

Two Million Bolivians Lifted Out of Extreme Poverty



La Paz, June 19 (Xinhua-RHC) -- At least two million Bolivians have been lifted out of extreme poverty in the past eight years, the Bolivian Information Agency (ABI) said on Wednesday.

Figures show President Evo Morales' policies have had a "great impact" on society, ABI cited Deputy Minister of Budget and Fiscal Accounting, Jaime Duran, as saying.

In 2005, extreme poverty affected some 38 percent of the population, according to Duran, while in 2013 that figure dropped to 20 percent.

"That means that some two million people have been lifted from extreme poverty, so the social policies of Morales' administration have had a great impact on Bolivia," said Duran.

Morales has redistributed the country's wealth through government programs that benefit children, mothers and the elderly, he said.

The government aims to eradicate extreme poverty by 2025, the year Bolivia celebrates the bicentennial of its independence from colonial rule "and we can all have enough income for our subsistence," Duran said.

As Bolivia's 80th president and first indigenous president, Morales was first elected in 2005 and reelected in 2009.

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