



More equality and less poverty

A total of US\$335 billion the Bolivarian Government has invested in social programs during the last 12 years

LYRICS DEDICATED TO THE CITY

Devoted to art

Urban Cultural Cooperative of Caracas shares its music with audiences in public spaces of their community



Amid traffic jam, busy passengers getting in and out the bus crowding in the aisle, roar of cars, motorcycles, and rushed people; two young men holding a guitar stop the bus and ask the driver: "Can we play a song?" They later introduce to the passengers and sing. For a while, the city changes its rhythm, and is not the same.

"At the beginning we did it out of necessity. We were a group of music lovers who wanted to live from the urban music expression" says John Gomez when he remembers the starts of the band back in 2006 when they first faced the pilgrim audience.

"Stop there Passenger, This on my hands is not a provider of rimes!", wrote once Jose Marti. The young singers of the Urban Cultural Cooperative of Caracas don't consider themselves to be "providers" of rimes or imitators of old masters. They rather go bus by bus, wagon by wagon in the subway, singing and running a long, but promising career.

Colective singing

They rehearse in their own studio located in the Socialist Community Manuela Saenz in the Sucre Parish of Caracas. Ever since their creation, they have made over 20 presentations in public events in Caracas, but their sure sites are the spots they have earned on the streets.

"Being in these public places means our job has dignity. There are many places in the city where we can present our show and improve the sighting of the place," says John. The goal



of our cooperative is to gain the attention of the institutions so that we turn Caracas into a pole of artistic creation.

The group makes its project following a self-management model, and so they do with the socially-oriented music they produce. The genres explored by the groups comprising the cooperative are poetry, ska, reggae, boss nova, bolero, hip-hop, and experimental folklore.

Just as it happens in the rush hour traffic, many come in and many go out, but the cooperative is strong with the groups that form it: Sentimiento de Mozart, Garantías Suspendidas, Hospital Psiquiátrico, Intelecto Urbano, Poesía, Canela y Miel, and others.

Inclusive art

"Art and culture are tools to build, change, and improve a country, and if possible, the whole world", says John who believes a school of popular art may be included in its projects.

"But we don't work just with music. We also work with dancing, and theatre, all of it managed by ourselves. It's about time that we, the people finally understand that though we may not have millions we do have the human tool: the experience of life."

Necessary Voices

John believes "There are many Ali Primera, and Silvio Rodriguez in the slum. People who are willing to do it," and he adds "I think that the necessary song, the honest one is the one that comes from the necessity of the slum."

The cooperative also aims at getting new talents. Currently it has 20 guitar students, and 25 taking theatre lessons. "We want to help so that new generations become acquainted with art. One artist is one gun less."

Though they have already made presentations before 5,000 people audiences at the First Juvenile Festival of Rebel Caracas, they still maintain their radio program at the station Radio Libre Negro Primero. It seems like nobody listen to us, but the truth is that everybody does."♦

Pedro Ibáñez / TDBP



HEAVY DECREASE IN POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Welfare Factory

In twelve years of Bolivarian Revolution US\$ 335 billion have been invested in social development

The opponents of the Government don't have a program, don't have arguments, and practically don't have anything. But the Revolution has the majority of the Venezuelan people standing ready to look for a better life." Pedro Suarez' words are echoed by most Venezuelans who feel identified with the Bolivarian Government, and with the process of empowering by the people.

The people have received support of the government in all social aspects during the twelve years of Bolivarian Revolution with a total investment of US\$ 335 billion (66% of national income).

The people have become empowered through the transference of competences that helps the communities solve existing problems, and thus improve their lifestyle.

Myriam Bolivar says the following about the government achievements: "President Chavez is paying a big social debt left by previous administrations. he is doing so following his Project of Country based on the improvement of the social areas like health, education, food, and inclusion. Chavez has given the leading role to the people who now has its own voice, and stand firm with dignity."

International organizations such as UNESCO, PNUD, OAS, CEPAL PHO have also recognized the changes in the Venezuelan society.

More equal, less poor

Never before in Venezuela's democratic history has the people witnessed such a humanitarian and social policy in place.



What have they said about us?

