

# THE CUENCA DISPATCH

Ecuador's Original English-Language Newspaper

Volume 4 • ISSUE 20

December 15th, 2019 • [www.thecuencadispatch.com](http://www.thecuencadispatch.com)

## Cuenca's 2020 budget almost \$240 million

On Monday, the Cantonal Council of Cuenca met and approved (in the second debate) the 2020 Budget Proforma for an amount of \$239,177,636, with 15 votes in favor and one member abstaining. The 2020 budget exceeds the 2019 budget by \$24,500,911.

Pedro Palacios, Mayor of Cuenca, said that the budget was approved in the second debate, after the respective modifications were made to what was presented in the first debate.

The main income sources to support the budget will come from capital transfers, public financing (credits) and taxes; the sale of non-financial assets is also contemplated (the Cayambe Barracks).

### Plan

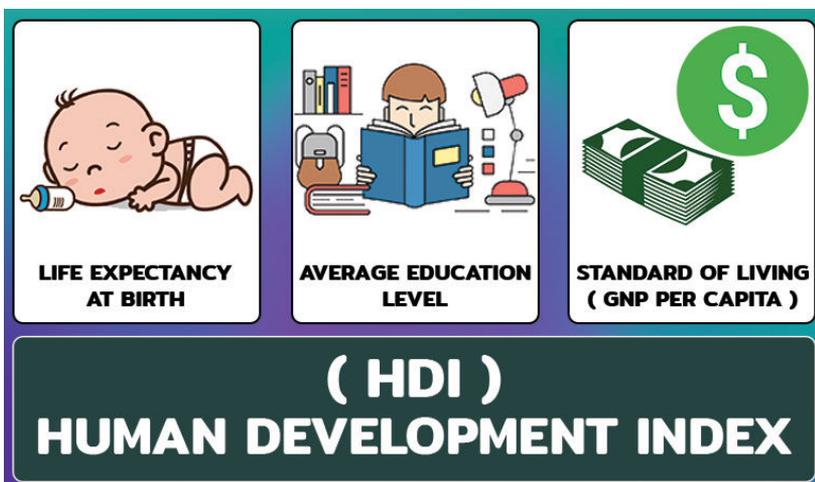
According to the Annual Operational Plan presented before the Cantonal Council, the local government plans to execute 202 projects.



Palacios also revealed the budget allocated \$ 5,733,969 to the Tram Project.

The highest item in the budget is for Public Works and Planning for \$28,634,586, which includes the construction of new parks, bike lanes, markets, stairways, integration centers, and crosswalks, among other projects.

## Ecuador's Human Development Index grew 18% over three decades



The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has released the 2019 Human Development Report. Ecuador's Human Development Index (HDI) is recorded as 0.758, which places it at the highest level of human development.

Ecuador's HDI is above the average for the countries of the "high human development group" and is in line with the average for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The HDI is measured with a focus on three areas. The first is life expectancy at birth (health). The second is access to knowledge (average education of adults over 25 years and the expected years of schooling of children) and the third is the national per capita income.

cont. page 4.

## Ecuadorian among those killed in kosher market shooting in US

Ecuadorian citizen Miguel Douglas Rodriguez was identified as one of the victims of the violent shooting that occurred on Tuesday afternoon in a kosher supermarket in Jersey City, NJ in the United States.

Rodriguez was a Guayaquil-born man who was working in the store when two people entered and began a violent rampage that left six people dead. Authorities now believe that the store was specifically targeted by the assailants, whom they identified as David N. Anderson, 47, and Francine Graham, 50.

Mr. Anderson appeared to have a connection to the Black Hebrew Israelite movement, though the extent of his involvement in that group remains unclear.

The Black Hebrew Israelites, which has no connection with mainstream Judaism, has been described as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a legal advocacy group that tracks such movements.

Police detective Joseph Seals, a 15-year law enforcement veteran and a father of five, was the first to die after approaching the two suspects who were sitting inside a rental van, authorities said.

The suspects then drove slowly to the kosher supermarket, where they entered with two long rifles and began firing immediately at civilians, James Shea, director of public safety for Jersey City, told reporters.

The victims who were killed in the supermarket were identified as Mindel Ferenczz (wife of the store owner), Moshe Deutsch (family member of Ferenczz) and Rodriguez.

Jersey City's mayor, Steven Fulop explained that two officers who were one block from the market prevented the suspects from leaving the store and injuring more civilians.

cont. page 4.

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**VOL 4  
 ISSUE  
 20**

**Publisher:**  
 Jonathan Mogrovejo  
[info@thecuencadispatch.com](mailto:info@thecuencadispatch.com)

**Graphic Design**  
 Bianca Mosquera

**FOR ADVERTISING,  
 PLEASE CONTACT:**  
[info@thecuencadispatch.com](mailto:info@thecuencadispatch.com)  
 098-482-24195

**Printed by:**  
 Imprenta Unigraf

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# I'M JUST SAYIN'

By Michael Soares

## The Grinch and Rudolph were talking one day...

We put up our Christmas tree this past weekend. It's beautiful in the corner of the new addition we added to the house. It's got glass doors on both side of the angle of the corner, so we can see it at night from the outside. And inside, the lights reflect off the glass, making it even more beautiful.

It brought a little of the Christmas spirit into the house, and though Codie and I both associate the holiday with snow, we're getting a little bit of that special feeling for December 25th here in Ecuador.

Alexa is helping with that. We just say, "Alexa, play classic Christmas songs." And just like, Bing Crosby, or Elvis or Mariah Carey are belting out very famous Christmas songs. Well, at least famous for me. Because as most of you know, Codie is Romanian. So, most of the songs I associate with Christmas mean nothing to her.

For example, the song from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" came on this morning and she said, "Honey, they are playing a song about a Christmas Grinch!" She thought it was funny because we had just been talking about a friend who is sort of a Christmas Grinch.

