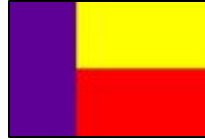


***“Political Trends and the Ability of the  
Panamanian Institutions to Adapt”***  
*(September 14, 2012)*

**By Juan Carlos Varela**  
***Vice President of Panama***

# Panama's Government Coalition of 1989



**Partido  
Panameñista**



**Partido  
MOLIRENA**



**President  
Guillermo Endara**

**Vice President  
Guillermo Ford**

**Vice President  
Ricardo Arias Calderón**



**Partido  
Demócrata Cristiano**

## ***Panama's 23 year old democracy***

*“Since Panama's re-democratization in 1989, we have held free elections and despite of domestic political differences and the lack of transparency, the country remains determined to be a peace loving nation with a strong democratic tradition”.*



President  
Ernesto Pérez Balladares  
1994-99



President  
Mireya Moscoso  
1999-2004



President  
Martín Torrijos  
2004-2009

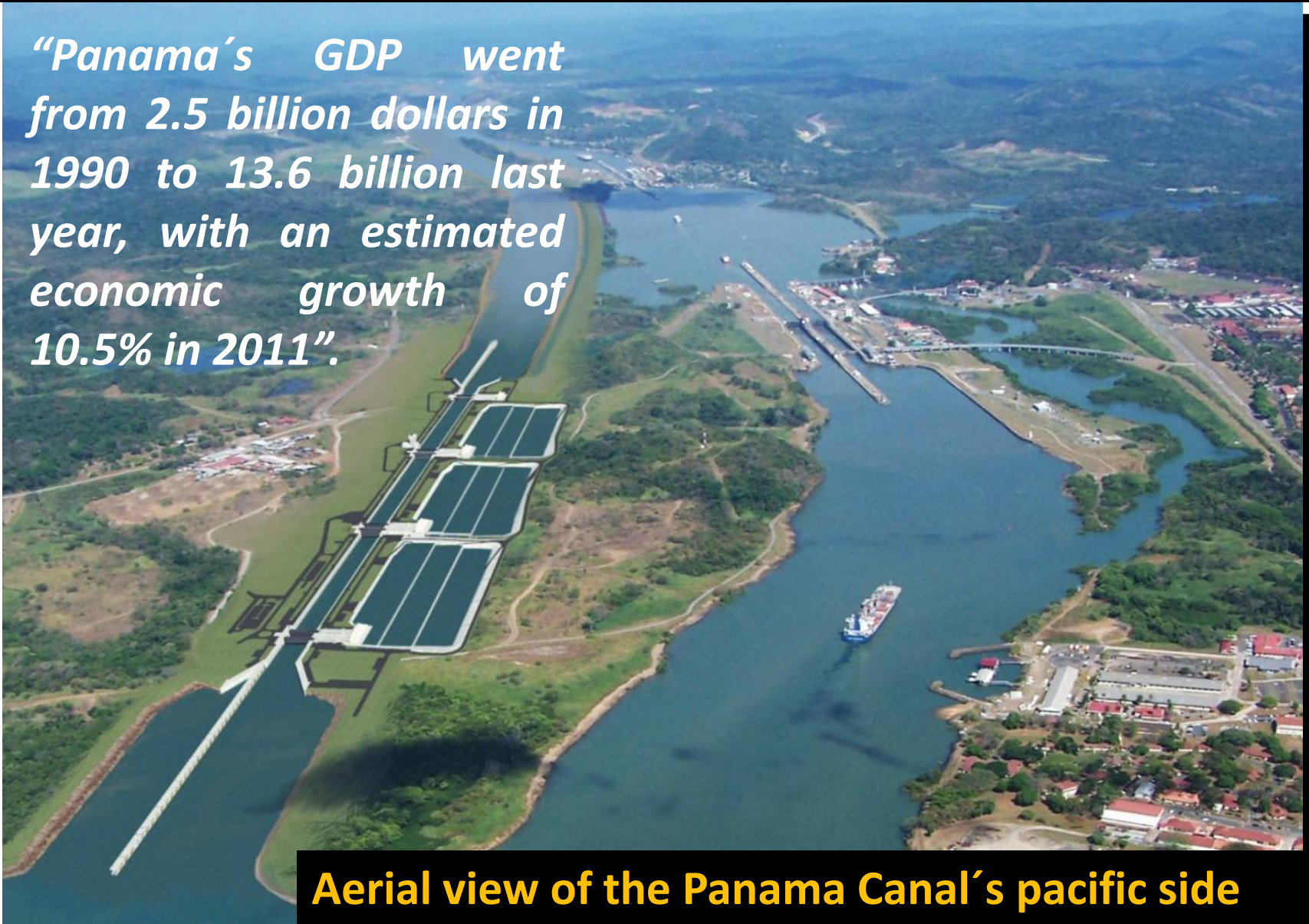


President  
Ricardo Martinelli  
2009 - Present



***“Panama seems one of the strongest and most dynamic economies of the world from a macro-economic stand point of view”***