"Venezuela has set the example in food policies because the policy has reached the poorest and most excluded places. The food policy has also succeeded in giving priorities to national production through progressive substitution of importations; this results in a successful sovereignty defence"

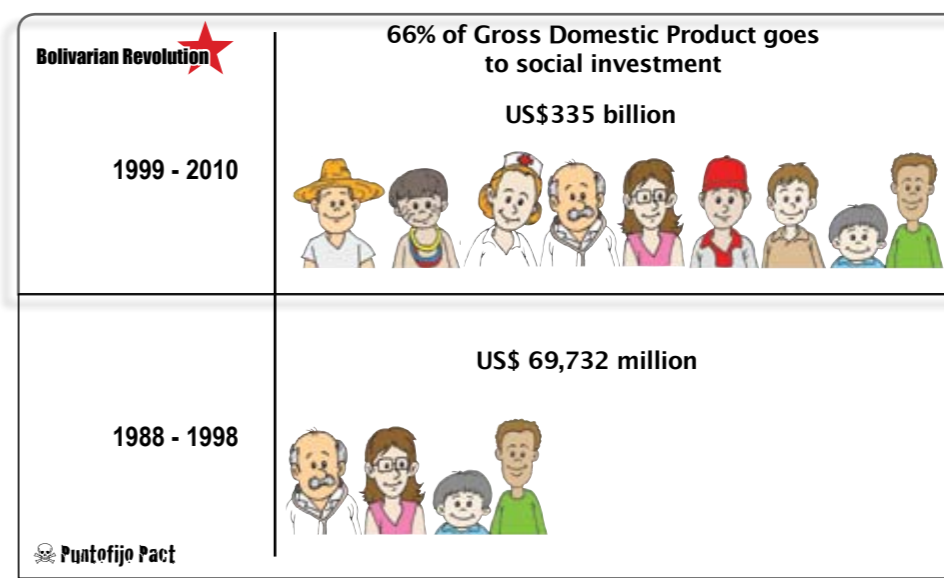
Alfredo Missair, United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

"There's a break when you compare current times with the 90s. Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Venezuela are the countries that have mostly reduced poverty and inequality in the region"

Alicia Bárcena Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

"Venezuela has registered a three point's raise in its Human Development Index in the last five years"

Yves Sassenrath, United Nations Development Program



That's why the revolutionary process takes place in the heart of the communities," says Jhony Rondon, inhabitant of the Caricuao parish.

The national Project Simon Bolivar (2007-2013) is the first socialist plan of the nation to be applied after the Economic and Social Plan (2001-2007). The results of the plan back the thoughts of mister Rondon

As a result of equalitarian and organized policies, most of which applied through the Social Missions, the Venezuelan society has become the least unequal of the continent. The social missions started to work in 2003 and their benefits range from education, health, and food programs to social protection.

Another factor that has helped the fair distribution of resources to communities, and popular organizations, is the strengthening of the distribution mechanisms. The Bolivarian Government has invested over US\$ 6 million in social production programs, and habitat transformation. So far, 51,000 projects have been carried out.

This way, the people have built 45,000 houses with the help of the construction brigades. They have also been involved in urban equipment, public spaces, and school construction, and health centers rehabilitation.

No more water cannons

Hard evidence to the changes in the Venezuelan society, is the heavy drop of poverty rates registered in the country: 49% by 1998 to 26%; and the extreme poverty households has gone from 21% In 1998 to the current 7%. Another achievement are the 1,721,983 older citizens who now have their pension.

