

VENEZUELA
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International

"Facts, Facts, and more Facts"



National Register of Housing Exceeded Expectations

After a month of its launching, the Gran Misión Vivienda Venezuela has registered more than 1 million people

VENEZUELAN ENJOY SOLVING PROBLEMS

Example of wit and solidarity

Esteban Reales knew since he was a child that his life would be marked by discoveries to improve the people's life

The need drives you to invention, and the creation of something that did not exist before. Later on, an item shows up with new and innovative features. It is a useful method that the inventor, moved by altruism and by a scientific curiosity, develops to improve something.

Esteban Reales, a 61 year-old Colombian creator born in Valledupar, affirms that curiosity has been following him like a shadow since he was a child. One day he collected several speakers and some little cables arranging a little electronic circuit. It was precisely in that moment he knew that he would become an electronics engineer.

When his father died, Reales was three years old. Since then, he found out he could make toycars out of sardine cans, nails, strings and wooden sticks, so his brothers could play with them. "I have always wanted to solve any need I see," said with a soft voice.

After finishing high school, he rejected a scholarship to study nuclear physics in Russia and decided to come to Venezuela in 1973. "I came from Colombia to Venezuela full of hope and love for this country, my family taught me so."

Esteban got an engineer degree in electronics through distance learning courses in the Universidad Popular Comunitaria. During 8 years, he worked for the Venezuelan Corporation of Oil (Corpoven Spanish acronym) in the El Palito Refinery Facilities, state of Carabobo, where he was the head of the Department of the Electronic Instrumentation Equipment.



Gas-cooked Cassava bread

In 2000, as Director of Industry and Commerce of the Mayor's office in Carabobo, he observed in one of his visits to the cassava zones that pregnant women processing the raw material (manioc) could contract diseases due to the heat exposition. "I thought in solving that problem and conducting a research with my own resources."

The next step was joining the required pieces to elaborate a model with little engines he found in workshops where TV's were repaired. Every night, while his wife was sleeping, he carefully stood up and went to his little laboratory at home aimed at designing a processing plant of manioc flour for gas-cooked cassava bread.

After several tries, this engineer arranged a mechanic model that presented as a prototype of gas cassava bread maker in the Salón de Inventiva Tecnológica Popular, where he was granted the National Prize to the Technological and Popular Invention Luis Zambrano in 2005.

Esteban explains the main goal of his proposal: a grating center for obtaining the manioc flour which is the main ingredient of the cassava bread. It integrates stainless steel equipment whose main system comprises four machines for: washing, grating, compression, and sifting respectively, and a cooking unit.

In a very enthusiastic manner, he describes the initial capability of the plant will be over 5 thousand cassava breads per day and the gas cassava bread makers will be for the indigenous communities and the cassava bread producers.

Farewell, static

Since 1979, Esteban lives in Valencia. His four children were witnesses of the 22 years of research dedicated to the Realestatic project, an electronic suppressor for static current. Because of it, he received an honorific mention in the Salón de Inventiva Tecnológica Popular in 2003.

Esteban tells the idea arose when he was working in the El Palito Refinery and saw how a tanker of 8,600 oil gallons exploded. Keeping this image into his mind, Esteban says: "while the tanker was loading and downloading, the highly volatile gases were released in the air and ran into a sparkle or an electric wave."

Named Realestatic after his creator's last name, this electronic equipment prevent accidents in the stations of fuel supply. It incorporates a system of self-diagnostic and control of the fuel filling up and emptying process, an audible and light alarm, and a limiting network of overvoltage and overcurrent.

The watch tells us that our conversation will end in a few minutes, but Esteban Reales has time enough to state this: "We must inherit to our youngs the technological transference of what we are doing, they must know there is a Bolivarian Government supporting inventors and that believes in us. As my mother said, there will always be a greater satisfaction when we give than when we receive." ♦ **Rita Lucas**



RECIPROCAL HELP

Venezuelan families build their own houses

Organized communities in Chacao, Caracas seek alternatives to their most urgent needs, overcoming negligence of local authorities



As you make your way through the dark and narrow alleys, moisture penetrates your lungs making it more difficult for you to go up an endless row of uneven stairs.

