

Wives, parents, and children of politicians are immortalized in the names of public schools



In the [previous issue](#), we made it clear that because a lack of regulation in the Honduran education system, many schools have been founded with the names of politicians and public officials whose actions have demonstrated deficiencies in morality and honorability.

But ex-presidents and heads of state, like do not only use their own names for schools – they have also christened many schools with the names of their parents, children, brothers, sisters, wives and other family.

The database of the Ministry of Public Education registers 22,540 schools in the entire country. From those, Revistazo took a sample of 500 and found that 65, the equivalent of 13% of schools, are named after the families of presidents and heads of State. The majority are First Ladies, the wives of politicians. Legally, these women do not have authority, or official duties, but inexplicably they have always had an “offices” and a budget.

Rafael Leonardo Callejas, who is currently facing a jail sentence for accepting bribes during his time as leader of Honduran soccer federations, founded 13 schools with the name of his mother and wife. Eleven schools in Siguateque, Corquin Copan, San Pedro Sula, La Lima, Danlí, Tegucigalpa, Guaymaca, Magdalena Intibucá, La Labor Ocotepeque and El Naranjito Santa Bárbara, were created with the name of **Enma Romero de Callejas** in Siguatepeque and Comayagüela, and two were founded with the name of **Norma Regina de Callejas**.



There are 19 schools with the name **Xiomara Castro**, wife of former president Manuel Zelaya Rosales, who was ousted in the 2009 military coup.

Likewise in Victoria and Jocon, two cities in the department of Yoro, there are three schools that bear the name of Aldo Micheletti, son of ex-diplomat and president de facto, Robert Micheletti, who was accused of receiving bribes during his time as a congress representative.

Two schools in the department of Cortes are named Lidia de Pineda Ponce, wife of the ex-president of congress, Rafael Pineda Ponce.

The names of these politicians and their families are written across enormous signs that hang over the entryways of all of the schools, but upon entering and speaking with the teachers, the neglect of the schools is evident, not only in their physical conditions, but also in their educational context. Politicians have demonstrated that they only meet certain needs of the communities during their campaigns. Therefore, the job of ensuring that the schools have decent ceilings and minimum supplies falls on the shoulders of the parents.

It is important to highlight that the State has regulated the names of private schools, but left the names of public schools open to free will, a situation that has been taken advantage of by many active politicians. **“The developers of a nongovernment school freely choose the name of the school. However, it is recommended that they privilege exalting the names of historical figures and acts, local or national places, or civic values”**, says Article 14 of the Law of Education Centers.

The law also indicates that within a departmental constituency there cannot be two schools that bear the same name, a situation that has also gone unnoticed. There are municipalities with multiple schools named after their mayors, diplomats, presidents and first ladies.