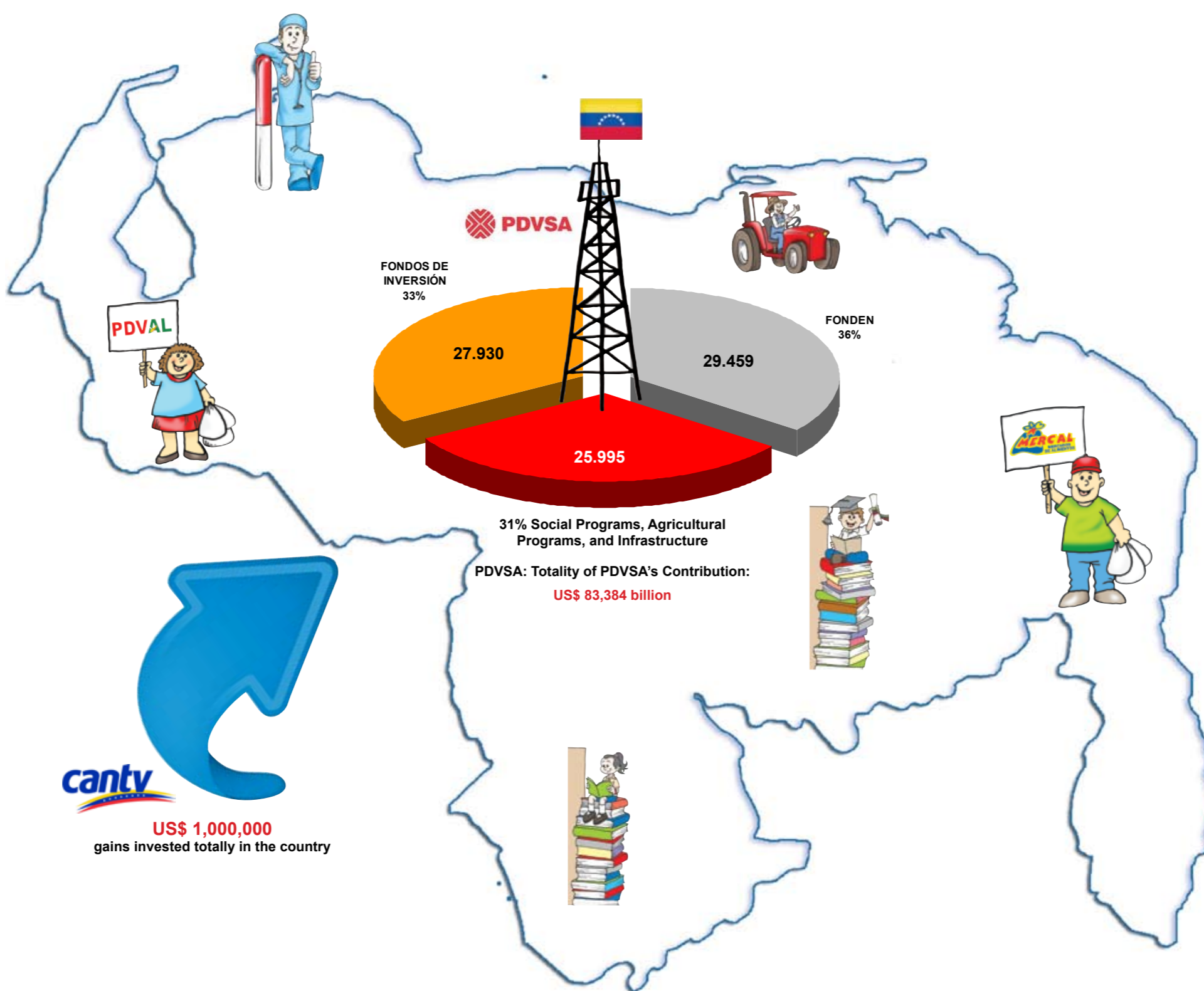
Back in the year 1998 only 387,000 enjoyed this benefit.

"We don't protest anymore because our conditions have changed a lot. We have a worthy pension approved by our president" says Jesus Romero who remembers how "during the administrations of Accion Democratica and COPEI (opposition parties) we, older citizens were forced to protest, and when we did, the authorities sent the water cannons against us." Regarding unemployment, Venezuela is also

ahead the rest of the world. While most of the world is facing increase in unemployment rates, Venezuelan rates were roughly 6.5% by the end of 2010.

There has also been a substantial increase in minimal wage, going from US\$ 151 to US\$259. Health rights, free education, and low cost food and services are other advantages provided to the Venezuelan people in order to strengthen the buying power. ♦

Yeneiza Delgado Mijares / TDBP



1998			387,000,000 pensioners
2010			1,721,983 pensioners

The Essence of women



One of the most important achievements of the Bolivarian Revolution is the vindication of women in the society. Women have become engines of welfare, and her presence in the state institutions, in the communities, in the communes, in the schools, in the hospitals, and refuge shelters is genuinely felt. Several laws are now protecting women:

- Law for the Protection of Family, Maternity, and Fatherhood (2007). It establishes the protection of the family.

- Law for Unemployment Insurance (2005). Regulates the comprehensive help provided to those unemployed, women with unclassified jobs, and violence victims households heads.

- Organic Law for People's Defence. Makes possible the creation of Special Advocacy for Women's Rights with national competence.

- Law for the Protection of Victims, Witnesses, and Other Subjects (2006).

- Organic Law for the Prevention and Conditions of Environment and Work Place (2005). The law establishes the protection of maternity and the social security of women at work who are on leave of absence.

- Organic Law for a Violence-Free Life for Women (2007). It is considered one of the most advanced laws in the matter. This law allowed the creation of the special tribunals for violence.

- Law for Social Services (2006). Establishes family corresponsibility, protection during pregnancy and corresponsibility in the raise of children.

Other institutions were also created like the Ministry of People's Power for Women, Bank for the Development of Women, and the Social Mission Mothers of the Neighbourhood.

Daniela Uzcatia

Inside the Neighbourhood: Free and Good

Lisbeth Luna

"Within the Cuban-Venezuela agreement, the Inside the Neighbourhood Mission is the best solution given to the poors who are at the heart of the people. The medical attention units placed within the communities is the best thing our President has done because we, in the communities don't have money to pay a clinic. With these medical centres we have medical attention and medicine for free and they are good."