You can notice the "traces" of progress such as overflowed sewers, rooftops made of zinc sheets and high voltage wires. More than the remains of ancient civilizations, all this is the reality that the community neighbors must face every day.

This situation is hidden behind a colorful mural in Chacao, east of Caracas, an "exemplary" municipality of the city.

Rain has become a threat

An image Our Lady of Mount Carmel watches the neighborhood's entrance, not so far there is the latent risk of a not channelled ravine to sweep 18 houses above it. When it starts raining, people of Pajaritos Community have no choice other than pray.

Juan Carlos Ramírez, a spokesperson of the lands committee, assures that they experience a great hardship. "This is one of the sectors with the worst conditions and the most notorious needs. A contention wall of the ravine collapsed last December and the other one is about to fall to."

Serious problems like these affect hundreds of low-income families in Chacao, and even though they are ignored by the local authorities, they are struggling for their rights as an organized community through in the spaces created by the Bolivarian Revolution to empower the people.

The genesis of this initiative was in 2008, when the communities supported 28 storekeepers of the Chacao Municipal Market. The then-Mayor of Chaco Leopoldo López wanted to demolish the market although it had been declared cultural heritage.



Rodolfo Vilera, a coordinator of the community, says that everything began when they supported workers of the market and since then other movements and organizations have joined their cause.

The results are evidenced with the creation of four community councils: Pajarito, La Manguere, Farfán and Pedregal. These organizations also cooperate with other projects such as the community radio, among others.

Socio-productive projects also included

Every Tuesday night neighbors hold meetings. This has allowed to make advancements previous to the Gran Misión Vivienda Venezuela (a social program aimed at building houses for the people at fair prices and with good financing conditions). The support of Movimiento Pobladores (a movement focused on promoting good

housing conditions for the people) made possible to conduct a census related to the housing needs of more than 800 families in Chacao.

"We have taken a step forward with our way of organization. On January 22nd we could recognize 50 waste land areas in Chacao and there are other 17 being studied. Each of them is expected to have an apartment building and a socio-productive project. In these new spaces 1,200 families could have their new homes." Vilera says.

Gino di Virgilio is one of the people who need a house. He rents a flat in Chacao and not even his 4 sons have their own houses. "I have lived in that apartment for 60 years, but it was sold when I was still staying there. I asked the municipal authorities to have the chance to buy it but it was impossible."

Bucaral, another sector of the municipality, also takes part in the initiative. "When we were identifying waste lands they put some spaces at disposal. Here in Chacao each square meter is sold in US dollars, but many of us said: I stay!" says Daniel Lara, a member of the community.

Despite the organization, the work made in advance and the creation of projects, it is not easy for the dreams to come true in Chacao. "We can conduct the social accounting, identify the lands and create the project, but the Mayor learns about it, buys the land and build anything. Here the money overpowers us." Vilera affirms and expresses that they will keep on struggling: "We cannot miss this chance. In Chacao we will get decent houses." ♦ **Degnís Merlo**



BOLIVARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL FULFILL COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE

Venezuelans Trust Housing Mission

Over \$372 million will be invested to build more houses



Zulimar Hernandez is a 46-year old Venezuelan who works as a secretary and lives with her two children in a rented house in the slum Los Magallanes de Catia (west of Caracas). She has lived in a rented house for 10 years and has suffered the usury of those who take advantage of the need of those who can not buy a home.

But Zulimar knows it's time to change her situation and buy a house, "because President Chavez worries about it and is committed to the people."

"This mission is a hope for my family and I live in a home. I have faith and trust the process, because the word of our President is important and I know that he will comply with all Venezuelans," she says referring to the Great Housing Mission Venezuela, whose registration was launched on May Saturday 7. After several days of the initial registration it reached 145,000,837 families enrolled, which is about 500,000 people.

