



Dominican government and University of Texas begin research in the areas of geology and hydrocarbons

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SANTO DOMINGO. The Dominican Government, through the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the University of Texas at Austin (UT), formally launched a research project to align and strengthen the country's technical database on the hydrocarbon potential of its offshore and onshore basins.

The launch of the "Regional Assessment of Energy Potential in Onshore and Offshore Sedimentary Basins, Dominican Republic and Adjacent Caribbean Sea" was presided over by minister Joel Santos, upon receiving a mission from the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG, in English), from academia, headed by the director of the Energy Research Division, Mark Shuster.

"This project is very important for the Dominican Republic because of what it represents for energy security, not only in the area of oil and gas, but also in the area of critical minerals (rare earths). We would therefore like to thank you for the cooperation we have received in making this common strategy a reality," Santos told the members of the delegation.

He indicated that the initiative, which covers work through March 2027, seeks to facilitate access to accurate and detailed information on hydrocarbon resources, to assess more clearly the opportunities in exploration and production, which will make it more competitive and reliable in attracting foreign investment in the area.

"Definitely, it is necessary to explore, study, and characterize all our resources to know precisely what we have. Based on that knowledge, we will be able to identify which ones are truly strategic, obtain well-founded recommendations, and better understand the current geopolitical context, as well as the critical role these resources play at the global level," added Minister Santos, highlighting the worldwide experience that the BEG has in this type of project.

Meanwhile, Mark Shuster expressed the Bureau's enthusiasm for collaborating with the Dominican Republic and the Ministry of Energy and Mines on this project, considering that it represents an opportunity to make its geological experience in the evaluation of energy resources available to the country. He also highlighted that this alliance will help strengthen the exchange of knowledge, information, and technical support between both institutions. He explained that the BEG is the oldest research unit at the University of Texas and is dedicated to studies on energy, geology, minerals, seismic forms, terrestrial impact, terrestrial hazards, monitoring of ground activities, resources such as oil, gas, geothermal energy, and emerging resources such as hydrogen.

During the visit, the specialists received details on the progress of the advanced rare earth exploration process in Pedernales, which is being promoted by the Government through the Ministry of Energy and Mines and Empresa Minera Dominicana (Emidom) to determine the potential of critical minerals (rare earths) that the country possesses.

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