



The starring role of Invepal workers

The recovered enterprise was the first worker-run factory that led the way for a new national production model.

The route expands



The Las Tapas-Tagarigua distributor road was finished on May 2010. The road is part of the larger project "Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho Highway", which will be beneficial to half a million citizens of the Brion municipality in Miranda State.

Travellers and locals can now use the 7 miles between the two distribution roads that have been recovered and recently open. The work aimed at strengthen the economic growth in the area and to boost the commerce and employment rate.

The total investment was US\$5 million. It will greatly increase the free transit of travellers from the east and northern parts of the country by the incorporation of 300 meters of the stretch 3 over the Tuy River in the Buroz and Andres Bello Municipalities. The cost of these last projects amounted to US\$8 million

The stretches 1, 2 and 4 are nearly completed. This means 13 out of the 17 kilometers. The projects have created 2,000 direct jobs and 5,000 indirect jobs.



500,000 beneficiaries
Investment : US\$ 5 million

INVEPAL MARKED THE PATH FOR TRANSFORMATION

Working forefront

The country's largest paper manufacturer lays the ground for the beginning of a new stage marked by technology adaptation



During the 90s VENEPA was considered the largest paper manufacturer in the country, and the fifth in Latin America. Eight years ago, it declared bankruptcy.

But this move was made by the company's board of directors without caring about the destiny of over 800 workers of the company's two factories: the headquarters in Moron, in the state of Carabobo, and a branch office in the state of Aragua.

After more than 50 years in the market, VENEPA started to go under. This company's debacle is the consequence of erred management decisions and lack of investment, resulting in the abandonment of key areas for

the proper functioning of the company. The strategy of the board of directors was crystal clear for the workers: Declare bankruptcy to purchase it later at the lowest price through strawmen. The board of directors never imagined the discipline and commitment of 300 organized workers, who took control of the factory's headquarters in Moron for 9 months and protected it from sabotages, robbery, or intentional damage to its equipment.

The birth of a new factory

During those nine months, workers set up commissions to take on different tasks in the midst of a fight to claim their rights.

Uncertainty surrounded them since they did not know if the company's takeover was going to bring positive results, but they never gave up and also received support from workers from other large companies like Pequiven, PDVSA, and Corpoelec, among others. But the most notable support came from the surrounding community: fishermen donated fish to the workers who were dedicated to the struggle.

The worker's effort finally paid off when the Bolivarian Government answered their requests on January 19, 200, when President Hugo Chavez endorsed a decree declaring VENEPA C.A as a public utility.

This was the beginning of the first experience of state-workers co-management, thus setting an example of transition to more humane and egalitarian production models.

The Paper Endogenous Industry (INVEPAL, in Spanish) was then created. The workers assumed control of the company, and its structure, which was previously pyramidal and traditional, was turned into a Management General Council, where decisions are taken with all the workers' participation and planning aimed at all the production areas.

Soul, life and heart

INVEPAL currently has a US\$3 million financing plan to modernize its infrastructure and increase its production capability so that the company can totally meet the domestic demand.

The workers, who run the company, inherited a company with 25 years of technological setback and equipment that did not received maintenance for 11 years.

One of the technological adaptation projects includes the purchase of a turbo genera-

tor, machinery, and update of equipments.

Manrique Gonzalez, Production General Manager, and who worked for VENEPA for 12 years, is a witness of the whole transformation process.

He says with great satisfaction: "The workers of the company have put their souls, lives and hearts to have the company produce 72,500 metric tons of products. This figure includes paper and derivatives for the last six years."

Belongs to everyone

Another important change made in the company is the shift in its relation with the community. Since INVEPAL was founded as a social property company, it started getting closer to surrounding communities such as Juan Jose Municipality in Carabobo state.

The relation started with the company performing a diagnostic of the community's needs and an assessment on how the company could help 3,400 people organized in 16 communal councils.