People answered the Mission's call

The massive attendance at the registration sites authorized by the Bolivarian government throughout the country evidences that the call of President Hugo Chavez, as well as people's trust in his word, resist the toughest tests of asymmetric warfare developed against Venezuela.

"I heard Chavez's proposal and saw the announcement in the news and did not hesitate to come to register because it's the President's commitment to grant us adequate housing," says Ramirez Marineli after she registered in the Mission in the Plaza Bolivar of Caracas.

This mother has lived in Catia for 47 years and works in a private company. The house where

she lives with her six children was affected by landslides caused by the heavy rains.

Colombian Angel Marchan (63) is a graphic artist who has lived in Venezuela for 40 years. His wife and two children live with him in a friend's house in the Baralt Avenue (downtown Caracas). Mr. Marchan says "the faith in the revolutionary process was my biggest inspiration to enroll in this mission, I am a revolutionary. I am convinced that the goals will be achieved and we will all benefit from this program."

"This is a country full of opportunities and I have experienced that as a people we have voice and vote, our needs are satisfied. The Great Housing Mission is not going to be the exception, because a roof is critical for the safety and welfare of human beings and that is exactly what Chavez wants, when he says he wants the greatest possible happiness for the people," he explains.



Commitment redoubled

To meet the goal of constructing two million homes from 2011-2017, the Bolivarian government has estimated the need of 34,000,793 hectares. President Hugo Chavez has announced that they already count on 7,800 hectares to meet the needs of the years 2011 and 2012.

Once the national registry ends, new lands throughout the country will be available for the executive to register it as multifamily property, as stipulated in the Law of Housing Ownership of the Great Housing Mission Venezuela. These lands include:

- Lote Fuerte Tiuna I (Capital District), 82 acres.
- Estacion Cua (Miranda)-543 acres
- Charallave-north (Miranda) - 200 acres.
- Next to Ciudad Zamora (Miranda)- 237 acres.



- Lomas de Guadalupe (Miranda)- 387 acres.
- The Triplex, road-Ocumare Santa Teresa del Tuy (Miranda), 123 acres.
- Playa Grande (Vargas) -64 acres.
- City Caribia (Vargas)- 1,037 acres.
- Base Libertador (Aragua)-224 acres.
- Base Aragua (Aragua)-37 acres.
- The Vineyard (Anzoátegui)-303 acres.
- Refining Complex Jose (Anzoátegui), 397 acres.
- Yucatán (Lara), 207 acres.
- Costa Oriental del Lago (Zulia), 1,878 acres.

The effort in finding suitable land to build will be intensified, given the national register overflow. It is noteworthy that the 153,000 homes to be built this year, 40,000 will be granted to the people's power (Community Councils and Communities) by the Brigades of Socialist Labor. In order to achieve this, they count on \$7 million (Bs 3,032,470,036).

More houses

While the Venezuelan housing Mission continues, more and new houses are handed over to displaced people.

Noel de Luque is one of the 432 benefited people. After living in Bolívar, Barinas and Zulia states without owning a house, he arrived in Caracas to fight cancer.

"I am recovering thanks to the revolution. I joined a Communal Council here in Baruta to work as a collective and I was chosen. Imagine my emotion because a house is the greatest possible happiness for human beings," said Luque.

Noel will share his apartment (featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and living room)



with his mother and cousin. He tells people who is waiting for a house in shelters to register in this housing mission. "Believe in our Commander. Believe that the only solution is socialism. Not capitalism. We can achieve it but we have to fight," he says.

On the Mother's Day eve, Melania Rondón also received the keys of this home, where she will live with two of her seven sons, her granddaughter and to great-grandchildren.

"I have many good things," she said to President Chávez when she registered in the mission on April 30 when it was launched.

"God bless you and guide you on a good path. Long live socialism. I love you very much. My family is happy. Everyone is happy," she added during a live broadcast from her new apartment.