But she had no idea that there was an animated movie/cartoon about the Grinch. Never saw it, never heard of it. So, I asked her if she'd ever seen the animated (claymation) story of Rudolph. That was another, "no."

We've been together for going on 5 years and I am still often amazed by what she doesn't know about US culture. But of course, it makes sense. She lived under communist rule for the first 18 years of her life. Then she moved to Italy, back to Romania and eventually here, to Ecuador.

Her version of the US is often just what she saw from the old TV shows that Ceaușescu (Romania's dictator) let be shown. Or the music that was allowed, often 10 or more years after it had been popular in the US.

Of course, we've covered a lot of ground since we met, and she hears lots of stories about the US from me. And she has visited it twice now, so she has a better idea of what is real versus what she was told.

But imagine, a European knows only so much about the US (or Canada) culture. What is seen on TV makes up a big part of it. And Europe is a developed country, so they have something to compare against when they are looking at the culture.

So, what does that mean for Ecuadorian views of the US? Well think about it. Most of the country is poor. And they have never travelled out of the country (some of our neighbors here in Yunguilla have never even been to Cuenca). Most of the poor don't have TVs. And if they do, they certainly don't have cable showing them Netflix, Amazon Prime or HBO! Maybe they are seeing 20-year-old shows, dubbed in Spanish. Because most of them don't speak English.

[Sure, Cuencanos probably do have TVs, cable, and Netflix. And many even speak English. But that is not the majority of the country (or even Cuenca).]

Many of Ecuador's citizens are just as isolated as Codie was in her childhood. Not because of a communist dictator, but because of poverty. Because of opportunity. Because of cultural taboos (imagine a country that does not allow birth-control education showing "Californication" on TV).

It makes me wonder, what do the people out here in Yunguilla really think of me? Of an American living out here in the country of Ecuador. They probably can't even imagine it. They do know about the US in some sense. They imagine it as the land of good and plenty. It's like a big fantasy to them. But they know little about it culturally.

Which means understanding why someone would leave there, and understanding all of us expats, is probably impossible. Now, obviously I knew that many of them didn't understand us. But I've never sat down before and looked at it in this way. Maybe subconsciously I understood this, but I certainly never put it down on paper.

We are no less a fantasy to them than Rudolph was to us as children. We are this mystical group of people from a magical place that they can only

speculate about. We are not just someone from Quito who decided they wanted a slower pace city to live in.

So, this Christmas, I'm going to think about this a lot. And I'm going to think about how this will change my interaction with our neighbors. Because their interactions with me are suddenly so much clearer.

And at home, I'm also going to keep telling Codie stories about my childhood and Christmas and anything else that makes her give me a quizzical look. And I'm going to do something else real soon.

I'm going to download the Grinch and Rudolph and we are going to watch them both on Christmas Eve. And more than anything, I hope that seeing those and the Christmas tree and listening to Christmas music will get me (and her) into the spirit so much, that I (we) forget that Christmas is supposed to have snow!

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### 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!

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

See answers on page 11

## Ecuador's Human Development Index grew 18% over three decades (Cont.)

The UNDP said an index of 0.758, "keeps Ecuador at a high human development level. "From 1990 to 2018, Ecuador's HDI grew by 18%, according to the agency. The index puts Ecuador in the 85th position of the ranking of 189 nations. Among the countries in the region, Colombia is in the 79th position, Peru is in the 82nd position, Venezuela is in the 96th position and Bolivia is in the 114th position.

The calculation of the index has varied since it began in 1990; in 2010 a methodology adjustment was made. There are four categories: low (0.550), medium (0.550 to 0.7), high (0.7 to 0.8) and above 8, very high.

The highest position in the ranking was held by Norway (0.954). Niger comes in last with an HDI index of only 0.330. "Ranking is not the most important [thing to consider], but [rather] the trajectory of the index as such; how that index works," clarified Fernando Panchano, head of the Area of Democratic Governance and Social Development of UNDP.

The data was delivered on a global scale as part of the Human Development report 2019 and entitled "Beyond income, beyond the averages, beyond the present: Inequalities of human development in the 21st century."

The figures are calculated, according to Panchano, with data collected through 2018. In the report, by decomposing the three elements of the HDI, there is an improvement in education and health. In per capita income there is no tendency to increase. These types of reports seek a comprehensive approach to measure the progress of countries beyond economic evaluations.

The international organization maintains, among its conclusions, that "although many people reach minimum levels in terms of human development, inequalities are still widespread. " It also concludes that correcting them in human development in the 21st century is possible if a country acts now. The agency report is not binding. But UNDP - in addition to presenting it to the press - will socialize it with the Executive. This was done by Matilde Mordt, UNDP resident representative.

UNDP also presented the Gender Inequality Index. It has other components, including the labor market, reproductive health and empowerment. These are considered essential points for the exercise of women's rights. One of Ecuador's concerns is the adolescent fertility rate.

"Ecuador has an unsolved problem of teenage pregnancy and maternal mortality." The adolescent fertility rate is only exceeded by Venezuela. Another point of analysis, regarding gender inequality, is the percentage of women parliamentarians (38%).

## Ecuadorian among those killed in kosher market shooting in US (Cont.)



Then, hundreds of armed agents, civilians and others in uniform, quickly arrived at the site, transforming the residential area of Jersey City into a war zone. Two policemen were shot, as well as a civilian passing by.

Unidentified police sources quoted by The New York Times said that one of the suspects had posted anti-Semitic and anti-police comments on the internet before the shooting.

They also said that police found a manifesto and an

active homemade bomb inside the rental van driven by the suspects.

Rodriguez leaves behind his wife of 28 years and a teenage daughter. A Gofundme.com page has been set up to raise funds for the family.

