

LOCAL NEWS

12 ex-Cortizo officials investigated over nearly \$10 million in unexplained wealth

When	No date given
Where	Panama (nationwide)
Source	prensa
Published	2026-10-08 00:05-05:00
Discovered	2026-10-08 02:00-05:00
Link	https://www.prensa.com/judiciales/12-exfuncionarios-del-gobierno-de-cortizo-y-casi-10-millones-bajo-investigacion-por-patrimonio-injustificado/

Summary

La Prensa reports that at least 12 senior officials from the Cortizo administration (2019-2024) face unexplained-enrichment cases totalling about \$9.7 million; one of the accused allegedly bought property in Chiriquí.

Details (summary of the article)

According to the newspaper La Prensa, nine high-ranking officials from the Laurentino Cortizo government now face criminal proceedings for alleged unjustified enrichment, while three more have had assets seized by the Comptroller General without yet being charged. Together the sums reach roughly \$7.7 million in criminal cases and \$9.7 million including the administrative ones. Former vice-president José Gabriel Carrizo tops the list with \$1.9 million he has not explained and is under house arrest; former Maritime Authority chief Noriel Araúz is in pre-trial detention over \$1.32 million and is said to own property in Panama City districts and in Chiriquí province. Others include ex-AIG head Luis Oliva (\$957,397), Comptroller's secretary general Zenia Vásquez (\$771,137), former tax director Publio De Gracia (\$724,682), ex-Pandeportes director Héctor Brands (\$649,292), former deputy tax director Maritza Ureña (\$428,000) and ex-Ifarhu head Bernardo Meneses (\$419,331). Assets have also been seized from former public works minister Rafael Sabonge, investment adviser José Alejandro Rojas Pardini and Cortizo's former private secretary Nadia Del Río. The most recent arrest was that of former Social Security (CSS) director Enrique Lau Cortés on 6 October at his apartment in the upscale Santa María area of Panama City, where investigators seized documents and property. Several of those investigated own high-value apartments in Santa María and Costa del Este.

Original (es)

12 exfuncionarios del gobierno de Cortizo y casi \$10 millones bajo investigación por patrimonio injustificado
Un día dirigieron instituciones del Estado. Hoy al menos 12 exfuncionarios de Cortizo enfrentan procesos por presunto enriquecimiento.