. Lunar trench
31. One of dwindling popularity
33. Gave the okay
35. "Could it be that ..."
37. Beneficiary's response, one would hope
40. Whine
44. County Clwyd locale
45. PC component
47. Net issue
48. Drooling dog of comics
49. Write (for)
51. "J'accuse" author
52. Marvy
53. Body shop conveniences
55. Hi-tech info-access syst.
56. Bewitches
58. Many retirees are happy to be out of it
60. Chest protector
61. Has thoughts
62. Unpopular bulk mailer
63. Most slow-witted

Down

1. Con man's line
2. 1992 Lifetime Achievement Grammy winner
3. Burdens for female spiders
4. ABA member?
5. Bass and others
6. Pages
7. "Mayor" memoirist
8. "And?"
9. Moisten in the morn
10. Revolution period
11. Minnesota town on the Mesabi Trail
12. Slanting
13. Yard event
14. Cuddled, in a way
21. Walk all over
24. Theatergoer's option
26. Its 1888 creation is credited to Henry Ramos
28. Hardliners
30. Marie Antoinette, for one
32. Start of a colorful mnemonic
34. Grad. class
36. "Just the straight whiskey, please"
37. They always include freebies
38. Imbibed some
39. Kasim's brother, in Persian folklore
41. Go against
42. Ties together
43. Least plump
46. Log-on need
49. Columbia River highlight
50. It's a living
53. Good earth
54. Anna of "Nana"
57. Year in Leo XIII's reign
59. They're often 34-Down

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](mailto:info@thecuencadispatch.com) for consideration.

Classifieds and Events

October 21st

USLS BL1 P - ultrasound life support - basic level 1 provider

USLS - BL1 P Course
 (Ultrasound Life Support - Basic Level 1 Provider)
 October 21st-22nd, 2019
 FOR INFO & INSCRIPTION:
 Fernando Paredes A. - fparedes@lifesupport.ec
 Wilson López - jaguirre@abchospital.com
 Hotel Oro Verde

October 23rd

Oktober Fest Lirón Lirón "OKTOBER FEST LIRÓN LIRÓN"

Come to enjoy from October 23 to 26. Traditional German food, beer promotion, games, and more - live music and surprises. Share and tag your partner or friends and participate in a Golden Prague beer barrel.
 Reservations: 098-343-41-38

October 24th

Journey to Giron & Yunguilla

Join us Thursday, Oct 24th on an incredible journey to Cascadas de Giron/ Laguna de Busa/Yunguilla. We will meet at Hogar de Esperanza located at Juan Montalvo 8-18 and Mariscal Sucre at 7:30 AM for early morning coffee to energize ourselves for an amazing trip to Yunguilla.

We return approx. 6 PM. Cost is \$25 per person and includes: Transportation, guide, all entrance fees, mapanqua juice, and lunch.

Contact: Garry Vatcher phone: 096-896-2015

October 26th

Spooktacular Halloween party at Common Grounds

SPOOKTACULAR Halloween Party 2019
 ones again, Common Grounds is haven the best Halloween Party in town! come and join us with the most scary dress you can, big prizes for the best costumes.

live music: ROCK STONE IN CONCERT !!

Saturday 26th October, 2019

7:30 Pm until close, drinks specials all night long.

cover \$5,00

Contact: Cristian phone: 0981079406

October 27th

ROUTE OF THE LAGUNAS (LAGOONS)

Date: October 27, 2019

Time: 6h00 (concentration) departure: 06h30

Start: 07:30 approximately

Ticket price \$ 15. INCLUDE: transportation; Cuenca-Burines and Llaviuco-Cuenca and guides.

It does not include food, it is the responsibility of the participant. REQUIREMENT LEVEL: Medium / High.

Physical Level 3/5: Difficult terrain somewhere on the route, with steep slopes. Suitable for people in good physical condition.

Technical Level 2/5: It does not present significant technical difficulties. Departure suitable for over 18 years.

For more information contact:

Diego Barros 099 925 3805

Adrian Aguirre 099 151 8593

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

T	H	E	B	A	B	E		W	B	Y	E	A	T	S
R	E	G	A	L	E	D		H	E	E	L	T	A	P
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R	I	B	C	A	G	E		I	D	E	A	T	E	S
S	P	A	M	M	E	R		D	E	N	S	E	S	T

Solution to Crossword puzzle on page 10

Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

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

Real Estate & Rentals



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Contact:
Kathy Gonzalez
099 450 0325
Kathy@CuencaRealEstate.com



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This unit is located in the Santa Ines Hospital area and comes with: 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one parking space, a terrace, a covered laundry room, and of course a huge shared garden. *The price includes water and gas. Price \$500.

Contact:
Mónica León
0999 880 979
monileonera@yahoo.com



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