## Repair work begins for landslide on Cuenca to Azogues roadway



Traffic at kilometer 1.8 of the Cuenca-Azogues roadway, near the 12 de Octubre roundabout is going to be restricted for about one month due to a recent landslide on the autopista.

An inclined cut and the removal of more than 1,500 cubic meters of clay and sand material will be carried out by the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works.

The roadway, which has an extension of 43.6 kilometers and where more than 20,000 vehicles circulate daily, will have containment walls and meshes built to support the clay material that already fell over the road over the weekend and that affected vehicular traffic.

According to technicians from the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works (MTO), the landslide was due to the fact that at the top of the slope the inhabitants of the sector built some ditches and wells and the humidity caused the landslides to occur. They said they do not know who authorized this activity.

According to José Jaramillo, undersecretary of MTO, the first stage of intervention will be from December 10 to 20 with the removal of loose material and the stabilization of approximately 1,500 cubic meters of material that show instability.

The second phase will be from December 20th to the 26th, and the third from December 26th to the 30th. The fourth stage will run from January 2nd to the 10th, when the work ends.

While these works, the traffic on the lanes in the direction of the South Control will be closed about 280 meters before the stabilization work site.

### Traffic Plan

While the repairs are being done, heavy loads will have to transit Avenida de las Américas from the Industrial Park or enter via the Hospital del Río entrance.

Inter and intraprovincial buses will be diverted at the height of the Turi roundabout using the Turi-Gullanzhapa-Tarqui route, which is the responsibility of the Azuay Prefecture.

Light vehicles will circulate along Felipe II street and Diego de Tapia street.

Jaramillo said there will be an eight-day break in which the passage will not be closed due to the Christmas season and the end of the year, "but will be constantly monitored to avoid complications in the sector."

Edison Moscoso, director of the Traffic Commission of Ecuador (TCE), said that TCE will be in charge of directing traffic to authorized diversions, in coordination with EMOV, the Prefecture of Azuay and ECU 911.

The National Transit Agency will carry out the controls in place with respect to inter and intra provincial transport.

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## José Carrasco Arteaga hospital begins remodeling nine operating rooms



The José Carrasco Arteaga hospital (HJCA), hoping to strengthen its services, is beginning a new renovation plan with the remodeling of nine operating rooms.

Jorge Ulloa, general coordinator of Hospitalization and Outpatient at HJCA, explained that the works are classified in four stages, the first culminating with the internal adaptation of the Emergency and Traumatology operating rooms.

In reference to the need to improve these spaces, Ulloa indicated that approximately 1,300 to 1,500 surgeries are performed monthly at the HJCA; 53 percent are emergency surgeries.

The other three stages of rehabilitation include review of operating rooms in the area of surgery and maternal and child, extension of recovery, and improvement of infrastructure.

## Minimally invasive procedures for kidney stones being performed at regional hospital in Cuenca

A total of 138 minimally invasive surgeries for treatment of urinary tract stones have been performed at Vicente Corral Moscoso Hospital since July 2018.



Urologist surgeon Enrique Dávila, explained that the treatment is an intracorporeal lithotripsy for bladder stones and ureters, "which allows the stone or stones to be fragmented by laser, so that they can exit through the urethra or urinary tract."

He also explained that they practice percutaneous nephrolithotomy for kidney stones, where kidney stones are removed through an incision of approximately 2 centimeters at the subcostal level (under the rib).

Patients who undergo these procedures have a recovery of 24 hours to 48 hours with the percutaneous method and 24 hours with the intracorporeal process. With either method the patient can return to work quickly.

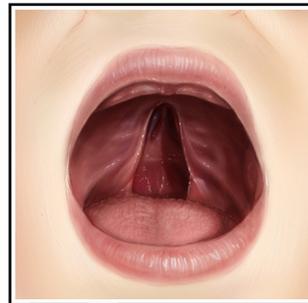
Davila said that not all stones require surgery. "About 80% are treated clinically for spontaneous elimination. The cost of this type of surgery in private establishments ranges between \$3,000 and \$5,000," he said.

## IESS hospital launches surgical program to repair cleft lip and palate



Cleft palate

Cleft lip and cleft palate



Returning smiles to children is the goal of permanently implementing cleft lip and palate surgery service at the José Carrasco Arteaga Hospital. The announcement was made by the president of the Board of Directors of the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS) Paúl Granda.

The surgeries are framed within the IESS "Smile" campaign, that in a first stage will benefit 50 patients through the end of 2019. The service is aimed at children from two months of age, young people and adults.

People interested in accessing this service can register on the HJCA information island, Monday through Friday, from 09:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Prior to surgery, patients will be evaluated comprehensively.

The surgical intervention is a complex operation; therefore, patients will remain hospitalized for a time of 48 or 72 hours for recovery. The operations will be carried out during the week, with the participation of eight professionals of the institution.

Subsequently, Granda developed the day of socialization of the National Agreement for Health in Cuenca, with the participation of more than 2,000 people, including affiliates, retirees, workers, artisans, beneficiaries of the Social Security Campesino and authorities of the province.

The objective of the meeting, according to Granda, was to build, through a dialogue process, a National Agreement, which contributes to making short and medium term decisions, to allow IESS to correct its main structural difficulties, stabilize its finances and lay the foundations for reaching a new balance of long-term actions.



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**Cuenca government signs transparency and anti-corruption agreement**

On Tuesday, December 10, 2019, the Mayor's Office of Cuenca and the International Republican Institute (IRI), signed an agreement to receive support on "Transparency and Corruption Prevention" issues.

The IRI will be responsible for conducting courses, workshops, conferences, and other activities in order to strengthen the Municipality in issues such as access to information in the different units, said Sofía Arce, director of International Relations and Cooperation.

She added that the agreement will serve to establish mechanisms that contribute to the prevention of corruption. Arce said that the objective is the creation of a regulatory framework that allows citizen participation.

