



## PANAMA'S OPPORTUNITIES

Presented by:

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# PANAMA



Panama, a democratic country in Central America, has a history of an open economy.

- The US Dollar is our legal currency.
- The average growth of the country in the last 10 years is about 7%, the highest in the Americas.
- Inflation is less than 1%, and full employment is recognized.



# PANAMA CANAL

The expansion of the Panama Canal is estimated to be concluded by May this year.



More and larger ships will be passing through the canal.

More containers and general cargo will be handled by the privately-operated ports established in both oceans.

In addition to the 5 existing ports in both oceans, a new port will be constructed in the Pacific Ocean.

## SPECIAL REGIMES FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Companies registered under the Multinational Headquarters Special Regime, known in Spanish as SEM companies, receive Corporate tax incentives, including:

- a. Exemption on Income Tax.
- b. Management Personnel are also exempt from income tax, as well as social security and education contributions.
- c. Exemption from import tax from household items, upon arriving for the first time in Panama.
- d. Foreign executives can easily obtain their resident permanent visas and their dependents' for 5 years, renewable for the same time frame.

## SEM COMPANY QUALIFICATION

To be registered under SEM Company, the corporation must comply with the following:

- a. Operate in one or more foreign countries, and register a branch, subsidiary or affiliate in Panama or allocate its headquarters in Panama.
- b. Provide administrative management support or back-office services to its corporate group.
- c. Have assets of at least \$200 million dollars, as a sole Company or a corporate group.
- d. Apply for the license before the Ministry of Commerce.

## IMMIGRATION REGIME

Additionally, Panama has a special immigration regime for citizens from countries such as the US, Canada, most of the European countries, and some of the Latin America countries. These citizens can apply for permanent resident visas and work permits.



## STEADY CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The construction industry has been steadily strong throughout the years.

- Works for the expansion of the subway already began.
- Next year, a third line for the subway will be bid.
- Construction of a new bridge over the Canal, on the Atlantic side, has already begun.
- A fourth bridge over the Pacific, with train facility, will be constructed by next year.
- New highways and roads are expected to continue boosting the economy.
- Panama City skyline keeps growing and is compared to any important city in the US.

## FINANCIAL CENTER

More than 70 local and foreign Banks are operating in Panama.

Recently, the Financial Action Task Force, known in Spanish as GAFI, removed our country from the gray list, which means that no restrictions will be established for the financial center, due to Panama's cooperation with the different jurisdictions in order to protect the international financial system from money laundering and financial terrorism.



questions?

thank  
you.

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