

AMLO – Daily press conference coverage

December 18, 2018

- Today, the President addressed the following issues, among others: (1) Education, and planned protests from Universities due to proposed budget cuts; (2) yesterday's increase in minimum wages; and (3) expectations about the plan for fiscal incentives in the Northern Border;
- Talking again about the budget for fiscal year 2019, he affirmed that they are complying with the commitment of not increasing taxes in real terms and/or create new ones, while also not incurring in higher debt
- After one reporter said some universities were organizing public protests against budget cuts, the President said that education will have around MXN 500bn in resources, higher than this year. In this respect, he said protests are due to the implementation of the austerity plan in all branches of government, but he will meet with University Rectors to hear their concerns and reach an agreement
- All government activities will have the priority of attending the needs of the poorest people in the country, so life conditions in the poorest regions will improve
- The minimum wage will always increase above inflation, even if economic circumstances are very challenging. In particular, he said that this policy was implemented when he was Mexico City Governor, when wages were revised annually 2% above inflation
- According to the President, the plan for fiscal cuts in the Northern Border (reducing both income taxes and VAT) will be successful, as it will detonate higher investment and economic growth, which will allow businessmen to pay higher wages and income taxes, with the latter helping compensate for the original reduction
- He reaffirmed previous statements about his proposed solution for capacity constraints in Mexico City's Airport, including: (1) The commitment of providing a solution in a maximum timeframe of three years; (2) Availability of two airports and five tracks in the Metropolitan Area (three in Santa Lucia, and two of the current airport); and (3) net savings of MXN 100 billion relative to the NAICM in Texcoco
- He committed to the creation of a webpage in which citizens will be able to consult wages of all public servants, without clarifying if this would apply only to members of the Executive branch or also to the Legislative and Judiciary

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