Since 2018, the International Republican Institute (IRI), has worked with the Municipality of Cuenca, during which time tools have been generated that



allow access to information and that contribute to transparency processes. The new agreement will last two years.

For the mayor of Cuenca, Pedro Palacios, signing this agreement with the International Republican Institute, a non-profit organization, which is based in the city of Washington, United States, is of vital importance because it contributes to a policy of change, for improving public administration.

**Moreno says protests in Latin America seek to destabilize governments**



provoked, in the opinion of the Ecuadorian president, by "forces foreign to peace, security and freedom," and whose authors were already "identified."

"The social protests legitimize without a doubt the clamor of a people, but they become dangerous when they seep into them enemies of democracy and peace. That group is not interested in the advancement of the peoples, their only interest is in keeping agendas and policies," he said.

Between October 3rd and the 13th of this year, Ecuador experienced one of the most serious waves of violence in its recent history. These protests were a result of the Government's decision to limit the fuel subsidy, a measure that was finally repealed by Moreno to pacify the country after the death of at least half a dozen people during the disturbances.

Similar demonstrations took place in Chile, and more recently in Colombia, where mass demonstrations called by trade unions to express their rejection of President Duque's social and economic policies have been going on since November 21st.

"Those of us who respect human rights owe today more than ever to reaffirm democracy, with all the force that reason gives us, history. We must consolidate democracy, because it is not a political task, it is a duty and an ethical commitment," concluded Moreno.

The binacionale cabinets, which began in 2012, are the highest level of cooperation for the definition and coordination of public policies in Colombia and Ecuador.

These meetings alternate; the previous ones were held in Tulcán, Rioverde, Guayaquil and Quito. In Colombia they have been held in Ipiales, Cali and Pereira.

President Lenin Moreno said Wednesday —in the Colombian city of Cali— that the social protests in several Latin American countries were infiltrated by "criminal groups" that sought to impose an agenda to destabilize governments and generate chaos.

"Social protests are undoubtedly legitimized and so it should be... but, there is a red line [where] there is no way to go, in which it seeks to destabilize the Government, in which people are aggravated, physically injured," said the president when installing the VIII Binational Cabinet Colombia-Ecuador, along with his counterpart Iván Duque .

The two presidents began a new edition of the Binational Cabinet on Wednesday to deepen bilateral relations in sectors such as security and defense, environment, culture, commerce, transport and border issues, among others.

Moreno said he was "permanently in touch" with Duque in the "difficult moments" that both countries experienced in the wake of protests called by unions and social movements —that expressed their dissatisfaction with the social and economic policies of Ecuador and Colombia.

The violence that occurred in these protests was

Extracted from Diario El Mercurio

## Azuay to receive funds for road work



An investment of \$450 million for the construction of the Cumbe-La Troncal road axis and the payment of the \$40 million debt that the National Government maintains with the Azuay Prefecture, will be fulfilled between 2020 and 2021.

In the project of the new Cumbe-La Troncal route, resources and contract signatures have been established, said by Iván Granda, Minister of Economic and Social Inclusion and Government Delegate, who met behind closed doors with Yaku Pérez, Prefect of Azuay.

He explained that 50 percent of the debt will be canceled in 2020 and the other half in 2021, through the Ecuadorian Development Bank (BDE), which will make disbursements on a quarterly basis.

Pérez said that of these funds, 80 percent will be allocated to roads and 20 percent invested in irrigation projects. The Prefecture will receive a VAT refund of \$500,000 in the current month and \$500,000 in February 2020.

Granda and Pérez acknowledged that they have some political differences but said that will not prevent the welfare of citizens.

With regard to the request of the Prefecture of Azuay for financing resources (with BDE) for the new San Joaquin-Soldiers-Alpachaca-Chaucha-Balao-Puerto Bola—that will connect Azuay with the province of El Oro—Granda detailed that “the terms of reference will be established immediately.”

### Orders

Another of Pérez’s requests was that the final studies for the access of Cuenca to the seven northeastern cantons be delivered in the first three months of next year; Granda replied that these “are almost ready.”

Pérez also added that from the Prefecture an investment of about \$1 million will be made for the Tarqui-Gullanzhapa-Turi road, where sidewalks, bike paths and signage will be built together with the parish governments of Tarqui and Turi.

With respect to the environmental issue, the provincial authority clarified that the defense of water in Cuenca and Azuay is essential and that there can be no mining in Río Blanco and Quimsacocha, that in legal water sources there can be no legal or illegal, formal or informal mining.

As noted by Granda, technical staff of the Prefecture will work in conjunction with the Regional Undersecretariat of the Lifetime Plan, to establish the necessary articulations to meet a common objective of service to communities.

## Coffee growers attend workshop on improving post-harvest processes

Around 30 coffee growers in the province of Azuay recently participated in a “post-harvest” coffee management workshop organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).

The participating producers have been involved in a continuous training process with the MAG starting with growing seedlings in nursery, sowing, harvesting and the post-harvesting of coffee. The processes that have learned about helps the producers offer a higher quality product that translates into better income.

John Atencia, District Director of MAG in Azuay, said this workshop focused on training for selective harvesting, post-harvest, coffee defect analysis, roasting and sensory analysis of the beverage.

In the workshop, the producers learned about selective harvesting and the appropriate processes for pulping, fermentation, drying, and storage, as well as the subsequent roasting, and tasting to obtain a high-quality drink.

Tomás Bodniza, workshop instructor, said the market is currently looking for quality coffee, which is why the attention given to the post-harvest process is so important, since this is what defines coffee quality by 60%.

In the province there is Arabic coffee in different varieties such as caturra, typical, bourbon, yellow bourbon, catucaí, dwarf pachi, and catuai.