No more high school graduates without university studies opportunities

Yuli Guitián

"Young people dont need to protest anymore for opportunities to study. Nowadays the Bolivarian Government has provided the Mission Sucre (opportunity to continue university studies), the Bolivarian University of Venezuela, and Unefa (University of Armed Forces) which is now open to civilians."

No speculation on food

Daniel Pantoja

"The people prefer to buy in Mercal because the food is more economic and have higher quality. I always buy in Mercak and Pdval because is cheaper and the food is better. In private markets we spend double and take less products."

Equal opportunities for everyone

Mercedes Toledo

"Venezuela is now sowing the oil, and you can see that through all the actions of the Natinal Government. Education, and food has improved, now there are opportunities for everybody to study, work and gather in cooperatives, and get a credit to create companies. Years before you couldn't even think about it because only rich people could have these things."

Less Dropouts

Deisy Guerrero

"Dropouts from school have decreased and I think it's great because that means they are motivated to participate. Besides, the history of Venezuela is rescued through the inclusion policies the government is developing."

More investment in sports

Delvis Henríquez

"We now have more presence in sport events because Venezuelan athletes have the support of the Ministry of Sports and the State has put lots of resources at the disposal of athletes. Pastor Maldonado is a great example of the investment Chavez is doing in sports, and this allows Venezuela to shine in international contests."

MORON COMMUNAL COUNCIL TRANSFORMED THE COMMUNITY

Good Life blossoms in El Molino Community

Workers from Invepal made theirs the space donated by the company. Now, they and their community fitted them out for the use of everybody.

When the owners of former Venepal Company, which is now a social production company called Invepal, founded El Molino community 57 years ago, their intention was to subdue workers to the harshness of a company based on their exploitation in exchange for the promise of "stability," which was never provided, houses that weren't theirs, and minimum wage.

Seven years later, all of them agree that one of the most outstanding changes is that they have become the owners of the houses they occupied for years.

From that moment on, neighbours started to organize themselves and formed the El Molino Communal Council in 2010 in order to take the new changes of the renewed Invepal to their communities.

Changes in sight

Julio Cesar Blanchard, member of the financial committee of the Communal Council, says the first flagship social program was the creation of a Simoncito (early education center providing free daycare and pre-school education to children from ages 0 to 6). The community refurbished rooms provided by the company and were able to gather 100 children. "We haven't stopped since."

Later, with the support of Invepal, the community was able to incorporate a Mercal grocery store, a Barrio Adentro center (providing primary healthcare), and a Pdvál grocery store into the public spaces of the neighbourhood.

Likewise, Alí Manuel Estrella, member of the Security Committee, tells that they are working hard to incorporate a permanent Police post, which, together with the volunteers of the community, will be in charge of security.

"We expect to build two Police posts, improve the street signs, and set common rules conduct created by all the inhabitants of the community."

Energy for everyone

But there are still bigger plans: The community wants to change the electric wir-



Alí Manuel Estrella

ing and electricity pylons. These plans include the repair of the sewage system near the electric wiring to avoid problems in the future.

"This has to be done as soon as possible because the electric wiring is about 50 or 60 years old, and so is the community. Though neighbours say the electric wiring is stable, some components are just out of date."

"It is also in open air, and it is exposed to the inclemency of the weather, so it is logic to assume they have failures," says Juliou Blanchard.

The project has advanced a lot with the help of the inhabitants and members of the Communal Council who are part of the energy committee. They will also receive help from Pequiven (state-owned corporation engaged in the domestic production and sale of petrochemical products), and Corpoelec (state power corporation of Venezuela).

Over 350 families, 305 houses, and a total of 2,000 people will be benefited from the repairs in the electric power system. ♦

Luis Eloy Pacheco / TDBP

La Limonera grows



The first 28 buildings of La Limonera endogenous and urban complex sum a total of 432 apartments of 775 squared feet each.

With 90% of the works completed, the complex is on its final stage of completion ready for its inauguration.

Several social production activities have been developed in the area including organoponicos and fish farming in a 33 hectares area.

