



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EL SALVADOR, A REGIONAL POWER

Security, the fight against corruption, the boost to tourism, investments and the modernization of the State are turning El Salvador into a benchmark of development, stability and trust for the region and the world.

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Facts, Not Words

The approval of the Government speaks for itself and reflects tangible improvements in security, education, health, tourism and development.

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The Need for Continuity of a Transforming Government

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With unity, vision and hard work, we are building the El Salvador we dream of. A free, prosperous and developed country for future generations.



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NEWSLETTER

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Analysis, reflection and political debate aimed at strengthening democracy and national development.

El Salvador An Emerging Regional Power

Since **Nayib Bukele** assumed the presidency, El Salvador has experienced profound and disruptive transformations that are reshaping the country in virtually every dimension of national life. A series of structural reforms have been implemented, particularly those aimed at dismantling corruption entrenched throughout the State, long regarded as one

of the greatest obstacles to security and economic development.

State corruption is an administrative crime and the disease of a political system, spreading like a metastasis throughout public institutions. For decades, Salvadorans were led to believe that such practices were an inevitable component of democracy, where so-called "checks and balances" often became mechanisms for political bargaining through privileges, appointments, and patronage. That paradigm has changed, although not without resistance from opposition groups determined to block the reform process.

Successful political leadership requires both determination and strategic intelligence. President Bukele demonstrated both qualities by navigating the constant attacks launched by domestic opposition forces, international organizations, and foreign NGOs that demanded an end to the government's reforms, including the continuation of the Territorial Control Plan and the State of Exception.





Throughout these challenges, the President consistently stayed one step ahead of his critics, rendering many of their efforts ineffective. His administration introduced a different style of governance, sending a message to the world that public office should not be a means to accumulate wealth but rather an opportunity to serve the nation. As the saying goes, if different results are desired, it is impossible to continue doing the same things that have always been done.

Traditional politics had become comparable to entering a muddy swamp: regardless of how cautiously one proceeded, one inevitably emerged stained by corruption and political compromise. That political model no longer served the interests of the people but rather the pursuit of power at any cost. President Bukele has challenged that paradigm, offering what many perceive as lessons in governance, even under extraordinarily difficult and polarized circumstances.

This perception is reflected in numerous public opinion polls that consistently place him among the world's most popular political leaders. Even surveys conducted by media outlets critical of the government, including a recent poll published by *La Prensa Gráfica*, reported an approval rating of approximately **85 percent**. Security, tourism, education, and healthcare remain the areas most highly valued by the population, reinforcing the image of a leader whose administration is leaving a significant historical mark.

At its current pace, El Salvador has the potential to become a regional technological powerhouse. This prospect increasingly weakens the opposition's negative narrative, as visible public works and institutional reforms continue to gain public support. Today, many observers regard El Salvador as a model that other countries in the region are closely watching, while political actors from both the left and the right across Latin America carefully analyze the country's transformation.

Many Salvadorans describe this period as a "golden era," one in which the nation has become an international point of reference through disruptive leadership and an alternative way of governing. As demonstrated during the presidential address of June 1, tangible achievements often become more persuasive than political rhetoric. Public support for President Bukele has led many citizens to express slogans such as "Bukele forever." At the same time, many argue that continued governability through the Legislative Assembly remains essential to sustain the reform agenda and preserve political stability.

Significant progress has also been made in technological development. The government's ambition is to position El Salvador as a regional technology hub for Latin America while simultaneously modernizing strategic sectors such as healthcare.



A notable example is the recently inaugurated **Rosales National Hospital**, a state-of-the-art medical facility where advanced medical services are complemented by cutting-edge technology, robotics, and artificial intelligence. Equipped with world-class infrastructure, the hospital also serves as a teaching institution for medical research and specialized professional training, aiming to provide efficient and timely healthcare services to the population.

Likewise, the country's educational transformation continues through targeted reforms such as the **"My New School"** initiative, the expansion of digital devices and technological resources for students, improved internet connectivity in rural areas, and teacher training programs focused on innovative educational technologies, including artificial intelligence.

