

▣ **A new feature - Today's News in Panama** ▣ - a brief summary in English of what Spanish newspapers in Panama are reporting today - brought to you by Rainer Tunon, ▣ **Cinema Paradiso in Casco Viejo**

Local News

Economy grows 5.6%

All indications are that economic growth estimates made by the Ministry of Economy will be fulfilled. Between January and September 2010, the Panamanian economy registered a cumulative rate of 5.6% growth, according to a report prepared by the Comptroller General. The economy minister, Alberto Vallarino, predicted that 2010 will close with a growth of 7%. (La Estrella)

Canal will provide B / 814.6 million in 2010

Panama Canal Authority will provide the National Treasury B/. 814,678,475.03 in surpluses. This was determined yesterday the board of an entity after a regular meeting they approved the financial statements audited by Deloitte. (La Prensa)

Government defends tax treaty

The minister of finances Alberto Vallarino came out in defense of tax agreement noting that it allowed into the White List of the OCDE, which will attract large investments in Panama, including the financial sector. By signing this agreement, Panama will be just two of at least twelve conventions required by the OCDE to bring a country from its list of tax havens. (La Prensa)

Beer 5 cents increase

The bottle of beer could increase their price by 5 cents so that the government can raise 30 million Dollars to meet an increase in pensions for retirees. The alternative of the new tax also extends to the rum and whiskey. Although

only a proposal, the idea has alerted the industry. (La Estrella)

Telephone interventions mess corrals Uribe

Colombian former president, Alvaro Uribe, came to Panama to give a lecture sponsored by INCAE. The consequences of the wiretapping scandal conducted by the Colombian Administrative Security Department, commonly referred to as the scandal of punctures, followed the former president to our country. (La Estrella)

Relatives of ex president Perez Balladares should declare

The wife, daughter and son of Ernesto Perez Balladares will have to testify in the trial of former president, for allegedly committing the crime of money laundering. The ninth judge criminal, Diego Fernandez, ordered to make affidavit to the former first lady, Dora Perez Balladares, the couple's daughter, Isabella and her husband, Enrique Pretelt Arauz. (La Prensa)

Mulino admits border faults

Security Minister, Jose Raul Mulino, said that Panama and Costa Rica need to establish a binational commission to meet its border. He acknowledged that there Paso Canoas what he called a "little Tijuana" by passing drugs, contraband and illegal. Mulino said he expects the early formation of this committee. (Panama America)

Government pay to workers who went on strike

5,400 banana workers in seven companies of Bocas del Toro who went on strike during the riots of July will receive the payment of wages ceased to receive. The companies refused to pay these days and argued that workers could not work for the riots that took place. The Government agreed to pay these salaries, amounting to B / 428 000. (Panama America).

Written by T. Rob Brown (aka Roberto Chocolate)

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Uncertainty proposed privatization of the postal system

Government Minister Roxana Méndez, did not rule out the possibility of privatizing the Postal and Telegraph and said they are considering options such as creating a joint venture. The State Postal Service is well below what it should be. Private companies dominate the market and are not regulated. Meanwhile, officials do not want to get out of hand. (La Estrella)