The Coordinator of Social Development, Alexander Molina, says INVEPAL's relation with the community takes precedence through voluntary work, and school fairs where products are sold at affordable prices.

Molina tells that during the voluntary work "the workers collaborate with the communities and institutions in the recovery of public spaces."

INVEPAL also promotes the development of the Bolivarian University of Workers, which is a project taking place in INVEPAL's branch office in Maracay. It is expected to be later moved to the headquarters in Carabobo state. ♦

Luis Eloy Pacheco / TBP



WHAT WAS A STRICTLY PYRAMIDAL TRADITIONAL STRUCTURE WAS TURNED INTO A MANAGEMENT GENERAL COUNCIL WHERE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL WORKERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PRODUCTION DEPARTMENTS



Pedro Flores, worker at the Maracay notebook factory

"I was exploited by the employers during the 15 years I spent in Venepal. From their point of view, the person doesn't mean anything. But now we have been vindicated; we now take part in the decisions made in the company because we are all equals".



Carmen Ostos, works at the Security and Labor Health Departments in the Maracay Notebook Factory



"I'm acquainted with the before and after of the company because I spent eight years in the former Venepal; and I can tell that one of the biggest differences is that the new Invepal has provided workers with the opportunity to grow as professionals. But when i was working in Venepal I never had the opportunity to get special training or to grow professionally".

Eisbelis Barrios, works at trabaja en el Centro de Atención Integral al Trabajador en Planta Cuadernos Maracay

"I worked for years in Venepal as a general assistant. I was never given the opportunity to prosper, I was fired right before the company closed, but when I heard about what the workers were doing in Moron I was very attentive to whatever was going on, we even helped in the forced entry of the workers in the Maracay factory. Nowadays, reinstated in the new company I was given the chance to grow in the company. i am proud of everything we have achieved here because is a triumph for the workers. I've been here for six years now."



Eleuterio Córdova, Machine 3 Coordinator Moron Factory, Carabobo State



"I spent 23 hard years in the former Venepal. People was very badly treated, as if they were the owner's of one's will. Some of us were threatened by the regional government when we went on strike for nine months. But luckily we were backed up by the National Government because we introduced a sustainable project. That's why today we are pleased to direct the company. Former Venepal never heard what the workers said, so it was worth it everything we did."

WATER SUPPLY FOR EVERY HOUSE IN SAN JOSE DE CARAPITA

Water pumped up to the people

Technical Water Boards are considered the birthplace of communitarian participation in problem-solution discussion of the communities

Maritza Ruiz describes her ten-year-old struggle to get direct water supply to her house with these words: "What you fight for is what you get". She was not alone in the fight; her neighbours in the San Jose slum of Carapita in the Antimano parish of Caracas joined her fight.

Their endeavour was well paid on September 12 2008 when the suction, discharge and adduction pipes were placed ready to operate for the lower and higher areas of San Jose de Carapita.

But the achievement was only possible after the community organized in the ground base organizational unit of the Technical Water Boards promoted by the Venezuelan State.

The source of people's participation

The Technical Water Boards (Mesas Técnicas de Agua, MTA Spanish acronym) have their origin back in the 90s when they were firstly conceived as an experience for parish governments promoted by the Mayor House of Caracas. But it was under the Bolivarian Government that the MTAs received wider support through the Ministry of People's Power for the Environment, Hidroven, and regional public hydrologic institutions.

The MTAs are the basic tools the people in communities have in order to excerpt their leading role in the solution of problems. The MTAs are also supported by the Communal Councils and the Communes which now counts with a legal frame to operate.

The MTA of San Jose de Carapita is the story of every water board as an organization.

"In 1993 I went to the Civil Authority asking for help because we only had water when we were forced fill buckets and take them up with jeeps. After that, I went to the parish government under Aristobulo Isturiz but it was on March 6 2001 when we set the MTA," says Maritza Ruiz who had eight years living in San Jose by the moment of these events.