Together, these initiatives represent significant milestones in El Salvador's ongoing process of institutional modernization and social transformation, reinforcing the perception that the country is steadily positioning itself as an emerging regional power.

The Necessary Continuity of a Government Transforming the Nation





If we begin from the premise that **sociocultural identity** is the set of values, traditions, paradigms, and beliefs that define and inspire a society, it follows that reinventing a country requires reinventing that identity through the development of a democratic political culture grounded in social motivation.

Sociocultural identity—as an expression of the pride citizens feel for their nation—is also a strategic driver of social development. It fosters solidarity, strengthens the sense of collective belonging, and, above all, reinforces civic dignity. Such dignity is reflected in citizens having access to the highest standards that society can provide, under the principle that **"public services should be equal to or better than private ones."** Only then can the concept of citizenship become truly inclusive rather than merely symbolic. Access to quality public services also reaffirms the historical nature of social needs, recognizing that they evolve continuously as societies progress and citizens aspire to higher standards of living.

Because sociocultural identity is deeply structural, it cannot be transformed overnight. For this reason, continuity in government becomes essential when that government seeks to promote, strengthen, and redefine national identity in accordance with a society undergoing profound transition. Such continuity is particularly significant when remnants of the old social order resist change, often relying on political rhetoric and ideological actors who seek to revive the conflicts and instability of the past.

The Salvadoran people, having begun to experience what it means to live with dignity and public security, have embraced the collective mission of building a sociocultural identity consistent with the developed nation they aspire to become. Throughout this process, many have come to recognize that genuine progress emerges from the daily participation of communities that see themselves not as distant observers but as active protagonists in national development.

At the same time, there is growing recognition of the importance of institutional coordination between the Executive and Legislative branches in order to ensure political stability and advance public policies without unnecessary obstruction or political bargaining. Such cooperation provides the foundation for implementing short-, medium-, and long-term social initiatives that give coherence to a national development strategy aimed at achieving modernization while preserving the country's historical and cultural identity.

A strong sociocultural identity—such as the one many believe is currently taking shape under the leadership of President Nayib Bukele—is capable of withstanding crises, natural disasters, and political challenges. It is an identity that evolves through adaptation, strengthens its cultural resilience, and understands that effective coordination among the institutions of the State is fundamental for achieving long-term national development and social cohesion.



Public Infrastructure, Progress, and Security: When the Money Is Enough



The restoration of public security in El Salvador has not only brought life back to the streets, tourism, and everyday economic activity; it has also opened a historic window of opportunity to transform the country's infrastructure. As we have previously argued, **"the dramatic reduction in violence is not an isolated statistic; it is the condition that enables investment, tourism, and the normalization of economic life."** Today, it can also be affirmed that this same condition has made it possible to plan, finance, and execute large-scale public works in education, healthcare, highways, ports, and airports. Wherever order prevails and the rule of law is respected, long-term expectations are restored, making it rational to invest in infrastructure designed to last for decades.

Within this new context, President Nayib Bukele's statement, **"There is enough money when nobody steals,"** is far more than a political slogan; it summarizes a very concrete fiscal and political principle. For decades, corruption drained resources that should have been invested in quality schools, modern hospitals, safe highways, and competitive ports. The determined fight against corruption, combined with tighter control over unnecessary spending and the dismantling of clientelist networks, has released resources that were already part of the national budget but never reached their intended destination. In other words, the challenge is not simply to obtain more money, but to ensure that public funds are no longer lost along the way.



Public security and the fight against corruption therefore form an inseparable partnership in explaining the country's new wave of public infrastructure development. A nation where violence has been dramatically reduced and corruption is rigorously prosecuted generates three simultaneous effects. First, the cost of construction decreases through lower extortion, fewer losses, and fewer delays caused by insecurity. Second, confidence among serious suppliers and contractors increases, encouraging greater participation in transparent public tenders. Third, the use of public resources gains legitimacy in the eyes of citizens because people can finally see **where public money is actually being invested.**

In education, this logic is reflected in the construction and modernization of schools that are no longer viewed as government expenditures but as strategic investments. In a secure environment, schools can operate full-time, students can travel without fear, and teachers can focus on educating rather than simply surviving. Modern educational infrastructure—equipped with technology, dignified facilities, and guaranteed basic services—is possible precisely because public funds are no longer diverted through corruption and because improved security allows projects to be completed without the additional costs generated by violence.

