

President Luis Abinader of the Dominican Republic Highlights of 2026 State of the Nation Address February 27, 2026

National Development Vision – *Meta RD 2036*

President Abinader reaffirmed his goal of doubling the real size of the economy within one generation, linking growth directly to formal employment, higher wages, poverty reduction, and stronger public services.



"Meta RD 2036 is not a slogan. It is a roadmap based on productivity, innovation, human capital, and a more efficient state."

Macroeconomic Performance and International Recognition

- 2025 GDP Growth: 2.1%; January 2026 growth accelerated to 3.5%, with 4.5% projected for 2026.
- Harvard Growth Lab projects average annual growth near 3.8% (2024–2034), placing the Dominican Republic among the 20 most dynamic global economies.
- Exports reached nearly US\$16 billion in 2025, up 14.4% year-over-year and 42.3% compared to 2019.
- Foreign Direct Investment exceeded US\$5 billion for the first time.

"Our economy is not only growing; it is strengthening its productive structure, diversifying exports, and building capabilities for the future."

Fiscal Management and Creditworthiness

- Consolidated public debt reduced to 58.5% of GDP (down from 69.1% in 2020).
- Fiscal deficit held to 3.45%, in line with budget targets.
- Tax revenues reached 15.6% of GDP.
- Moody's upgraded the country one notch; Fitch and S&P reaffirmed ratings.
- IMF confirmed debt sustainability and macroeconomic stability.

"This evolution contrasts with global post-crisis trends and reaffirms our commitment to sustainability and prudent management."

This material was compiled and distributed by Vision Americas LLC on behalf of the Dominican government. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Fight Against Corruption

***“Let me be absolutely clear: the struggle against corruption is not just another declaration by this government; it is its backbone, its immovable moral compass.... There are no excuses. No one is above the law. And when evidence has emerged—even in institutions as sensitive as SeNaSa—the response has been only one: send it to the Public Prosecutor's Office to investigate, act, and apply the consequences. No interference. No pressure. No cover-ups.*”**

Citizen Security and Policing

- Comprehensive citizen security strategy combines police reform, data-driven intelligence, territorial control, and community participation.
- A new patrol model expanded preventive presence in Santo Domingo and Santiago; 9,503 new better-trained officers, including a record number of women.
- Homicides fell to 8.15 per 100,000, the lowest on record.
- Authorities dismantled 152 criminal networks, seizing record quantities of drugs, weapons, vessels, vehicles, and cash.
- New police stations, prison projects, and strengthened interagency coordination reinforced institutional capacity, transparency, public trust, and accountability.

“Citizen security and social reintegration also begin with dignified, planned and humane infrastructure, which allow the system to fulfill its function within a framework of institutional order and responsibility.”

Employment, Formalization, and Wage Growth

- 133,915 new jobs created in 2025.
- Historic low unemployment rate of 5.0% and “informality” reduced to 54.2%.
- 53% of new formal jobs filled by women.
- 20% increase in minimum wage for the non-sectorized private sector; 30% increase for domestic workers; 25% in Free Zones; 30% in hotels and restaurants.

“For the first time, the minimum wage in large companies exceeds the cost of the basic consumption basket for the lowest income quintile.”

Social Protection and Social Mobility

Social Programs for Nutrition, Housing, and Electricity

- 1,490,649 families benefited through Aliméntate.
- 1,313,407 families received Bonogás Hogar.
- 557,000 families benefited from Bono Luz.
- 32,000 new property titles delivered in 2025; nearly 162,000 total titles delivered during this administration, impacting 650,000 citizens.

“When we deliver a property title, we do not deliver just a document. We deliver legal certainty, peace of mind, and a future.”

Poverty Reduction and Inclusion

- General poverty reduced from 19% to 17.3% (2024–2025).
- Extreme poverty reduced from 2.4% to 2.2%.
- Nearly 200,000 people exited poverty in one year.

"Behind every statistic is a family that now lives with greater stability and greater opportunity."

Strengthening Public Health

- 30 health facilities inaugurated; RD\$3.7 billion invested in medical equipment.
- Infant mortality reduced by 18.9%; neonatal mortality reduced by 15.3%.

"[T]he result of the technical, serious and transformative work that the Ministry of Public Health has been promoting, positioning our country as a regional benchmark and a respected voice on major global health issues."

Education and Human Capital Development

- 252 new school facilities inaugurated since 2021.
- Over 1 million students served by INFOTEP in 2025.
- Expansion of technical education.

"Education ... must be a permanent national priority."

"In 2025 we took a structural step by formally and explicitly integrating the teaching of values, civics, and citizen ethics into the national curriculum."

Tourism Sector – Record Growth and Strategic Expansion

- The Dominican Republic consolidated its position as the leading tourism destination in the Caribbean and second only to Mexico in Latin America.
- Tourist arrivals surpassed pre-pandemic levels, setting new historical records in 2025.
- Hotel investment continued to grow, including diversification into eco-tourism, luxury tourism, and frontier development zones such as Pedernales.
- Strengthened international air connectivity through new routes and expanded airport capacity.

"Our tourism sector is not only recovering—it is transforming. We have diversified markets, expanded infrastructure, and strengthened the Dominican Republic's global brand as a safe, competitive, and sustainable destination."

Agricultural Production and Exports – Food Security and Exports

- Agricultural production expanded, strengthening national food security and reducing dependence on imports.
- Increased output across key staples including rice, plantains, poultry, pork, and vegetables.
- Growth in agro-export sectors such as cocoa, coffee, tobacco, bananas, avocados, and fresh produce.
- Agro-exports contributed meaningfully to overall export growth, reinforcing rural employment and income generation.

"Strengthening our agricultural sector means guaranteeing food security, supporting rural families, and positioning Dominican products competitively in international markets."

Technology, Innovation, and Strategic Investment

- Agreements with NVIDIA and Google to establish AI training, data hubs, and a Digital Exchange Port.
- Over US\$500 million Google investment in digital infrastructure.

"We signed a historic agreement with U.S. company LOD Holdings for the development of a commercial spaceport in Oviedo, Pedernales — a pioneering infrastructure project that opens our nation to the global space economy."

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