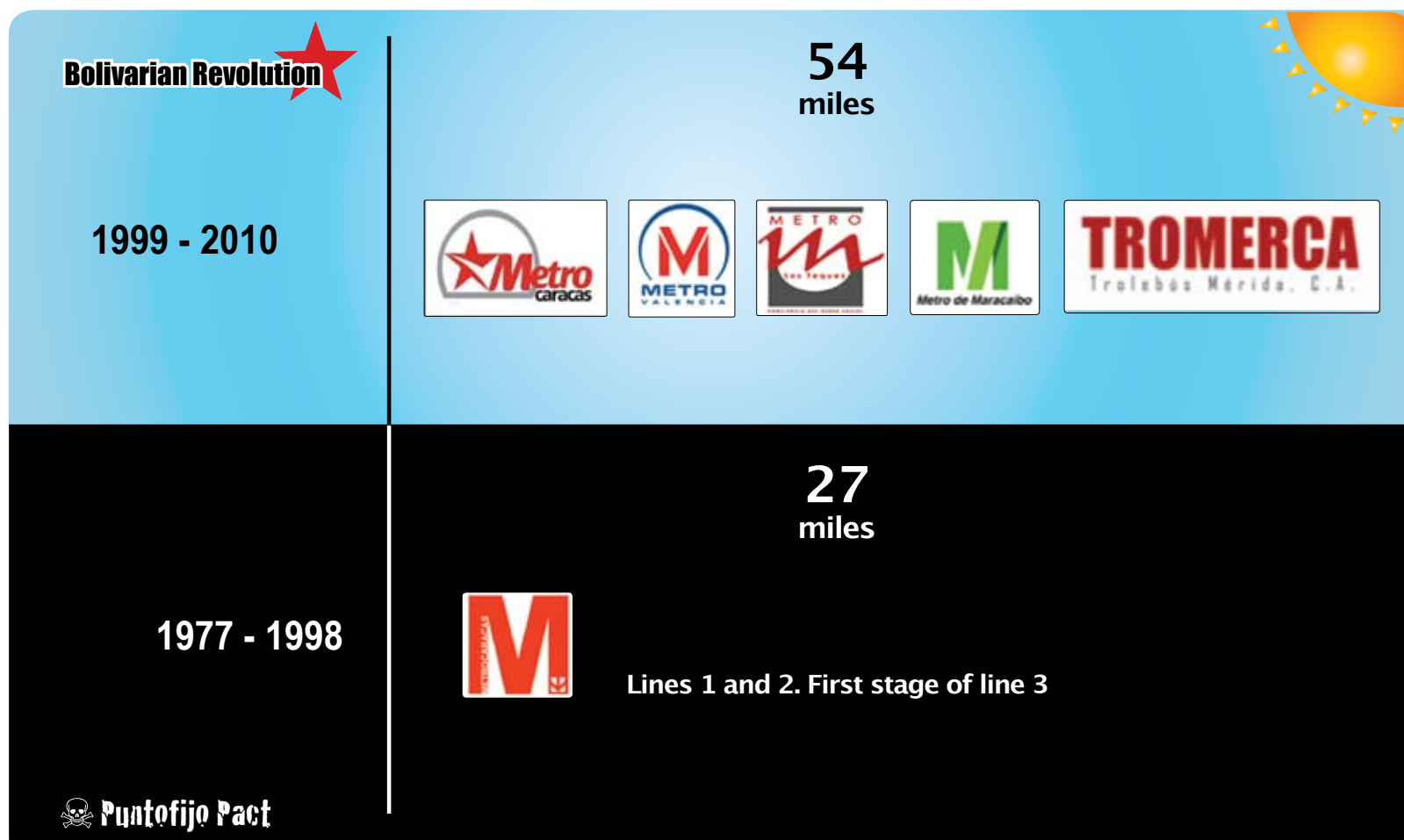
The Bolivarian Government also built drainage systems, provided electric power, and land access to the site. Private companies involved in the project complied with their social responsibility by digging water well, laying the electrical system, and building a water tank of 20,000 cubic ft capability.

Each apartment has a gas supply, drinkable water tank, modern bumping system, communal areas with gardens and walkways. They also have sport courts, parking lots, and public services. ♦ Daniela Uzcatia / TDBP



La Limonera endogenous-urban housing complex will be the home of over 2,000 people who will enjoy life in worthy apartments of three bedrooms, kitchen, and dining room.

Mass transportation capacity has increased by 83%



Source: Ministry of People's Power for Transport and Communications

3RD PROMOTION OF INTEGRAL DOCTORS (MARCH 10 2011)

782 new doctors with a humanist vision

714 new Integral General doctors

68 new specialists in the areas of:
traumatology, anaesthetics, neurosurgery,
gastroenterology, ophthalmology, pediatrics,
and internal medicine

748 graduates from
the Latin-American School of Medicine in Cuba
form comprise the Batallon 51

**24,000 students of Integral
Medicine** in the country

**8,500 new doctors to be
graduated**
by the end of 2011



The first group of Integral General Doctors graduated in 2007 and replaced their Cuban colleagues in primary care of Mission Barrio Adentro