She recalls how she joined the other 77 shanty houses in the area in 1985. Today



Mil 400 metros de tubería sube callejones y calles de San José de Carapita



Escenas como estas eran impensables hace dos años



Maritza Ruiz José Gregorio Suárez Orlando Pérez

only concrete houses are found on both sides of the slope.

Three days out of sixty

Before the project was made a reality there were areas in the neighbourhood where water was available only three days every two months. "It was a desperate situation, a nightmare. We sacrificed our sleep hours so that we could wash, clean, and fill the small buckets," says Maritza.

For over eight two years lower SanAgustin has water service every day, but the higher areas receive water during eight days, and has eight days off.

"This is quite an achievement by the Government, and we are grateful that the water service is available for everyone; people in lower and higher San Jose", says Jose Gregorio Suarez one of the 4,000 beneficiaries of the water supply in the area.

As water is pumped by pressure some repairs are necessary in some houses to avoid accidents involving the flanges.

Three Step Project

1.-A 12" pipe has been installed in the pumping station of Carapita. The pipe is 1,000 feet long and it reaches Carapita main street.

2.- A 10" discharge pipe was also placed in the Carapita pumping station. The pipe is 2,500 feet long and it also reaches Carapita main street.

3.- A 6" aduction pipe was placed in Carapita main street covering 4,600 feet, 2,300 of which were diverted to San Jose Street, La Escalera and Independencia, and 2,300 to higher San Jose.

Orlando Perez, a construction worker of the area, and whose sister lives in the neighbourhood, highlights the necessity for "people to collaborate" to solve the problems, "instead of looking away from problems and complain".

Another project in Antimano is the instalment of the pipeline in the Bossman street in Santa Ana. the pipe system will benefit some 800 locals.

Every two weeks the MTA meets in the meeting hall of Carapita. ♦

Yeneiza Delgado Mijares / TBP



State: Sucre, Cumanacoa, Montes Municipality

Technical Water Board: Barrio Blanca

Work: Concrete Tank with capacity of 20 cubic meters. Includes a stand, and valves.

Beneficiary Population: 480 people



State: Apure, San Fernando municipality, urban complex San Fernando 2000

Technical Water Board: San Fernando 2000

Work: Centrifugal Pump installation. general maintenance of storage tank with a capacity of 5,000 liters. Connection with local pipe system

Beneficiary Population: 6,000 people



State: Zulia, Miranda Municipality, San José parish

Technical Water Board: Ancón de Iturre

Work: Potabilization system. Replacement of existing tank roofs. Adduction pipe replacement and surrounding systems, 25,000 feet length of pipes.

Beneficiary Population: 718 people



Volunteers move the pipes

Capital District. **Higher San Agustín del Sur**, in the areas of La Televisora, Barrio Ajuro and Los Almendrones, San Agustín parish

Technical Water Board: La Televisora

Work: Replacement of 10,800 feet of the pipe systems and restoration of a 10,000 liters tank