The same equation applies to healthcare. National hospitals, health units, and specialized medical centers require not only doctors and medicine, but also well-designed buildings, advanced equipment, and continuous maintenance. When the President states that **"there is enough money when nobody steals,"** he is emphasizing that every dollar no longer lost to illegal commissions can instead become a hospital bed, an operating room, an ambulance, or a diagnostic device. Citizens perceive these improvements immediately through shorter waiting times, better facilities, and greater healthcare capacity. That perception, in turn, strengthens the legitimacy of a political project that prioritizes public investment over corruption.

Regarding highways, bridges, and transportation connectivity, the relationship between security, infrastructure, and anti-corruption policies becomes even more evident. In the past, building a highway often required negotiating with criminal organizations, paying extortion fees, and accepting the risk of theft of materials and equipment. Today, in a country where public order has largely been restored, companies can operate with greater predictability while the State can demand higher construction standards. The result is infrastructure completed more efficiently, delivered faster, and with a lower likelihood of unjustified cost overruns. Road infrastructure thus becomes a multiplier of economic growth by reducing transportation times, lowering logistics costs, and connecting territories that were once isolated by fear.

Ports and airports, meanwhile, represent the international face of this transformation. A modern port or an efficient airport is far more than a physical structure; it is a strategic hub for trade, tourism, and investment. For a country to be perceived as a reliable logistics hub or tourism destination, it requires two essential elements: security and clear rules.



Security guarantees that cargo, passengers, and airlines can operate without threats, while anti-corruption policies ensure that fees, permits, and administrative processes are not captured by criminal networks or private interests. In this sense, the construction and expansion of ports and airports in El Salvador represent the physical expression of a much deeper institutional transformation.

All of these developments take place within the framework of an idea that is redefining the relationship between citizens and the State: **"Public services should be equal to or better than private ones."** This principle represents a break from the long-standing belief that public institutions are synonymous with neglect, poor quality, and corruption. If public services can indeed be equal to or better than private alternatives, then a public school can compete with a private institution, and a public hospital can provide first-class medical care. However, achieving that goal requires two essential preconditions: public security and honesty in the management of public resources.

In summary, the construction of new infrastructure in El Salvador cannot be understood without considering the country's new climate of public security and its determined fight against corruption. Security creates the environment necessary for planning and execution; anti-corruption efforts ensure that public funds reach their intended projects; and the vision that **"public services should be equal to or better than private ones"** establishes the quality standard that citizens now expect.

Therefore, when it is said that **"there is enough money when nobody steals,"** the phrase ultimately describes the virtuous cycle that connects security, integrity, and infrastructure: less violence and less corruption translate into more schools, more hospitals, better highways, improved ports and airports, and a State that is finally beginning to resemble the one its people have always dreamed of—and rightfully deserve.

