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Honduras: Contradictory Government Announcements On Transport Fare Hike

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 18, Transportation Minister Eduardo Pavon announced that effective April 1, public transport fares would be increased by nearly 60%. In addition, subsidies to bus owners, he said, are to be reduced by 50%. Average urban transport fares are to increase from the equivalent of US\$0.0463 to US\$0.074. According to Ricardo Simon, president of transport workers union, fares for inter-city passenger and cargo transport will also be raised. On the following day, President Rafael Callejas told reporters that the fares will not be increased, and subsidies totaling about US \$12 million per year would be continued. Simon said before the end of the month, the government and unions will reach a compromise on transport prices. The union leader stated that real costs are higher than the sum of fares and subsidies. Consequently, higher fares or subsidies are mandatory. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, 03/18/92, 03/19/92; Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 03/19/92)

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