

We have not only come to administer but also to transform Mexico: Enrique Peña Nieto

Mexico City, March 10, 2013.

After pointing out that during the first 100 days of the current administration, “It has become clear that the future of the country depends on the commitment and responsibility of all Mexicans,” President Enrique Peña Nieto said that “the intensity of this beginning is not temporary; it is the pace of work that this government will maintain. We have not only come to administer but also to transform Mexico.”

He stressed that the government has a clear vision and sense of the direction of the country it wants to build in the 21st century, and added: “We will continue moving institutions, public policies, programs and budgets to give real, positive results to citizens.”

The president declared said that, “Thanks to the responsibility and willingness of the main political parties, the Pact for Mexico was signed, whereby we established 95 commitments to the country.” He publicly acknowledged those that participated in it: The National Action, Democratic Revolution and Institutional Revolutionary parties. He added that, “The positive spirit that generated the Pact for Mexico is allowing us to promote the fundamental changes the country needs.”

President Peña Nieto, accompanied by his wife, Angélica Rivera de Peña, members of the Legal and Expanded Cabinet, and representatives of the legislative and judicial branches, said that society, “Is increasingly convinced that it is possible to transform Mexico and to build a bold, modern country, one that is prepared to compete and succeed in the world. We will work together, in harmony, with a proactive spirit, to project Mexico as a power that can and deserves to be.”

He noted that “Mexicans have the energy, ability, passion and talent to move Mexico towards the great future that awaits it.” If we want Mexico to grow, he said, “We must ensure that the ideas and productive projects of entrepreneurs grow.”

At the ceremony commemorating the first 100 days of Government, held in the Courtyard of Honor of the National Palace, President Peña Nieto recalled the five major national goals of his administration, and stated that, at the end of this symbolic period of time, the government’s actions, “Have been fully consistent with what I offered in my political-electoral campaign and endorsed when I was sworn in as president of Mexico.”

Every decision made, every action taken, he said, “Reflects the great goal we set ourselves from day one: transforming Mexico.”

He noted that on December 1, he promised to lead an effective government that would achieve concrete results for society. “I thereby assumed the challenge of transforming the country, in short, of moving Mexico,” he added.

He said he pledged to conduct a democratic presidency that will build consensus and agreement with the political forces in order to deal jointly with the challenges faced by our nation.

Listing the five main national goals, he said that in order to achieve peace in Mexico, among others actions, the National Program for the Social Prevention of Violence and Crime, was launched, which has a cross-cutting approach and a budget of over 118 billion pesos for this year.

He stated that in order to improve security conditions in the country, he instructed the Army, Air Force and the Armed Forces of Mexico as well as the Attorney General's Office and the Federal Police, to work together with a regional approach, making greater use of intelligence and safeguarding human rights.

“As I promised, the federal executive withdrew from the constitutional controversy over the General Law of Victims, and published this decision in the Official Gazette,” he said.

In order to achieve an inclusive Mexico, which will build a basic floor of social welfare, a new generation social policy, the Crusade against Hunger, was launched in order to reduce the extreme poverty and severe food shortages suffered by 04.07 million Mexicans.

The operating rules for the Life Insurance Program for Female Heads of Household were also published. With this initiative, he said, “Even if they die, their children will have a steady income that will allow them to complete their studies.”

Another important social advance, he continued, was the transformation of the “70 and Over” Program. The new “Pension for Senior Citizens” Program supports Mexicans from the age of 65. This change will expand the number of senior citizens with a basic pension from 3.1 to 5.6 million.

He mentioned that in order for more Mexicans to live in sustainable cities with decent homes, the new National Housing Policy was also presented, which will promote the orderly development of urban and rural areas.

The President's Office said that in order to achieve a Mexico with Quality Education for All, a bill for the constitutional reform of education was submitted to Congress, and thanks to the support of the Pact for Mexico and legislators, it was approved and passed.

As a result of this reform, he said, the Teacher Professional Service was created, raising it to constitutional status, together with the National Institute for Educational Assessment, planning of the system was strengthened and the autonomous management of schools was promoted. The Mexican government has also decided to give a renewed impetus to science and technology and innovation, he explained.

In order to build a prosperous Mexico, “We are determined to promote sustained, high economic growth, which will allow us to generate more and better jobs.”

That is why, he said, “One of my first presidential decisions was to have an Economic Package with a zero budget deficit for this year.”

He recalled that, among other actions, he decided to implement a strict austerity policy across Federal Public Administration to provide more resources for projects and activities that directly benefit the population. “Mexico will grow and do so in a sustainable fashion,” he said.

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The president said the new national tourism policy seeks to harness and trigger the development of existing destinations. “Mexico has everything it needs to become a power in this area,” he said.

He added that it has launched the National Forestry Plan and implemented the Inter-ministerial Commission on Climate Change. “This is one of the most important challenges of our country, in the medium and long term,” he said.

He said that in order to turn Mexico into an actor with global responsibility, “We are promoting more active, dynamic and participatory diplomacy on the international agenda.”

He stressed that on the anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, he conversed with the diplomatic corps in Mexico, and explained the axes of foreign policy: strengthen Mexico’s presence; expand international cooperation; promote the value of Mexico in the world, and protect Mexico’s interests abroad.