

President Calderón's 2010 New Year Address

Wednesday, January 6, 2010 | Office of the Presidency



Mexicans:

I am delighted to be able to speak to you on the occasion of the New Year. On behalf of my wife Margarita, my children and myself, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very happy 2010. This is a very important year for Mexico. We celebrate 200 years of being proud to be Mexican. We commemorate the Bicentennial of our Independence and the Centennial of the Revolution.

Thanks to the efforts of heroes such as Hidalgo, Morelos, Allende, Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez, Guerrero and many others, we are now a free, independent people. We are a sovereign nation, with pride in its historic heritage, capable of forging its own destiny.

Friends:

I feel confident when I think about Mexico's future. I think it will be positive because I am encouraged by Mexicans' spirit, because I know that our unity and solidarity are greater than any challenge, because I know that each of us harbors the profound conviction that this is a country that is destined to be great, to stand out and to make history. In the year 2010, I am sure that Mexicans will teach the world a lesson in courage and dignity in overcoming the challenges we have experienced and taking charge of our own destiny.

Let us not allow these pessimistic views to paralyze us or prevent us from achieving our ideals. If we want to perform heroic deeds, like the generations of men and women who have already earned a place in our history, let us overcome doubts and fears. United in crucial respects and in what we genuinely believe in, let us make this year, 2010, our moment in history, to continue along the route set by the fathers of the nation. It is time for unity and work.

It is time to show the conviction and value of those that gave us our country and freedom 200 years ago, of those that fought for democracy and justice 100 years ago and to make Mexico a more democratic, fairer country, and one that is safer, freer, fairer, cleaner and more prosperous. A Mexico on a par with the ideals of those who, through their lives and work, made us the great nation we are today. By working together, in this year of the fatherland, we will continue building the great country Mexico is called to be.

From the battle field or in the construction of institutions, the dedication and sacrifice of Mexicans such as Madero, Zapata, Villa, Carranza and many others and of an entire generation made Mexico a democratic nation, guided by the values of justice and freedom. Independence and the Revolution are the historical references on which the great country we are today and the idea of the Mexico we wish to become are based. Through their struggle, our heroes conquered our freedom. It is up to us, the Mexicans of today, to preserve this freedom and defend it from those that threaten it from illegality.

2010 is the Year of Fatherland in which we celebrate being Mexican with a festive spirit and renewed enthusiasm because, as a country, we are proud of our history and culture, our traditions, art, colors, diversity, songs and flavors. We are a country whose greatest source of wealth and pride is its people. Mexicans will celebrate 2010 with pride in the past and hope for the future. In addition to being the Year of the Fatherland, 2010 will be the year of economic recovery. As we all know, 2009 was a very difficult year. We suffered the impact of the worst economic crisis the world has seen in several decades, the emergence of a new influenza virus, a severe drought and a sharp drop in our oil production.

None of the difficulties or misfortunes we experienced, however, can be attributed to a lack of energy or character on the part of Mexicans. On the contrary. In the midst of the storm, we have demonstrated our strength. That is entirely true. Although 2009

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was a difficult year, Mexicans managed to pull through. In the face of challenges, we have shown energy, courage, creativity and above all, the capacity to take on challenges and make decisions at times that require bravery. That is why it has proved necessary to make very hard decisions, decisions which, I am fully aware, involve enormous sacrifices for everyone.

However, these sacrifices are precisely what will enable us to avoid serious financial threats to the country this year and above all, they will be reflected in the ability to meet society's demands better. And, in particular, this effort will permit a swifter recovery of our economy. This year, my government will continue striving to achieve all the goals it has set to ensure the country's well-being. We will be focusing on three main priorities:

One. Job creation.

Two Fighting extreme poverty.

Three. Strengthening Mexicans' public security.

We will focus on job creation, because this is the most important factor in enabling families to get ahead, which is why we will continue investing in infrastructure, roads, ports and airports. We will continue promoting more productive investment, more temporary employment programs and supporting the countryside and we will promote the economic reforms Mexico needs. This is all to create more jobs, which we so need.