Angelita Morocho, a member of the association of coffee producers Nueva Fátima de Yanasacha of the Nabón canton, and who runs a coffee roasting and grinding venture implemented by the MAG, said that coffee is a new crop on their farms and therefore this type of training is very important to enable them to improve the product they offer and therefore their income.



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## Petroecuador sells crude with transparency through public tender



The public company Petroecuador announced a long-term sale of crude oil, but this time different processes will be followed after recent judicial cases against former Petroecuador executives showed unfair practices were followed in the past.

Unlike the direct contracts that were signed during the previous Government, with the companies Petrochina, Unipet and Petrotailandia, this time a public tender was held. A total of 20.16 million barrels of Oriente crude, to be delivered between 2020 and 2024, were offered. "This allows us to revalue oil and give its [sale] transparency," said José Augusto Briones, Minister of Energy and Non-Renewable Natural Resources.

In this new long-term sale, the price of each barrel will be established based on the value set in the 'spot' or immediate sale offerings, which has been promoted by the state oil company.

For this transaction, the State expects about \$950 million of revenue. Payments will be received progressively based on each hydrocarbon delivery.

It is expected that the delivery of the Oriente oil will be carried out in 56 shipments. In 2020 and 2021 it is planned that four shipments leave each year. Meanwhile, in the last two years, 24 deliveries will be allocated each year.

To participate in this new long-term crude oil sale process, Petroecuador invited 51 firms to participate in the tender. Ten companies have declined to participate; to date three companies have submitted their offers.

Among those who expressed interest in winning the aforementioned volume of crude oil are Shell Western (United States), Trafigura (Singapore) and the Mitsubishi Corporation (Japan).

These companies raised differentials of between -48 cents per barrel and 71 cents per barrel. The results of the contest are expected to be made public this week.

For Agosto, this long-term oil sales mechanism is "healthy" if combined with sales in the spot market. "The long term allows to have a good price and a transactional mechanism of validity and presence of the Ecuadorian hydrocarbon in the international market."

Walter Spurrier, an economic analyst, mentioned that this decision by the government to return to the sale of crude oil in the long term through a public tender is convenient, because it favors competition and thus offers better prices.

Fernando Reyes, Vice President of the College of Geology, Mining and Petroleum Engineers, added that—apart from this modality—the Government should analyze the option of making sales of these characteristics with refining companies, and not with intermediaries. With this, according to Reyes, the country would receive better economic proposals.

The Ministry of Energy reported that under the current government, 10 spot sales have been made, eight of Oriente crude and two of Napo crude. These have generated revenues of over \$1.4 billion for the country. Of this amount, \$561.2 million has been billed through October 2019.

Between 2009 and 2016, the previous government pushed sales of long-term crude directly with Asian firms in exchange for advance payments (in certain cases). Currently, there are eight of these agreements in force; they will end in 2024.

Between 2018 and 2019, Petroecuador has also signed five direct sale contracts of oil with state-owned companies such as Petr leos del Per 

(Petroper  SA), National Petroleum Company - ENAP (Chile), Rosneft Trading SA (Russia) and Petrojam Limited (Jamaica). In these cases, the sale of crude was carried out under conditions of 'spot' price, because the shipments were governed under the differentials obtained in international competitions.

Extracted from Diario El Comercio

## Ecuador to invest \$18 million to stop illegal and unregulated fishing



Around \$18 million will be invested by Ecuador to improve satellite control systems to guarantee the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. This, according to the Minister of Production and Foreign Trade, Iv n Ontaneda, will serve to "guarantee \$1.6 billion of export and 200,000 jobs created by the fishing sector."

Ecuador is the second largest producer and exporter of tuna in the world with more than \$1.1 billion in sales through September of this year.

The announcement comes after the European Union (EU) warned Ecuador in October with a 'yellow card' for the alleged lack of guarantees in that area.

Ontaneda said that the first official response to the European Commission was framed in the process of the new Fisheries Law, that is being processed by the National Assembly and will replace the existing one that dates from 1974 (and does not contain the tools for Fight against illegal fishing).

"The main thing is the new Fisheries Law has a new specific sanction regimen for illegal fishing," said Ontaneda. He added that once the EU notification was received, a public-private internal group was formed to generate actions.

He also said that the improvement of technology is part of a roadmap coordinated with the private sector and part of a plan that will be presented next week that includes visits by European delegates to the country to confirm the execution of the commitments they will reach.

Bruno Leone, president of the National Chamber of Fisheries, said he takes the problem as an opportunity to have a new regulatory framework and to have the country adapt to current international standards. Though he claimed that there is no illegal fishing in the country and said that the fleet operates with traceability systems, which certify the legality of their catches.

Juan Manuel Veites, National Secretary of the Association of Canned Fish and Seafood Manufacturers of Spain said that the situation "is not at all pleasant," and insisted that the Ecuadorian public and private sectors work in coordination to reverse the call for attention.

Ontaneda calculated that between March and May 2020 they will receive an EU visit, which will verify the plan's progress.

Extracted from Diario El Comercio

## CRIME REPORT AND ACCIDENT REPORT

### Cuenca and National Criminal Activity

(Cuenca) Three teenagers were taken into custody for allegedly raping their friend and fellow student from a city school.

At 9:45 p.m. on Monday, Dinapen agents were alerted by ECU 911 that in the Community Police Unit, UPC Machángara, was a 15-year-old teenager who allegedly had been raped by her friends.

The police report notes that the teenager reported that she was consuming alcoholic drinks with three schoolmates and that they sexually assaulted her.

Once information was collected, the agents undertook a search for the alleged aggressors and located them on the street France and Soviet Union, sector of the linear park Capulispamba.

The three adolescents, two 16-year-olds and a 17-year-old, were handed over to the Prosecutor's Office, for the verification of their identities and for the preparation of the police reports that will be presented at the flagrancy qualification hearing and charges.

The victim was taken to a health home for legal medical examinations to establish the type of sexual assault suffered.