◆ Yeneiza Delgado Mijares

Additional Funding Approved

President Chávez also approved over US \$ 372 million to build 16,210 additional houses in the following states: Trujillo, Zulia, Miranda, Barinas, Portuguesa, Carabobo, Táchira, Sucre, Vargas, Anzoátegui, Amazonas, Apure, Yaracuy, Aragua, Bolívar, Monagas, Falcón, Cojedes, Guárico, Nueva Esparta, Lara and Mérida.

VENEZUELA BOOSTS A SOCIALIST-LIKE HEALTHCARE

Children's Cardiology Hospital: Synonym of Life

When Jonathan Vásquez came from Dominican Republic with a ventricular septal defect (VSD) and a severe pulmonary hypertension, it was very difficult for him to breathe, being this an obstacle for his daily activities, such as playing or practicing any sports. 18 days after his surgery, Jennifer Vásquez, his mother, affirms that the child is getting better due to the attention of the Children's Cardiology Hospital "Dr. Rodríguez Ochoa."

"All the procedures, including the passport, a round-trip ticket and the hotel stay have been exonerated; technology, service and the personnel are excellent. It is a great project through which my son is alive," says.

This testimony is only possible in a political model that aims at guaranteeing health services for everybody without any political, economic or social distinction. Furthermore, it is giving a helping hand to other sister nations.

For years, Venezuelan public healthcare was totally abandoned. Private centers medical attention was fostered; the first requisite for being admitted and attended was having money.

That is why mental and physical well-being became a way to make profits. However, the Bolivarian Revolution implemented a Healthcare with a socialist and human vision. Nowadays, testimonies like the Jonathan's are being repeated over Venezuela and the continent.

Thus, the Children's Cardiology Hospital Dr Rodríguez Ochoa, located in Caracas, is considered world pioneer in pediatric cardiopathies attention.

Venezuelan hearts are beating louder

Around the world, 8 new born babies out of 1,000 have a congenital cardiopathy. In Venezuela, it is esteemed that around 4,500 children are born with these heart conditions each year.

70% of them need either a surgery or a cardiologic intervention, until August 20, 2006 only 600 patients were operated in the 8 Regional Pediatric Cardiovascular Centers (CCIR Spanish acronym) of Venezuela.

After having launched the Children's Cardiology Hospital "Doctor Rodríguez Ochoa", Venezuela has now the capacity to triplicate the amount of benefited people.



In this regard, the Bolivarian Government has arranged a formidable medical structure, a level four hospital center. This category, granted to a specialized medical center, is based on a technological and scientific high level.



The infrastructure must rely on a state-of-art technology for an effective response. The total investment reaches 9,629,069,767.44 USD.

Free and Quality Attention

In 1998, only 141 children experiencing these pathologies were operated, while 1,113 patients were freely operated in 2010. 85% of them came from the countryside.

Isabel Iturria, director of the Children's Cardiology Hospital "Doctor Rodríguez Ochoa", affirms all patients have for granted, even the transportation from anywhere of the country to the headquarters in Caracas, as well as people coming from other countries. Until now, this specialized center has attended 66 international patients coming from 12 countries, among which: Gambia, Bolivia and Nicaragua.

State-of-the-art Infrastructure and Equipment

This hospital comprises a square-based building surrounded by a 9.6 acres yard, including a 4.44 acres surgical area and a 2.47 acres consultation area. Hospitalization level covers 1.98 acres and the top level covers 2.55 acres more.

Besides, there are exterior areas and a parking lot covering 11.70 acres, plus the residential

area comprising 142 hospitalization beds. The most important characteristic of this modern health center is that incorporates a state-of-the-art technology.

Among the different equipments that integrate this infrastructure highlight those of hemodynamics, ultrasonography, monitoring, ventilation, surgery, anesthesia machines and instrumental equipment.

Children's Cardiovascular Network Centers throughout Venezuela

Iturria points out that the hospital counts on a 18 pediatric cardiovascular regional centers network. They are located in public hospitals in several states of the country.

The network relies on high-trained personnel and first quality equipment. There, patients are examined, diagnosed, and even some of them are operated in these centers.