Beneficiary Population: 1.700 people



Installation of 2,000 feet of a 4" polyvinyl chloride pipe

State: Barinas

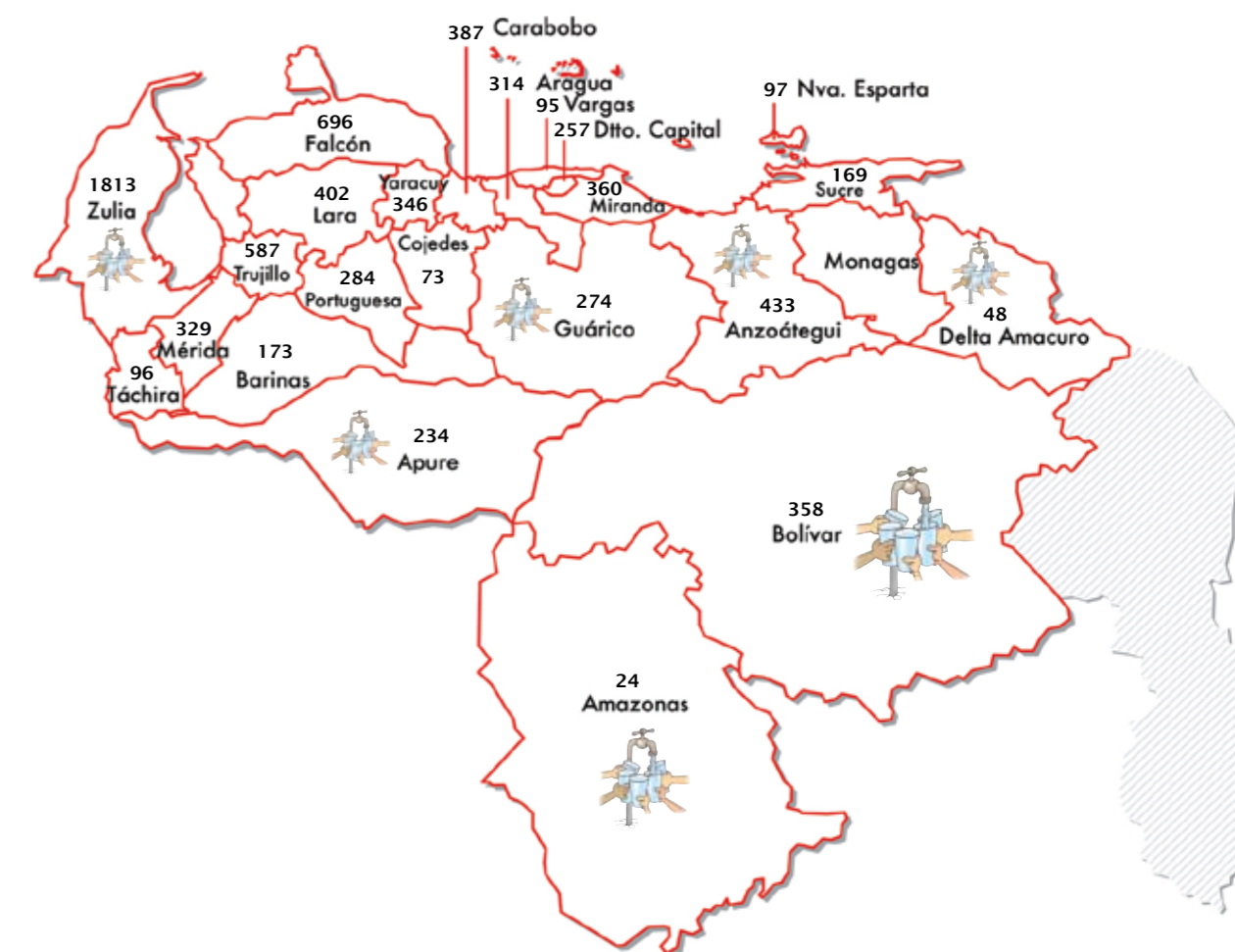
Urban complex Manuel Palacio, Rómulo Betancourt parish, Barinas municipality.