***“Panama’s GDP went from 2.5 billion dollars in 1990 to 13.6 billion last year, with an estimated economic growth of 10.5% in 2011”.***



**Aerial view of the Panama Canal's Pacific side**



# ***“Panama’s biggest challenge remains to be poverty and social inequality”***



*“Approximately 30% of the Panamanians live in poverty, 12% of the population lives in extreme poverty and we are the second country with the most unequal distribution of income in the Americas, according to the UN Human Development Index”.*



***“While being part of the government coalition, we worked to establish a social agenda to tackle the roots of poverty”***



***Inauguration day on July 1, 2009***



***“Curundú” Housing Project***

**Más de 80,000**  
panameños beneficiados con el programa  
**100 a los 70**

***“En mi gobierno, todos los panameños y panameñas mayores de 70 años que no tienen jubilación, recibirán 100 balboas al mes para cubrir sus necesidades básicas”***

*Juan Carlos Varela  
Campaña 2009*



***Esto fue sólo  
el comienzo...***

***100 at 70 Program***

**“We redefined Panama’s foreign policy to serve the country’s needs in areas such as: human rights, security, trade and regional integration...”**



***Strengthening US – Panama relations***



***Creating Security Cooperation Mechanisms***



***Promoting economic regional integration in Mesoamerica and Central America***





***"The mistaken priorities of the Martinelli Administration, the emerging corruption scandals and the use of state resources for political gain, made our government coalition to fall apart"***





***“Last June a Front for Democracy was born in response to the President’s attempts of gaining control of the judiciary and the selling of State assets”***

***Call for the creation of the Front***



***Mobilization of the Front at the premises of the National Assembly***





***“The Front for Democracy’s mobilizations forced the Government to repeal both bills on June 19, 2012”***





***“The Panamanian people will continue to defend our democracy against any threat imposed by any government”***

***July 12 March for freedom of expression***



***Electoral Tribunal calls for new election in Bebedero after declaring that the CD party candidate bought the elections***



***Electoral Tribunal suspended the government's dirty campaign of political attack TV ads on July 19, 2012.***



***“The will of the people will prevail and Panamanians will continue to defend democracy against the threats imposed by any government”***

***Legislative sessions were suspended 2 days in a row over the protests at the Assembly***



***The protests against the electoral reforms went on throughout the country.***



***CD Legislators decided to hold the hearings on the electoral reforms bill closed-door***



***Assembly remained guarded by anti-riot control squads to keep protesters outside***



**“Poverty may lead to increasing levels of social unrest, crime and violence that can affect good governance and undermine democracy.”**



*“Approximately 30% of the Panamanians live in poverty, 12% of the population lives in extreme poverty and we are the second country with the most unequal distribution of income in the Americas, according to the UN Human Development Index”.*



***“We do not believe in the absolute lack of transparency and government accountability over public funds”***



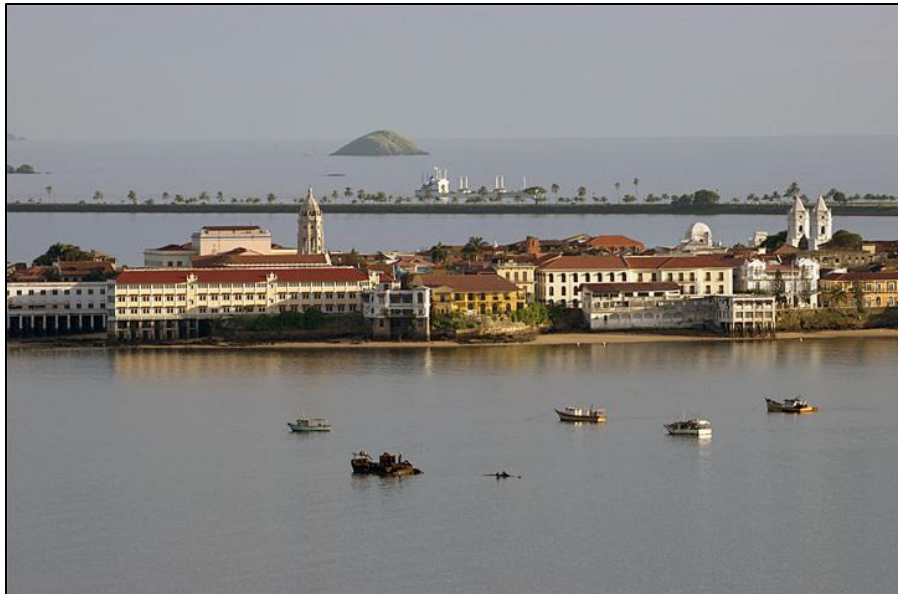


***“I strongly believe, in the power of dialogue as the best mechanism to solve our differences and seek consensus.*”**





***“We will accomplish our mission towards our people,  
the region, and the world”***





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