Complicated cases requiring to be transported to the Children's Cardiology Hospital in Caracas, are reported by regional centers to the capital city. Then, they contact the patient to inform him/her the day of their admission to the hospital.

It is planned the construction of a similar center in the coming years, but aimed at adult population to spread the health attention level.

The Bolivarian Revolution disassociates itself from the real estate health vision that was implemented in Venezuela during decades, by then thousands of lives were lost for not having the money to afford the operation and the necessary treatments of a heart surgery.

Even though it was an illusion for many people, today it is a reality. Jonathan received a decent attention and a helping and supportive hand. He went back to his homeland with a new heart that beats louder and full of hope.

The Bolivarian Revolution consolidates a Healthcare Network in Venezuela and abroad whose main objective is to attend the people's health, without discriminating any social class and aiming at guaranteeing the life, especially the one of the children. ♦

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Translated by MinCI

Organic Law Against Racial Discrimination Vindicates Malcolm X Legacy

Malcolm X was a social activist who claimed, defended the rights of minorities and promoted the struggle against racial discrimination

Malcolm X was born 86 years ago. He was a distinguished social activist who defended the excluded sectors and faced the U.S. imperialism so as to have a society of equals.

The Bolivarian Revolution also vindicates this historical feat and highlights the validity of their proposals after the National Assembly unanimously passed the Law Against Racial Discrimination, which promotes a more egalitarian society.

Revolutionary leader Malcolm X

Malcolm X, revolutionary leader of the African American minority, was born on May 19, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska. The son of a Protestant and activist pastor - defender of the Afro-American rights - and a mulatto woman.

During his childhood, he is affected by the continuous changes of residence of his family, fleeing attacks by racist groups, which ends up with the murder -in suspicious circumstances- of his father in 1931.

Malcolm was 14 when her mother, after a severe nervous breakdown, entered a psychiatric ward and lost custody of their children.

After living in many of orphanages in 1942, he moved to New York. Due to his tragical life, he is arrested and serves a sentence of 7 years.

In 1952, he goes out of jail and becomes a political activist in defense of an abused racial minority. He was an orator, a US religious minister and a fervent defender of the Afro-American rights.

His struggle to defend the rights of minorities made him become a social leader, who was widely supported in the U.S. and the world.

He was characterized by having evolved rapidly toward more radical political positions of his time. Both the order of the internal struggle against racism in the United States, as against imperialism worldwide.

His ideals and positions were known worldwide and had an impact on the international stage such as the United Nations and international parliaments.

When the idea finally managed to awaken social equality for minorities, which together formed a majority against the ruling elites in the United States, Malcolm X was threatened with death. But his fighting spirit was stronger.

On February 21, 1965, Malcolm X was assassinated by 16 shots in

the Auditorium Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan.

His legacy remains in force, Malcolm X became a role model for people of all races and classes since he greatly helped in the fight against systems that produce racism, war and economic inequalities.

Venezuela promotes social justice and equality

Achieving social equality, having a fairer society and deepening social inclusion are just some of the aspects the Bolivarian government promotes in the Venezuelan society. The struggles of our ancestors, social leaders like Malcolm X vindicate and dignify.



Therefore, the National Assembly (AN) unanimously approved in first reading the draft of the Organic Law against Racial Discrimination, which includes the creation of a more egalitarian society.

This law envisages the creation of the National Institute Against Discrimination, which will be used to administer justice and defend human rights of all Venezuelans.

The law refers to all forms of exclusion, restriction, preference or omission in everything related to institutions, politics, economy, social, cultural, communication or other field of public life that, based on ethnic, national and phenotype traits, repeal or undermine human rights and freedoms.

The purpose of this law is to establish ways to prevent, punish and eliminate the distinction of races by any person, group, public or private authority, national institutions, as well as organizations that negate or undermine the recognition of equality of conditions.

As for Deputy Hector Navarro, the objective of the Law is to facilitate the development of all citizens to achieve a balance.

"We must overcome the existing discrimination of inmates or persons suffering from any physical condition.