Technical Water Board: Julio Cesar Rodríguez

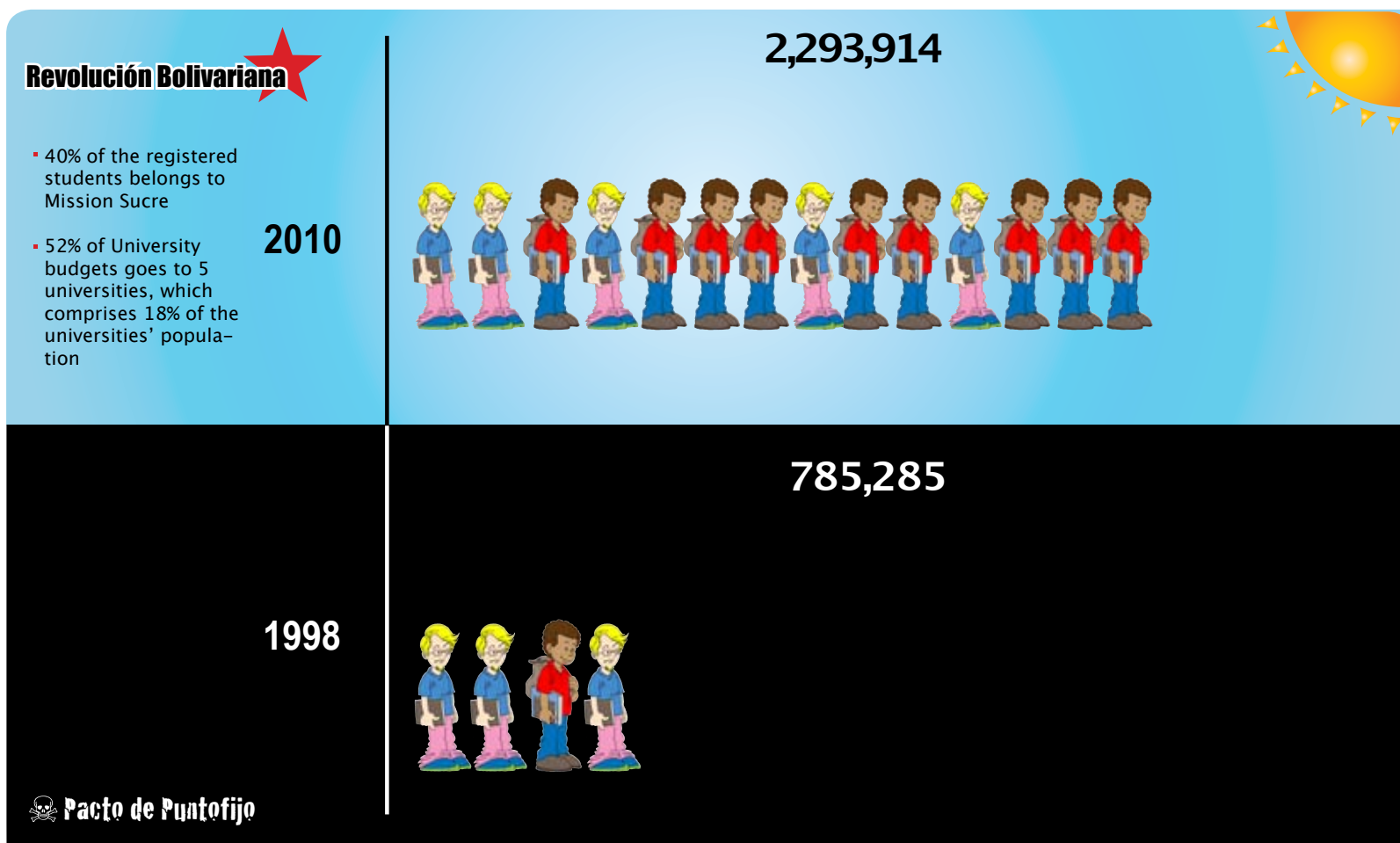
Work: Connection with local pipeline, improvement in aqueduct and improvement of house water connection in Palacio Fajardo neighborhood

Beneficiary Population: 4 mil habitantes

Technical Water Boards across the country



University registration has increased 192 %



Source: Ministry of People's Power for University Education

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF MISSION JOSÉ GREGORIO HERNÁNDEZ

Over 300,000 disabled people included in social Programs



860,000 products and technical equipment provided for the living improvement of disabled people

17,000 people incapable of moving have received special care

20,000 citizens specialized in comprehensive care of people incapable of moving
12,000 people received their ID

1,600 kids incorporated into the school system

Five new labs of prothesys and orthotics

Over 334,000 disabled people treated



3,600 appointments given

By the Genetic National Center in Guarenas, Miranda State. Inaugurated October 2009

