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Venezuela: Politicians Concerned About Increasing Incidence Of Poverty

by John Neagle
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According to an Oct. 3 broadcast by Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA, Venezuelan politicians are concerned about increasing poverty. Senate vice president Pompeyo Marquez, and leader of the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), said national income distribution is "discouraging." His comment was based on official statistics demonstrating that the incomes of 38% of all Venezuelan families are below subsistence levels, while another 19% earn incomes barely adequate to provide subsistence food requirements. Marquez also pointed out that 57% of all Venezuelans do not own their own homes. He added that over 1.2 million homes are described as in "poor condition." The MAS leader stated that the political will to launch economic recovery does not exist. Moreover, he said, the government has even refused to meet the demands by labor unions, most of which are led by ruling Democratic Action party members. Ruling party Deputy Antonio Rios, also a leader of the Venezuelan Workers Confederation, has informed his congressional colleagues of non-official statistics indicating greater hardship than the official versions. Rios said that 47% of the population lack resources to meet basic necessities, while one percent controls the economy, and lives in luxury.

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