(Cuenca) Police from the San Sebastián circuit arrested a 14-year-old boy for illegal possession of a revolver and firing in the air to allegedly intimidate passersby.

The incident occurred around 9:30 pm on Saturday, when citizens alerted ECU 911 that on Ordoñez Lasso Avenue, Balzay sector, four individuals were intimidating people with a gun.

The Integrated Security Service dispatched police units of the San Sebastián circuit, which managed to locate the suspects when they escaped along the Camino del Tejar.

Policeman Juan Castillo said that when carrying out the personal registration of the young people, a nationally made revolver was found in the possession of Jairo Fernando T. He had six cartridges in the drum, three of them spent.

The minor was placed under the supervision of Dinapen, for the respective legal actions. The weapon was handed over to Criminalística, for the respective expertise and to determine if it was used in the commission of other crimes committed in Cuenca.

In Ecuador, the possession and illegal bearing of firearms is a crime and is stipulated in article 260 of the Organic Comprehensive Criminal Code.

The aforementioned legal body notes that the person who has firearms without authorization will be punished with imprisonment from six months to one year; if the carries the weapon on his body, the penalty is three to five years.

(Cuenca) The Azuay Criminal Guarantees Court sentenced Nelson David T. to 11 years in prison for the crime of large-scale illicit drug trafficking committed in Cuenca.

In addition, the judges ratified the judgement of innocence for two other defendants, after not finding enough evidence against them.

Nelson David T. was arrested on June 1st of this year when the National Police carried out the operation called "Avalanche 289" in the Middle Ejido sector. During the arrest they seized 100 pounds of marijuana.

Paúl Vásquez, Prosecutor of Organized Crime, said at the trial hearing that police officers of the Anti-Narcotics Unit learned that in a building located in the Middle Ejido sector, west of Cuenca, there was a white truck containing substances subject to control.

The Prosecutor's Office requested a search warrant and on the night of June 1, 2019, a few meters from the address, Nelson David T. and the other two citizens, who were sitting in a car, were arrested. In the trunk of the same car were 46 packages wrapped in a quilt.

Article 220, numeral 1, literal D, the Organic Integral Criminal Code (COIP) sanctions the illicit traffic of cataloged substances subject to large-scale control, with deprivation of liberty from ten to thirteen years.

(Gualaceo) In Gualaceo this week, the trial and preparatory hearing began against nine citizens and five legal persons, for their alleged participation in the crime of money laundering.

According to prosecutor Ivonne Proaño, of the Anti-Money Laundering Unit of the Prosecutor's Office, these people were allegedly part of an organization dedicated to laundering assets in Azuay province, product of the crime of usury,

allegedly led by Genaro C., who along with his family and work circle would have washed large sums of money.

The prosecutor believes that the profits obtained from the alleged crime were placed, stratified and integrated through the constitution of companies in the sectors: hotel, real estate and telecommunications, from 2010 to 2018, making unjustified financial movements for more than \$31 million, substantially increasing its assets by acquiring several movable and immovable property.

According to the researchers, the amount of money laundering would exceed \$21 million.

The defendants are: Genaro C., his wife Carmina L. and the secretary María G., who have a sentence of two years prison time. All three are currently fugitives.

The children of Genaro and Carmina are also being prosecuted: Andrés C., Luis C., Felipe C. and María C., as well as accountants Martha L. and Mayra C.

The crime of money laundering is typified and sanctioned in article 317 of the Organic Comprehensive Criminal Code.

### Cuenca Area Traffic Accidents

\*On Tuesday night, a motorcyclist died in a traffic accident registered at km 68 of the Cuenca-Girón-Pasaje road.

The ECU-911, personnel of the Traffic Commission and National Police arrived at the scene to verify the death of the victim.

The citizen was identified as Manuel Suqui, a resident of the sector. His body was transferred to the forensic center of Cuenca and the motorcycle removed from the road.

The accident is under investigation.

\*On Tuesday morning, there was a traffic accident on Fray Vicente Solano and Daniel Córdova Avenue, when a car collided with an ambulance of the Ministry of Health that was transporting a patient.

The incident occurred at 07:27 in the sector of the Benigno Malo school. The ambulance was destined for the Monte Sinai hospital when for unknown reasons, it hit a Hyundai car.

EMOV agents arrived at the scene to control the vehicular traffic that was caused by the accident. Luis Calle Mora, a traffic agent, said that no one was injured and the cause of the accident is being investigated.

\*A fatal accident occurred on the El Descanso-Gualaceo road, Chaquilcay sector On Monday afternoon involving a bus from the Express Sigsig cooperative and a rental van.

The violent crash left three people dead and four wounded.

To respond to the emergency, ECU 911 dispatched a team of first responders from the fire department of Gualaceo, Paute and Cuenca. In addition, staff of the Transit Commission of Ecuador arrived on scene.

Juan Llivisupa, a rescuer from the Fire Department of Cuenca, said they had to use special tools to free the occupants of the truck, who were trapped between the twisted metal of the cabin.

The rescuer confirmed the death of two adults and a six-month-old child. The bodies were transferred to the Forensic Center to verify their identities and the autopsies of the law.

To facilitate the work of the relief agencies, and the work of the agents of the Office of Traffic Accident Investigations (OIAT), vehicular passage was suspended for approximately two hours.

OIAT indicated that the crash was frontal and from the of destruction of the vehicles, it is presumed that they were traveling at high speed. OIAT is investigating which of the vehicles invaded a lane.

\*On Tuesday, a four-year-old girl died after being hit by a motorcycle and a vehicle whose drivers fled the scene.

On Avenida de los Cañaris and Jorge Icaza, for unknown reasons the minor was hit by the vehicles. First aid personnel and transport agents of the Mobility Company (EMOV EP) arrived at the site.

