

# *Mexico Leftist Leader Blasts Peña Nieto for Neoliberal Gas Hike*

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Mexico City, July 7 (RHC-teleSUR)-- The leader of Mexico's National Regeneration Movement, the Morena party, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, has criticized the Ministry of Finance's latest increase in the price of gasoline after President Enrique Peña Nieto promised there would be no price hikes on fuel back in 2014.

Lopez Obrador said: "Prices are going up again and Peña Nieto is a liar because he said there would be no more hikes in prices. The leader of the leftist opposition movement said that the Mexican president was "waiting until after the elections to fool the people once again."

Lopez Obrador denounced the Peña Nieto administration, which has now increased gasoline prices by 26 percent while the minimum wage has increased by just 10 percent since 2014.

The price of a liter (1/4 gallon) of gasoline in Mexico is now \$0.80 compared to the \$0.59 USD before the price hike. Meanwhile, the national minimum wage has been raised from US\$70.10 Mexican pesos per day, around \$4.08, to \$73.04 Mexican pesos per day, which is approximately \$4.25.

Lopez Obrador criticized state-run oil giant Petroleos Mexicanos, also known as Pemex, for selling gasoline in the U.S. at just \$ 0.40 per liter, almost half the cost of the price in Mexico. This is due to the 2013 neo-liberal energy reform implemented by Peña Nieto, which opened the Mexican oil company to the United States.

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