Newsletter

A vision of Latin America and the Caribbean countries

13 february 2024

Weekly Newsletter covering Latin America and the Caribbean issues. A Project between Green Zone Foundation and Telesur.

TeleSUR and GZF Launch Newsletter in Compliance with Agreements

Green Zone Foundation is a private non-profit institution established in May 2021 in Doha (Qatar) with the mission to build bridges of communication between the Arab world and the global community.

On February 13, the Latin American communication multiplatform teleSUR and the private, non-profit Green Zone Foundation (GZF) launched a newsletter as part of previously reached agreements.

The newsletter will contain four articles prepared by GZF for distribution in Arabic by teleSUR to Arab countries and organizations in Latin America.

It will address the social life of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, with emphasis on cultural, academic, scientific and economic issues.

This is in compliance with the Framework Agreement that the Latin American television multinational signed with GZF in December last year in Havana.

At that time, the founder and president of GZF, Mr. Darwish S. Ahmed Alshebani, paid an official visit to Cuba as part of the launching of one of its most promising projects: the "Bridge of Arabic and Spanish Languages" campaign.

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The main objective of the campaign is to deploy a network of cultural institutions to promote linguistic exchange and cultural communication between the Latin American and Caribbean region and the Arab world.

It also aims to counteract erroneous intercultural stereotypes and convey a positive image that promotes understanding and respect among nations.

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Mexico: Mayan Train Begins Operations

Its route covers the states of Tabasco, Chiapas, Campeche, Yucatan, and Quintana Roo.

The Maya Train, an emblematic project of the current Mexican government aimed at driving economic development in the southeastern region of the country, begins its operations on Friday with a journey between Campeche and Cancun, covering segments 2, 3, and 4 of the seven that will comprise its total 1,554 kilometers.



After five years of construction, the project becomes a reality on December 15, despite criticisms from environmentalists highlighting the negative impact it would have on the jungle.

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The Maya Train covers the states of Tabasco, Chiapas, Campeche, Yucatan, and Quintana Roo, with around twenty stations and 14 smaller stops. The train ventures into the jungle, connecting the region known as the Riviera Maya.

Although initially planned with a financing scheme involving public-private mixed investment, the administration of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) decided to assume all its costs.

"We will not incur debt. These are public works. The train will not be owned by a foreign company. It is a public enterprise, belonging to the people," he said.

The Maya Train's estimated cost is US$28.5 billion, including anticipated expenses for 2024, as recently acknowledged by the Secretary of Finance.

The project was classified by the Mexican government as "of public interest and national security," especially because the Maya Train will promote tourism and create jobs in the southeast, "the most neglected region of the country," AMLO said in 2018.

The anticipated economic, communication, and infrastructure improvements resulting from its route make the Maya Train an alternative for the development of these regions, which are now connected to internationally recognized tourist hubs such as the Riviera Maya or Cancun.

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AMLO's plan includes the opening of two new archaeological zones in Quintana Roo, along with the construction of several museums, visitor centers, and six hotels in the area.

The project could create around one million new jobs and lift 1.1 million people out of poverty by the year 2030. The economic impact in the areas where the train passes through would be twice what was forecasted before the project, according to United Nations estimates.

"With a significant investment from the state, we are benefiting millions of people," said Oscar Lozano, the CEO of the Maya Train company.

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Brazil: Salvador de Bahía starts carnival with parade of carts.

The Carnival also known as the Carnival of Salvador is considered one of the most important in Brazil.

The Carnival of Bahia, in Brazil, began this Thursday with an official parade and parades decorated with floats in a festival that possesses the greatest influence of the Yoruba tradition, ethno-linguistic group of West Africa, that matches its characteristics with the traditions present in Brazil.

Carnival, also known as the Carnival of Salvador, is considered one of the most important in Brazil, as it is considered a festival of resistance.

The Carnival of Bahia is one of the celebrations that take place in conjunction with the Carnival of Rio, is held six days before Ash Wednesday and represents a revival of the Yoruba culture.

The origins of the Bahia Carnival are similar to the one celebrated in Rio de Janeiro, but unlike this one that takes place in the Sambadrome, it takes place outdoors, on the street and is free, which allows a more direct access and participation.

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The livelihood of the Carnival are the music groups, accompanied by the madmen who travel the city on trucks prepared with typical Yoruba costumes.

The festival is mainly held in the town of Ciudad Alta, located near Antonio Castro Alves Square, where music groups and electric trios accompany the festivities for three days and three nights in the streets.

The electric trios are the trucks named in 1950 by the musicians Dodô and Osmar, and they go through different routes through which people come together to enjoy the music.

Other Brazilian cities have also begun their carnivals, although they have different characteristics.



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First Renal Anemia Clinic Opened in Jamaica

The Authority's regional technical director, Vitillius Holder, explained that many patients with kidney failure were hospitalized, so the clinic was created to treat them without the need for hospitalization.

Jamaica already has its first clinic for kidney patients with low hemoglobin levels at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in Manchester.

The center, promoted by the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), is open every Wednesday and plans to serve around 179 people, to whom it will provide iron and blood transfusions, as well as erythropoietin injections to keep their blood levels in the normal range.

The Authority's regional technical director, Vitillius Holder, explained that many patients with kidney failure were being hospitalized, so the clinic was created to treat them without the need for hospitalization.

“Red blood cells contain hemoglobin, which carries oxygen around your body. Kidney disease also affects the way in which your body uses iron.

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If you have kidney disease, you may therefore need more iron to make the same amount of hemoglobin as people without kidney disease. We recognized many patients with renal impairment were being hospitalized, so we implemented the clinic as a tool to monitor and manage these patients. This helps to keep many patients out of the hospital," Holder said.

Michael Bent, the Authority's regional director, assured that programs will continue to be established to provide quality medical care.



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"As an authority, we continue to leverage our resources and develop programmes and initiatives to provide quality and effective healthcare to our clients. However, while we manage our patients in hospitals and clinics, I want to appeal to Jamaicans to take better care of their health in preventing or reducing the risks of non-communicable diseases which can result in conditions such as kidney failure, which is costly to treat. I want to also encourage persons who already have these complications to speak with our healthcare providers about managing these conditions so they do not get worse," Bent said.

At the same time, he called on Jamaicans to take better care of their health and reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases, such as kidney failure, which are difficult to treat.



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