



## **The Cuban government announced the reduction of regulated products amid the fuel crisis.**

On April 28th, the Ministry of Internal Trade, through its official website, announced that "despite the fuel crisis affecting the country," priority would be given to the delivery of food corresponding to the basic basket for April. Furthermore, the Sales Director, Francisco Silva Herrera, assured that such distribution would be gradual.

With a delay of one month, distribution has been uneven, absent in remote areas due to the fuel shortage. This situation directly affects numerous families who have not received beans, coffee, peas, or oil, some of the products that make up the basic diet in Cuban homes.

It is expected, for example, that jam supply, one of the few supplements for the child population that the ration book ensures and that the government failed to deliver in April, will be delayed until the first days of May. In addition, one of the most sensitive elements of the note is the restriction of the chicken quota, the only unprocessed and subsidized meat received by the population, to children under 13. In contrast, people over 13 will get other processed products enriched with vegetable protein, such as ground meat.

The drastic elimination of chicken, one of the essential foods that, although reduced, were guaranteed access to the population, even for older adults, a vulnerable population, is due to the dramatic drop in the importation of this product, internal transportation problems, and the lack of progress in negotiations with US producers.

This situation occurs in one of the biggest multifactorial crises that Cuba has had recently, and the rise in prices of imported products in an economy that imports more than half of its food. In turn, the respective purchasing units have unofficially announced that cooking oil deliveries will take up to 4 months. The most affected provinces in this aggravated precariousness are Guantánamo and Holguín, where scarcity includes essential products such as rice, sugar, oil, salt, and beans. Before this official declaration, food distribution in the eastern provinces was already "intermittent."

The population's discontent is still growing, especially after the perception that products that have been previously temporarily cut have never returned to the rationing system, as has been the case with spaghetti or diet milk. People aged sixty and over, in the most elderly country on the continent, who have dramatically lost access to food since the last economic measures, such as the "Tarea de Ordenamiento" (Ordering Task), are in a particularly vulnerable condition.

Amid an energy, food, and migration crisis, social guarantees have been decreasing to make way for capitalist distribution decisions and mechanisms, such as transferring these cut products from the ration book to online purchase markets from abroad through currencies.

FMP and Cuido60 warn about the criminogenic nature of food insecurity and brewing social unrest. We call on the international community to denounce the growing deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Cuba resulting from the food crisis. The Cuban government has not yet demonstrated the willingness to establish effective measures to solve severe deficiencies. At the same time, past approved actions have not produced the expected results in an administration prioritizing spending on tourism and companies 17 times more than on social issues.