

Opinion: reconstruction should leave jobs in the interior

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Summary

A La Prensa opinion piece argues that post-earthquake reconstruction in Azuero must create local jobs and that municipalities need capacity and transparency to turn the announced funds into works.

Details (summary of the article)

In a La Prensa opinion column, a businessman and communicator argues that Panama's recovery from the 9 October earthquake must do more than rebuild houses: it must leave jobs and purchasing in the affected regions. He cites SINAPROC figures of 879 families who lost their homes entirely and Meduca's count of some 619 damaged schools as of 14 October. Funds announced are large - up to \$100 million from the Cabinet, up to \$300 million in contingent credit from the IDB and about \$50 million from CAF - but he doubts Azuero municipalities can turn money into projects, noting an Interministerial Commission report of 30 September that found municipalities near the Donoso mine lacked studies, plans and files. He adds that the mine's closure withdrew \$484.3 million from circulation in Coclé and Colón, with unemployment of 26%-50% in eight nearby communities. He urges reactivating Cobre Panamá for quick formal jobs, says Río Indio and Puerto Barú will help only in the longer term, and calls for quarterly, province-by-province public reporting on reconstruction and these projects.

Original (es)

Crece también hacia adentro

La reconstrucción debe dejar empleos y oportunidades en las comunidades afectadas, con municipios capaces de ejecutar obras e información transparente sobre los proyectos que impulsarán la economía regional.