

# *Cuban Communist Party discusses rural economy and innovation*

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Havana, April 17 (RHC) -- Delegates to the 8th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba discussed on Saturday development in rural communities, the autonomy of the territories, investment plans, and the application of science and technology.

Prime Minister Manuel Marrero chaired the commission that evaluates the updating of the Economic and Social Policy Guidelines of the Party and the Revolution, which will guide the work for the next five years.

During the debates, delegates exposed the need to promote a comprehensive policy that allows local development in rural communities, also linked to the necessary increase in agricultural production.

In this regard, Marrero emphasized the need to outline concrete actions aimed at developing mountainous areas. At the same time, the Minister of Tourism, Juan Carlos García, advocated for the deepening of the so-called agrotourism and nature tourism.

In another moment of the commission, the Minister of Economy and Vice Prime Minister, Alejandro Gil, pointed out that the priority of the investment process in the country is to increase efficiency and eliminate the causes that generate losses of resources.

Sometimes 'there is no correspondence between the feasibility studies and the real yield of the investments. This generates money invested for whose expected yields are not obtained', Gil stated.

Delegates highlighted the importance of using technologies for the socio-economic development of the country and advocated for a greater application of science in all sectors.

According to the Minister of Science, Technology, and Environment, Elba Rosa Pérez, these guidelines being debated today resize the idea of innovation in comparison with the 7th Congress of the PCC.

The guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy of the Party and the Revolution were first approved at the 2011 Party Congress, and have since been updated according to the national and international context.

The monetary order taking place on the island since last January 1 has its basis in these documents.

The 8th Congress of the PCC will be held until April 19. The 300 delegates in attendance will address other issues linked to the functioning of the Party and society in general.

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