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Deborah Tyroler

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Panama: Update On Privatization Process

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 16, the Comptroller General's office reported that the Venezuelan-Panamanian company Sabenpe had "provisionally" been awarded the concession for trash collection and waste treatment. Competitors for the concession included the Spanish firm FOCSA, the US-based Eco Inc., Argentine firms Limpa S.A. and Karolco, and the Colombian Koleco Corp. According to a report by the Comptroller General, in the past 20 months, only two hotels and Air Panama have been transferred to the private sector. The government plans to privatize its cement plant, race track, casinos, convention center, port facilities, railway service, and a sugar refinery in 1992 after the congress approves framework legislation on privatization procedures. (Basic data from Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 03/13/92; Agence France-Press, 03/16/92)

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