The child was treated and transferred to the IESS, Health Center C, Maternal and Child Emergencies, where minutes later, due to the seriousness of her injuries, death was confirmed.

Authorities are investigating the accident to find those responsible.

## Cañaribamba parish gets community alarm system from Municipality

On Monday, December 10, 2019, families in the Central district of the Cañaribamba parish received a modern community alarm system from the Municipality of Cuenca through the Citizen Security Council (CSC).



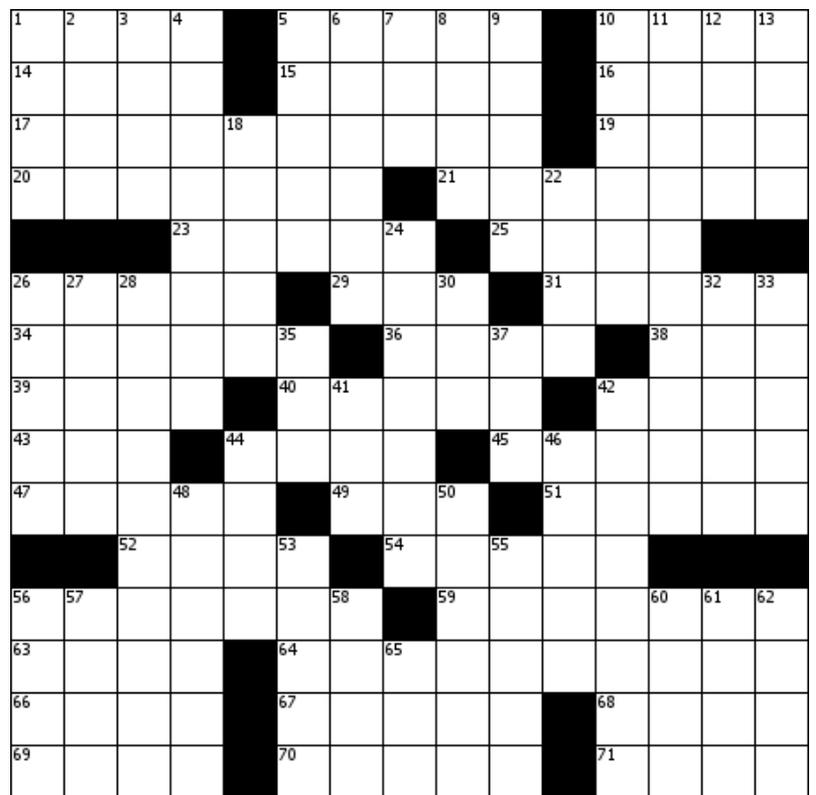
In total, 59 families have this preventive safety system.

Pedro Palacios, Mayor of Cuenca, stressed that this preventive security system is part of the "Safe Neighborhood" project, which the CSC runs, and that it is an initiative of multiple preventive security actions to support residents of various sectors, and encourage their integration, according to a work plan.

Palacios said that the purpose of this program is to create unity and community solidarity and that recently 19 community alarm systems have been delivered that benefit more than 600 Cuenca families. The investment so far exceeds \$50,000.

Fernando Carpio, Executive Director of the CSC, indicated that community alarms are made up of emergency buttons —that should be pressed only in cases of emergency— that will activate a siren located in the center of the neighborhood. At the same time this signal will be received by personnel of the CSC, who will immediately coordinate the emergency.

Additionally, he said that CSC will continue to gather the necessary information so that more Cuenca families can have preventive security systems, with an aim to strengthen the union of neighborhoods and to improve security at the canton level.



See answers on page 11

### Across

1. Glazier's cutting
5. "The Planets" composer
10. "\_\_\_ want for Christmas is ..."
14. Hauge of poetry
15. Sprightly
16. Oboe attachment
17. Sign at the edge of a cliff?
19. Daily delivery
20. Kind of address
21. Okapi cousin
23. Glides high
25. Threads
26. Mexican monies
29. Weep convulsively
31. Memory slip
34. Provides data
36. Disappear gradually
38. Word after T.
39. Imagist
40. Hot under the collar
42. 1958 Chevalier film
43. Edifice extension
44. Dull-colored
45. Bit in a brownie, perhaps
47. Ketchup alternative
49. Intricate pattern
51. Blows a gasket
52. Clown since 1946
54. Hail damage
56. Produce place
59. Japanese entertainers
63. Manhandle
64. Tethered dive
66. Puberty problem, for some
67. Epic starring Achilles
68. Position on a ship
69. Rorem and Beatty
70. All choked up
71. Potter's prop

### Down

1. 11th U.S. President
2. Sunburn soother
3. Sea power
4. Flattens
5. "\_\_\_ la vista, baby!"
6. Eyeballers
7. Cover up, essentially
8. Smelting refuse
9. Halfhearted
10. 3-Down group
11. Suspension system component
12. Eric the Red's son
13. Thumb-twiddling
18. Go out on a limb?
22. Exercise authority
24. Guest room furnishing, perhaps
26. Corncobs and briars
27. First name of a famous plane
28. Hypnotized
30. Horror film regular
32. Fluid transition
33. Leaves
35. Officer's address
37. Morning condensate
41. Wet behind the ears
42. Palooka's downfall
44. State of bewilderment
46. Clarinetist Shaw
48. Plinths
50. Alms seeker
53. Satellite path
55. Lacking
56. Fed
57. Compete against the clock
58. December noun
60. Luau dance
61. Last word of the Bible
62. Burned rubber
65. Peeples or Long

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## 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) for consideration.

### Classifieds and Events

#### Classifieds

##### Let Double D's Create Your Special Holiday Desserts

Have an idea for a Christmas dessert but it's not on our menu? Just ask!

