

□ LOCAL NEWS

The following is a compendium of news stories from the local Spanish newspapers, translated into English. Roberto

Rain will be extended until March

Although this week should begin the transition to the dry season, the rains continue to fall until March, due to the presence of cold fronts will enter the latitudes of the country. A report from ETESA establishes a climate perspective according to which there will be four cold fronts that affect the country. (Panama America)

Government to reevaluate new headquarters for the convention center

Although the Government plans to begin construction of a new convention center in the first half of 2011, it has not yet been decided whether the work will be on the causeway, as originally announced. The high cost which is building the project in that area (due to filling in the sea) is causing them to look for alternatives. (La Prensa)

Growth between 6% and 7%

With 30 days left before the New Year, Panama's economic projections are positive. According to expert estimates, the growth of Panama's economy over the next year will be between 6% and 7%. In this concept match the National Competitiveness Center, the Chamber of Commerce, and Latin INDESA Consulting. (La Estrella)

Unemployment at 6.5%

Regarding the estimated unemployment rate, the Chamber of Commerce set it at 6.5%. INDESA estimated 6.4% and National Competitiveness Center at 6%. (La Estrella)

Bosco Vallarino toys

Panama City Mayor Bosco Vallarino referred to a request submitted to the National Assistance Plan to buy directly 35,000 toys, which are all supposed to be a "surprise"; (La Estrella)