Socialism bases on the premise that we are a country of equals, where everybody has the same opportunities." ♦

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BORDERS BETWEEN CENTER AND PERIPHERY GET BLURRED

Crisis of Capitalism Globalized: a change of economic model is required

The capitalist model goes into a spiral that has no way out. Its economic theory collide. Capitalism loses its north and boundaries. The crisis of capitalism touches the heart of the strongest economies in the world. The United States shook its economic bases when the banking crisis sparked a major catastrophe, putting in jeopardy the centers of economic power that until then were considered solid.

In this sense, capitalism loses its boundaries and spreads without respect for the areas that were historically benefited. Capital moves forward and the neoliberal measures affect the European population.

Greece: capitalist economy into an overdraft

In 2004, the organization of the Olympic Games in Greece evidenced its economic strength. Seven years later, in 2011, the Greek government declared technically bankrupt with a fiscal deficit from 3.7% to 13%.

Before this situation, financial institutions no longer considered Greece as a reliable country and tightened their lending policies. The government "faces" the crisis with an increase of 4 percent of the Value Added Tax (VAT) which went from 19 to 23 percent, a decrease of 16 percent of public wages and a cut to pensioners.

The European Union provides assistance to Greece with the injection of capital by \$750,000 million so as to apply brutal austerity measures. If the plan "succeeds," it would leave the nation with an unbearable burden of debt. As this happens, the European neighbors internally start to revise their economies.

Spain: another victim of the capitalist model crisis

The recent defeat of President Zapatero in regional elections in Spain demonstrates the public discontent regarding the neoliberal measures that affect the most deprived social classes. The Spanish government announced a package of



adjustment measures to reduce public spending and stop the public indebtedness -similar to that of Greece-, freeze pensions, reduce the free drug delivery, minimize the official aid projects development and investment in infrastructure and public expenditure. They do not rule out a tax increase either.

The alarms are on all over Europe. The dream of unlimited progress of capitalism and the European Union began to crumble. The solutions and the so-called bailouts are supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB). However, these recipes were used in Latin America some decades ago, leaving disastrous economic and social consequences.

Venezuela, an economy based on social investment

You need to take a break to travel a few miles and come to the American continent. Venezuela is developing a Bolivarian Revolution where the political, social and economic context is very different. The fundamental basis of economic growth in Venezuela is due to inclusive economic and social policy focused on a socialist model that is implemented in the country since 1999, when president Hugo Chávez Frías took power. He drove away from preconceived prescriptions of the IMF and World Bank and the neoliberal policies that made the nation plunge into extreme poverty for more than 40 years. The Bolivarian

government has a policy of economic integration based on equality and respect, with a multipolar vision. It establishes strategic bilateral relations with various countries and promotes agreements on energy, education, culture, tourism, science, agriculture, among others. These policies have resulted in more income to the country, everything focused on social investment.

Social justice

The minimum wage has been increased for 12 consecutive years. It amounts now to \$ 587, that is to say, the first Latin American country with the highest income. Social investment policy in the last decade amounted to 393,478 million dollars in social programs until December 2010, representing 60 percent of national budget allocated to this area.

International studies also support the economic and social situation experienced by the country. According to the Gallup Report on Global Welfare, published in April 2011, Venezuela ranks first place among the Latin America nations with greater prosperity and fourth in the world.

The Bolivarian Government assesses the effects of the crisis of capitalism and maintains a long-term strategy ranging from permanent monitoring of oil prices - its main export product- up to the articulation of international strategic alliances for its exploitation and the promotion of a new social model, through the realization of large infrastructure projects, land reclamation of large estates, investment in the agriculture field and the promotion of industrial development.

The Venezuelan state and people move within a socialist model that has to deal with excessive or hasty actions of a capitalist model that is showing signs of expiration. Given this uncertain outlook, the European economies are not so solid. They should begin to open their horizons and meet the clamor of their people's manifestations, through which they ask for a rapid change of the capitalist model, which for years has maintained the force of neoliberal measures resulting in failure and poverty. ♦

VTV - AVN - YVKE - DCI / May 31, 2011