

# Cuba extends hours of some state offices

The Miami Herald  
Feb. 20, 2007

**HAVANA** - (AP) -- Cuban officials are tackling problems such as child care, poor lighting and insufficient transportation for workers so they can keep some government offices open later, the Communist labor newspaper reported Monday.

The goal is to have offices open at times when people can use them before or after their own eight-hour workdays, taking advantage of an expanding economy.

Trabajadores, published by Cuba's Communist Party labor federation, reported that some notaries and civil registries in Havana are already working until 8 p.m. and officials hope to expand hours at least some days of the week at child care centers, primary schools, hair dressers and workshops.

The effort is linked to a government campaign for greater discipline among workers, with a crackdown on absenteeism, overlong lunch breaks, sloppy work and theft.

Officials were working to overcome problems such as insufficient lighting and transportation at night while supplying meals and child care at different times for workers, Trabajadores reported.

The communist government has been gradually expanding services as its economy recovers from the shortages of the early 1990s, caused by the loss of Soviet bloc aid and trade that were once crucial.