We will focus on combating extreme poverty, because this still affects nearly 20 million Mexicans. To this end, we will spend more on building schools and hospitals and above all, we will strengthen and expand programs such as Opportunities, in order for them to reach more Mexicans living in extreme poverty, not only in the countryside but also in the working-class neighborhoods of the country's most important cities.

Three. Public security. Because I know that in many places in Mexico, criminals continue to harass, threaten and extort money from many Mexican families that need the determined support of the three levels of government. That is why we will continue to fight all the criminal groups in the country, across the board. I guarantee you that every peso that citizens place in Federal Government's hands will be used wisely, honestly and efficiently, with no improper use or waste of these resources. And I say that 2010 will be a year of economic recovery, because this was a crisis that came from abroad and there are now signs of improvement all over the world.

The countries we sell our products too are gradually reactivating their growth, which has been reflected in an increase in our exports to these countries. 2010 will be a year of recovery, because Mexicans have managed to maintain a healthy, well-managed economy, in a responsible fashion. Despite the sharp drop in our main source of income, oil, we have our public finances in order and unlike what is happening in many countries or what used to happen here in Mexico in previous crises, we are not facing a banking crisis nor do we have external debt problems. Our economy is ready to resume growth. In fact, we began to grow during the last part of last year, which has already been reflected in the creation of thousands of jobs in recent jobs, which I realize is still not enough, but we are on the right track.

2010 will be the year of economic recovery, because investors' expectations of Mexico are improving, which creates new possibilities of investment in productive projects that create the jobs the country so badly needs. That is why we are working to create optimal conditions so that more firms in Mexico and the rest of the world will invest in our country. 2010 will be the year of recovery, because over the past three years, we have given infrastructure an unprecedented boost through major works that will make our economy more competitive and create jobs. And this year, we will achieve a record amount of investment in infrastructure, to build works that will be our generation's legacy to the Mexicans of tomorrow. And we will continue supporting the country's small and medium firms, on which thousands of Mexican families depend, so that they will have credit, advice and financing and be able to progress. Our aim is clear: to work every day so that this recovery translates into more jobs, is reflected in your pockets and ensures greater well-being for you and your families.

Friends, I feel confident when I think about Mexico's future. I think it will be positive because I am encouraged by Mexicans' spirit, because I know that our unity and solidarity are greater than any challenge, because I know that each of us harbors the profound conviction that this is a country that is destined to be great, to stand out and to make history. In the year 2010, I am sure that Mexicans will teach the world a lesson in courage and dignity in overcoming the challenges we have experienced and taking charge of our own destiny. Let us not allow these pessimistic views to paralyze us or prevent us from achieving our ideals. If we want to perform heroic deeds, like the generations of men and women who have already earned a place in our history, let us overcome doubts and fears.

United in crucial respects and in what we genuinely believe in, let us make this year, 2010, our moment in history, to continue along the route set by the fathers of the nation. It is time for unity and work. It is time to show the conviction and value of those that gave us our country and freedom 200 years ago, of those that fought for democracy and justice 100 years ago and to make Mexico a more democratic, fairer country, and one that is safer, freer, fairer, cleaner and more prosperous. A Mexico on a par with the ideals of those who, through their lives and work, made us the great nation we are today. By working together, in this year of the fatherland, we will continue building the great country Mexico is called to be.

Once again, best wishes for 2010.... Happy New Year and thank you for your attention.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LAMENTS THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR CARLOS RICO FERRAT

Monday, January 4, 2010 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Mexico City.- With great sorrow, the Foreign Ministry deeply laments the death of our colleague, Ambassador Carlos Rico Ferrat, this afternoon in Houston, Texas where he was posted to the Mexican consulate and engaged in a research project on the Mexico-U.S. border.

From the very beginning of his professional career, Ambassador Carlos Rico was involved with the Foreign Ministry. He was Undersecretary for North America from December 2006 to September 2009, prior to which he was the Mexican ambassador to Israel. Other postings included Consul in Boston; Minister for Political Affairs in the embassy in Washington; Director General for Latin America and the Caribbean and for North America; and Chief Advisor to the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs.