El Salvador: A Regional Benchmark for Investment Attraction

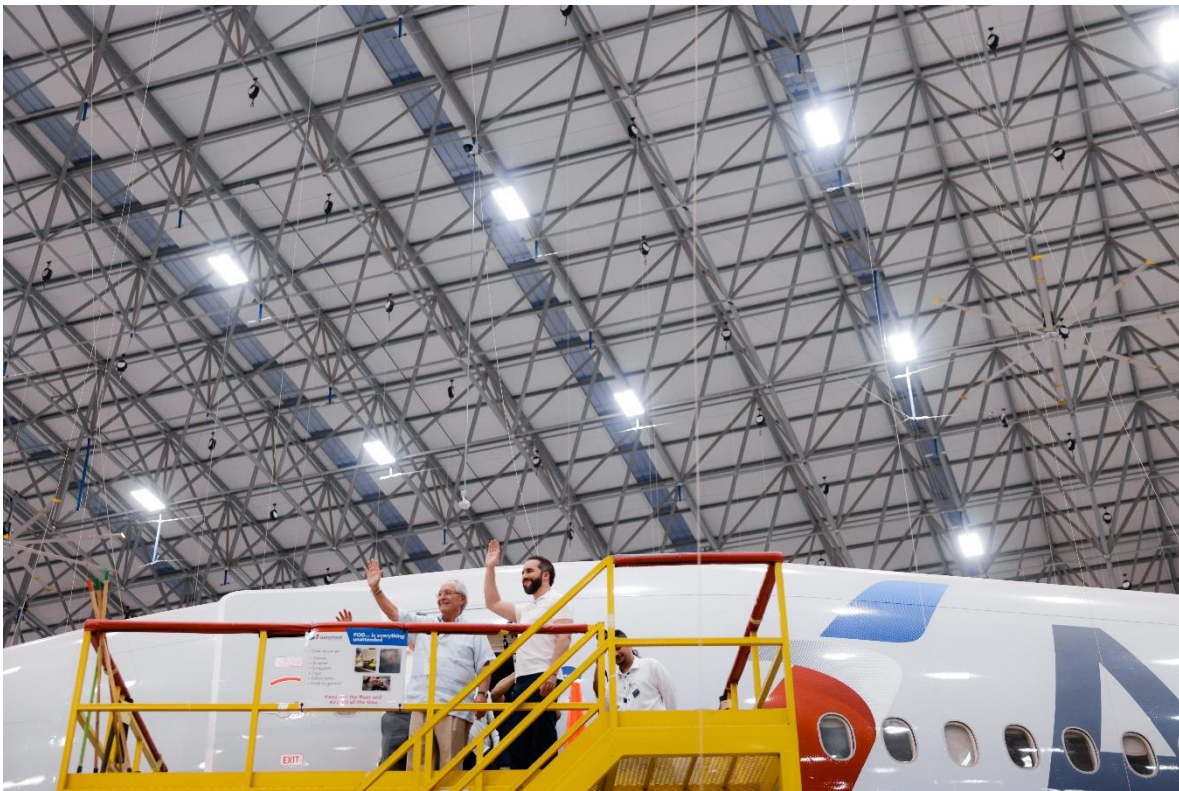
Historically, El Salvador has been recognized for its limited economic growth, widespread poverty, and high levels of violence. However, since **Nayib Bukele** assumed the Presidency of the Republic in 2019, the country has undergone what many describe as a **180-degree transformation**. This change has been driven largely by the government's public security strategy known as the **Territorial Control Plan**, which was presented as a comprehensive response to a security crisis that previous administrations, led by the **ARENA** and **FMLN** political parties, had failed to resolve.

For three decades, **ARENA** and the **FMLN** governed El Salvador. During those years, allegations emerged regarding clandestine negotiations with criminal organizations, some of which have since become the subject of judicial



investigations. According to these claims, such agreements formed part of broader political strategies linked to electoral interests.

In contrast, the policies implemented by President Bukele enabled his first administration (2019–2024) to significantly dismantle the country's gang structures. As the President himself stated, "**We arrested thousands in order to free millions,**" emphasizing that restoring public security also meant restoring the freedom of movement that law-abiding citizens had lost for many years.



Looking ahead, El Salvador's principal challenge is to continue following a development path capable of attracting both domestic and foreign investment. According to data from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, the country's economy grew by **4.1 percent in 2025**, reflecting a combination of unprecedented international reserve accumulation, a booming tourism sector, record remittance inflows, and increasing investment driven by improved public security, institutional stability, and economic modernization.

These conditions have positioned El Salvador as an increasingly attractive destination for **large, medium-sized, and small-scale investments**. Foreign companies are arriving primarily because of these favorable structural factors, viewing the country as a stable environment for long-term business opportunities.



Among the most visible examples is the real estate sector, where companies such as **11DESARROLLOS** have launched new investment projects in the western region of the country. Their business model seeks to contribute to addressing El Salvador's housing shortage, currently estimated at approximately **400,000 missing housing units**, while simultaneously promoting urban development and private investment in one of the country's fastest-growing economic sectors.

