

Shoppers in Venezuela to be fingerprinted

25th August, 2014



CREATIVE COMMONS
VIA BLUESBOY ON FLICKR.COM

There are many food shortages in Venezuela. Many Venezuelans cannot buy basic goods. This problem is made worse because people buy too much of something when they see it in the stores. It's a kind of panic buying. President Nicolas

Maduro has started a new system to stop people buying too much. Shoppers must soon start scanning their fingerprints when they buy food at grocery stores and supermarkets. This is to make sure that more people can buy an equal share of food and groceries. Mr Maduro has not said when the new system will start, but people close to him say it could be January. It is also unclear how much food people can buy and what happens if they buy too much.

There are many reasons for Venezuela's food shortages. The government blames smugglers who buy cheap goods and take them to Colombia to resell them for up to four times their original price. Another reason is that the government controls the price of food. Many food companies say the price is too low for them to make a profit, so they do not produce as much as they could. A final reason is the strength of the US dollar against Venezuela's currency. This means it is very expensive to import food from other countries. Critics say the fingerprinting takes away people's privacy and will not work. They say the whole economy needs to change and that the government needs to have less control.

Sources: *LatinoFoxNews / Biometric Update / lath.com*

Writing

Fingerprinting shoppers is never a good idea. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

food shortages / basic goods / panic buying / fingerprints / grocery stores / system / smugglers / cheap goods / the price of food / make a profit / currency / privacy

True / False

- Panic buying is helping to create food shortages in Venezuela. T / F
- Venezuela's president will start a system to limit what people can buy. T / F
- Shoppers in Venezuela will be fingerprinted when they buy petrol. T / F
- Shoppers will not be able to buy more than three of any item. T / F
- The government blames people who smuggle goods from Colombia. T / F
- In Venezuela, the government controls the price of food. T / F
- Some people are worried fingerprinting will take away people's privacy. T / F
- Critics said the economy should stay as it is. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. basic | a. method |
| 2. stores | b. make |
| 3. system | c. uncertain |
| 4. equal | d. removes |
| 5. unclear | e. necessary |
| 6. goods | f. first |
| 7. initial | g. shops |
| 8. produce | h. identical |
| 9. takes away | i. entire |
| 10. whole | j. products |

Discussion – Student A

- Have you ever experienced a shortage of something?
- What do you do when your favourite things are sold out?
- Has your country ever experienced shortages?
- Why do people panic buy?
- What do you think of fingerprinting shop customers?
- Is the fingerprinting a good way to control food shortages?
- Do you think a parent of ten will be able to buy more than a single person?
- What do you think will happen if people still buy too much?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. basic | a. share of food |
| 2. It's a kind of panic | b. people's privacy |
| 3. Shoppers must soon start scanning | c. food people can buy |
| 4. buy an equal | d. smugglers |
| 5. It is also unclear how much | e. buying |
| 6. The government blames | f. their original price |
| 7. resell them for up to four times | g. goods |
| 8. the price is too low for | h. of the US dollar |
| 9. the strength | i. their fingerprints |
| 10. fingerprinting takes away | j. them to make a profit |

Discussion – Student B

- What are the worst things that people smuggle?
- How can Venezuela stop smugglers selling things in Colombia?
- Why does Venezuela's government control food prices?
- Why is it important if a currency is strong or weak?
- What imported food do you buy, and why?
- What do you think about fingerprinting and privacy?
- What would you do if a cashier asked to scan your fingerprint?
- What questions would you like to ask Venezuela's president?

Spelling

- There are many food ogsrthase in Venezuela
- ibzac goods
- It's a kind of acpin buying
- rcgeoyr stores and supermarkets
- an aluge share
- the new eytmss will start
- There are many srnaeos
- The government aelsmb smugglers
- up to four times their garlnioi price
- make a iptrof
- the US dollar against Venezuela's enrrccuy
- the whole ynemooc needs to change

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. g	3. a	4. h	5. c
6. j	7. f	8. b	9. d	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Paying for things

You think the best use of fingerprints is paying for things. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least workable of these (and why): unlocking doors, as a passport or as a car key.

Role B – Unlocking doors

You think the best use of fingerprints is for unlocking doors. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least workable of these (and why): paying for things, as a passport or as a car key.

Role C – Passport

You think the best use of fingerprints is as a passport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least workable of these (and why): unlocking doors, paying for things or as a car key.

Role D – Car key replacement

You think the best use of fingerprints is as a car key. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their uses aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least workable of these (and why): unlocking doors, as a passport or paying for things.

Speaking – Food shortages

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you would miss most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| • chocolate | • potatoes |
| • onions | • tomatoes |
| • bread | • chicken |
| • eggs | • rice |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.