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Costa Rica: More Austerity Measures

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Sept. 26, government officials announced an 11.4% increase in fuel prices. With the new hike, a liter of gasoline costs 45.3 colons (\$0.50), and diesel, 35.5 colons (\$0.36). Costa Rican gasoline prices are now the highest in Central America. Labor organizations have announced a series of protests to begin in October. Officials said operational expenses at the nation's refinery will be reduced by 5 to 10%, and electricity use by government offices and enterprises cut by 30%. Use of the government's fleet of vehicles is to be reduced by 10% during weekdays, and the entire fleet will be parked on weekends. Oil imports are to be cut by 15% in the last three months of the year. (Basic data from Notimex, 09/26/90)

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