As public security, macroeconomic stability, and institutional modernization continue to strengthen, El Salvador increasingly projects itself as a competitive destination for regional investment, reinforcing its image as an emerging economic hub in Central America.

Like cats and dogs

Lacking real opportunities on the ground —which they themselves have managed to lose through their own actions—, the opposition parties find themselves today in a constant cat-and-dog fight. Submerged in fierce internal struggles, they prove incapable of building serious proposals and end up cannibalizing each other over the few remaining pockets of power they have left.



Examples abound and are clearly visible to the public. We have witnessed the disciplinary proceedings opened by the FMLN's Ethics Tribunal against councilman Cayetano Cruz, as well as the leadership disputes between Ondina Ramos and Alejandro Nóchez within the ranks of ARENA. These cases are not isolated events; they are merely a small sample of the internal fracture that is eating away at both political institutions.

It is ironic that two parties lacking even the capacity to coordinate internally continue trying to sell the population the old rhetoric that they are the solution to the nation's major problems. The question arises from pure common sense: how could these structures address the needs of an entire country if they cannot even resolve their own domestic conflicts? For any Salvadoran, the answer is more than obvious. It is impossible for figures trapped in revanchism and internal division to have anything positive to offer to the future of our society.



The current reality of El Salvador demands political maturity, vision, and, above all, unity in the national development project. Therefore, it is up to the active citizenry to ensure that in the upcoming electoral processes, these actors are left in the place where they legitimately belong: relegated to a corner of history, trapped in their sterile fights.

It is time to leave them to their own noise so they do not obstruct the path. Only by setting aside the old politics will we, the good Salvadorans, be able to continue driving the comprehensive transformation of our country with a firm step, moving toward a future free from interventions that, to this day, have contributed absolutely nothing to the well-being of the homeland.

Obstructionist trash

When the heavy rains worsen in our country, the images repeat themselves time and time again: streets turned into rivers, trapped vehicles, damaged homes, and substantial material losses. In the face of these situations, it is common for fingers to be pointed at the local municipalities or the current government, demanding immediate responses to the floods affecting many communities.



However, although public institutions have the responsibility to carry out cleaning, maintenance, and prevention work, there is a factor that cannot be ignored: the behavior of the citizens. A large part of the drainage problems our cities face stems from the accumulation of trash in storm drains, gutters, and rainwater evacuation systems. Every bag, bottle, or piece of waste irresponsibly thrown into the street ends up contributing to a situation that, sooner or later, affects the



entire community. This is a habit that has persisted for decades and continues to generate negative consequences for society. No drainage system, no matter how modern or efficient, can function properly if it is used as a garbage dump.

Therefore, beyond looking for someone to blame when an emergency occurs, it is necessary to make a collective commitment. Education, civic awareness, and small daily actions have a much greater impact than we usually imagine. Before pointing fingers at others, we must ask ourselves what each of us is doing to prevent these problems. Building cleaner and safer cities does not depend solely on the authorities. It is a shared task that requires responsibility, discipline, and commitment from everyone.

The “perfect” political opposition

According to Desiderius Erasmus, 'The less talent they possess, the more pride, vanity, and arrogance they have. However, those fools always find other fools to applaud them.' They are a minuscule group of reactionaries who pointlessly oppose the refounding of the State, dedicating themselves to insults and discreditation due to their lack of technical and intellectual arguments.

The refounding and its various stages have backed them into a corner, and the Salvadoran people—through their colossal backing of the project—have completely rendered them invisible, leaving them isolated and debunked in every single narrative they have tried to set up.

The power of example is an effective tool for us to collectively move forward as a country, and the various sectors are strengthening the connection with the Salvadoran people, who cry out in unison to continue on the established path toward the country we long for. With God's help, the vision of President Nayib Bukele, governability from within the legislature, and the backing of the population, it will undoubtedly be possible. Our children and our children's children will inherit this legacy and a country that is free, equitable, and developed.





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