In addition, Ambassador Rico had a well-respected academic career principally focused on North American affairs.

President Calderón Sends Condolences over Death of Ambassador Carlos Rico Ferrat

Monday, January 4, 2010 | Office of the Presidency

The Foreign Ministry would like to pay well-deserved homage to Ambassador Carlos Rico for his work, commitment, professionalism and great humanity. Mexican President Felipe Calderón and his wife Margarita Zavala expressed their condolences over the death of Ambassador Carlos Rico Ferrat who held several key diplomatic posts such as Under-Secretary for North America.



The Calderón Zavala family sent their condolences to his wife, Maricruz and his daughters, Deni and Ana.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HOLDS THE 21ST MEETING OF MEXICAN AMBASSADORS AND CONSULS

Wednesday, January 6, 2010 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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Mexico City.- The Foreign Ministry reports that the 21st meeting of ambassadors and consuls of Mexico will take place on January 7-8. Again this year, the heads of more than 90 Mexican diplomatic offices abroad will meet with cabinet members, governors, legislators, scholars and Foreign Ministry officials to hear first-hand the information they need to facilitate their diplomatic work. The meeting will be inaugurated this Thursday by Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa Cantellano in the Foreign Ministry's José María Morelos auditorium. There will also be a meeting with President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa.

The issues to be discussed include Mexico's political and economic prospects, Mexico's migratory policy, the role of Mexico's representations in commemorating the bicentennial of independence and the centennial of the Revolution, public safety and the legislative agenda for 2010.

There will also be tables to discuss and analyze Mexico's relations with the various regions of the world, especially North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Mexico's role in building the new international architecture and its priorities regarding economic promotion abroad.

Presentation of OECD Study on Budgetary Process in Mexico

Thursday, January 7, 2010 | Office of the Presidency



- *Over 60% of government offices' expenditure has been assigned to programs with performance indicators*

During the past decade, Mexico underwent a significant economic and political reform. During this period, major improvements in the health of public finances were registered, leaving Mexico in a better position to cope with the current global economic crisis, according to a study by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Mexico's budgetary process.

Since 2006, the Mexican government has advanced through the approval of a series of laws and reforms aimed at coping with structural challenges, improving fiscal responsibility and transparency and creating a more efficient, transparent budgetary process and framework in line with international practices.

The report comments on the recent reforms in Mexico and the current systems for formulating the budget, the function of Congress, the implementation of the budget and financial management as well as the accountability of results (results-based budget). It also contains proposals for future reforms.

The study was carried out as part of the program of activities of the Working Group of Executive Budget Officers (FPE). The aim of this peer analysis by the OECD is to provide an integral budgetary process program in the country being analyzed and to evaluate national experiences in light of best international practices and offer specific policy recommendations.

The studies encourage the dissemination of experiences among countries and the formulation and dissemination of policy recommendations.

The report is divided into five chapters. Chapter 1 comments on fiscal performance and the challenges to be faced. Chapter 2 focusses on the process of drafting the budget. Chapter 3 analyzes the role of Congress in the budgetary process. Chapter 4 studies the process of implementing the budget while Chapter 5 reviews the setting up of budgets on the basis of performance and administrative reforms.

Gold Production Champion



A report published by Stockhouse, a Canadian financial advisory assistance firm, maintains that Mexico is quickly on the way to become a gold producing power, having multiplied extraction of this mineral in recent years.

According to the firm, among all the gold producing countries only Mexico has experienced impressive growth year after year over the past decade. Since 1998, the country has almost doubled gold extraction to reach a total of 45,075 kilograms in 2008.

Mining companies throughout the world seem to be aware of this and seek to increase their share of the metal extraction in Mexico. The Canadian Goldcorp, for example, will buy the smaller Canplats Resources Corp. gold mining company for around 227 million usd, to expand its assets base around its Peñasquito project in Mexico. The acquisition will give Goldcorp ownership of Canplats' Camino Rojo Project.