

# *Cuba expands and perfects self-employment*

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**Martha Elena Feitó, Minister of Labor and Social Security.**

Havana, February 10 (RHC)--The Council of Ministers recently approved the expansion of self-employment, a long-awaited and important step to increase employment, in line with the country's monetary reform.

The activity's improvement allows the exercise of more than 2,000 occupations, and only 124 of them are totally or partially limited.

Explanations on this subject were offered in the television program "Round Table" this Tuesday.

Deputy Prime Minister Alejandro Fernández referred to the impact that the U.S. blockade has had on the development of this activity and the effect the Covid-19 brought with it a general economic contraction also the suspension of several activities of the non-state sector.

"It is not just a matter of changing from a list of 127 permitted activities to a list of 124 prohibited ones, he said. It is about a more comprehensive improvement based on the opinions issued by the population."

Martha Elena Feitó, Minister of Labor and Social Security, informed that all the previously approved activities are kept, among those that are added is that of computer equipment programmer.

The head of the sector gave some examples by sections of the list of permitted activities, among them those of teaching, educational attention and child care, music and other art teachers, shorthand, typing and language teachers, automobile instructors, instructors for the practice of physical exercises and aerobic gymnastics classes, among others.

Authorization for self-employment will be granted through a one-stop-shop at municipal labor offices and the Ministry of Transportation entities.

This requires the presentation of a project describing the activities to be performed, the place where it will be exercised, the schedule, the legality of the raw materials to be used, among other aspects.

According to official statistics, there are currently more than 600,000 employees in the non-state sector, representing 13 percent of the island's labor force; of these, 30 percent are young people, and 35 percent are women.

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