We've received several custom orders and are happy to kick around ideas. Whether you're looking to assemble trays of treats to give to important people in your life (give us a dollar amount and we'll make a variety) or an old family recipe you want to recreate (Canadian butter tarts?) or a centerpiece dessert for your holiday table (Black Forest Trifle anyone?), we can make it happen.

All holiday orders—custom or standard—must be received by Tuesday, December 17.

We look forward to making this holiday season extra special for you.

Contact name: Deb and Dawn

Contact number: 096.802.2545

Email address: [doubledsdelightscuenca@gmail.com](mailto:doubledsdelightscuenca@gmail.com)

##### Handmade Christmas Ornaments Starting From \$15

Reasonable Handmade Christmas Ornaments for Sale. We have several options for you. Sizes from 30cm to 60cm.

Prices starting from \$15.

Contact: Monica V.

Phone: 0995821318

#### Events

##### Dec. 17th -

##### FREE Dinner Seminar at the 'Sunrise Cafe': "Ecuadorian Matters of the Heart: Getting Married, Foreign Marriage Certificate Registration, Divorce Issues and Prenuptial/Postnuptial Agreements"

Dine out for a Complimentary Dinner at the 'Sunrise Cafe', and learn from Attorney Sara Chaca of "Ecuador Visas", as to the benefits, process and requirements of "Ecuadorian Matters of the Heart: Getting Married, Foreign Marriage Certificate Registration, Divorce Issues and Prenuptial/Postnuptial Agreements".

All Dinner Seminar Attendees at the 'Sunrise Café' will as the ad clearly states, receive a FREE DINNER, consisting of one of the following 3 Meal Options of your own individual selection – Immediately upon your arrival to the Restaurant your Waiter will take your Dinner Order ahead of the Presentation (EACH Below Meal Option will also come with either Hot Tea or Iced Tea, Coffee, or Lemonade):

Pulled Pork Quesadilla, Served with Pico de Gallo, Sour Cream & Guacamole.

Sandwich of Avocado, Bacon, Cream Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato & Potato Salad.

Soup & Caesar Salad Combination (Vegetarian Combo Meal Option).

Address for Seminar: 'Sunrise Cafe', Calle Larga 9-38, Cuenca, Ecuador.

Time for Seminar: from 5:00PM to 6:30PM – Dinner Will Be Served Immediately Following the Presentation.

Email for Sign Up: [sara@ecuadorvisas.com](mailto:sara@ecuadorvisas.com)

##### Dec. 17th -

##### Monthly Music Jam And Pot Luck

Bring your guitar, mandolin, ukulele, or whatever noise maker you have and a food item to share to Fishbon Del Sol, 14-25 Mariscal Lamar on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. We'll have a song circle where each player leads a song and other musicians follow. We'll start at 7 PM and may end later than 9 PM.

Contact: Melinda Judy

Phone: 096-252-2825

##### Dec. 20th -

##### Filipino Cooking Class!

As part of Fundación Crea Tu Espacio's Lecture Series, we will be hosting a Filipino cooking class. We will be preparing a noodle dish with vegetables, shrimp, meat, and a delicious sauce called pancit bihon. A vegetarian version is also available. The event will be on December 20 at 10:00 a.m. at Fun-

dación Crea Tu Espacio. Tickets cost \$15. All profits benefit migrant and indigenous families in Ecuador. Please contact us to learn more!.

Contact: Like Petrosky

Phone: [Lppetrosky@gmail.com](mailto:Lppetrosky@gmail.com)

##### Dec. 21st -

##### Andrea Cantos in Concert, Common Grounds.

Come and enjoy good music with Andrea Cantos and a varied repertoire from different parts of the world! Good music, good food and enjoy! .

Contact: Cristian

Phone: 0981079406

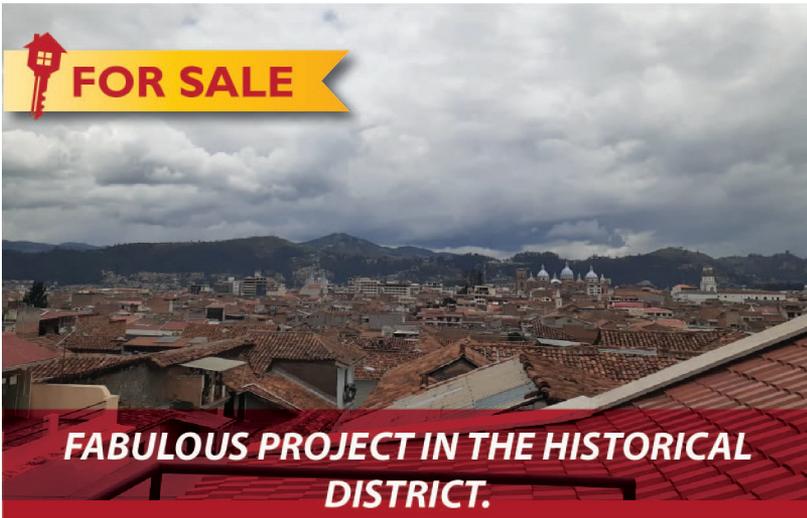
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A	C	N	E		I	L	I	A	D		A	L	E	E
N	E	D	S		T	E	A	R	Y		W	A	N	D

Solution to Crossword puzzle on page 10

Solution to Sudoku puzzle on page 3

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

# Real Estate & Rentals



## FABULOUS PROJECT IN THE HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

Beautiful project in the oldest historical street Rafael María Arizaga, 20 modern suites in the heart of the historical district just few blocks from parque Calderón, the suites have social area, bedrooms and private bathrooms.

**Contact:**  
CuencaRentalsandSales  
0994882938  
rentalscuenca@gmail.com



Looking to rent or sell your apartment, house, or land?

Contact us to include your listing in the next issue!

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099-582-1318



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0998059463  
jtoral8@hotmail.com



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0998059463  
jtoral8@hotmail.com



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**Contact:**  
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