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PR Newswire

Honduran Employment Zones Draw Interest From International Businesses

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Republic of Honduras →
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TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Oct. 26, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- This week, Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández met with foreign and domestic business leaders to outline his administration's plan for Zones for Employment and Economic Development, or ZEDEs.

Eight international businesses -- Energy Transfer, Port Royal, Lacthosa, Emco Group, Lamericom, Dong Ju, Rapton Mining, and Wonder Foods -- have submitted letters expressing their interest in the ZEDE initiative.



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"ZEDEs are an excellent business opportunity for global businesses," President Hernández said. "The initiative is a win-win -- it will generate returns for investors and create countless jobs for Hondurans."

ZEDEs will be designated areas in Honduras that adopt their own regulations for employment, business, and trade. Sanctioned by legislation passed in 2013, they aim to create jobs, attract investors, and stem migration by creating economic opportunity within Honduras. Each ZEDE will elect a Technical Secretary, approved by the president, to make sure local regulations comply with national laws.

In the coming months, the Hernández administration will auction off opportunities for businesses to invest in these new employment zones. The first ZEDE will be established in El Amatillo, in western Honduras.

During his meetings this week, President Hernández highlighted Honduras's attractiveness to international investors. Both Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's upgraded Honduras's credit rating this year. The Honduran central bank projects that the Honduran economy could grow up to 4.1 percent in 2017.

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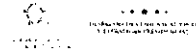
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Honduran President Meets With Head of EU Mission Prior to November Election



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15:23 ET

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Oct. 27, 2017 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- This week, Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández met with Marisa Matías -- head of the European Union's electoral observation mission to Honduras, member of the European Parliament, and former Portuguese presidential candidate -- to discuss Honduras's national election, which will take place on November 26.

The meeting covered campaign finance laws and election transparency. Other meeting attendees included EU Ambassador to Honduras Alessandro Palmero, Honduran Foreign Minister María Dolores Agüero, and Honduran General Secretary of Government Coordination Jorge Ramón Hernández Alcerro.

The European Union has announced that it is sending both long-term and short-term election monitors to oversee the election. The 22 long-term election monitors who arrived earlier this month will stay in Honduras until the results have been certified. They will be joined by 40 short-term monitors shortly before the election. In total, 100 EU officials will oversee the Honduran election.

In addition to the EU observers, representatives of the Organization of American States and several former Europeans and Latin American heads of state -- including former presidents of Spain, Mexico, Chile, Bolivia and Costa Rica -- will monitor the election.

According to the head of the Honduran Supreme Electoral Tribunal David Matamoros, the EU, OAS, and all political parties with candidates in the election will have immediate access to images of election results via a secure server.

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