

## [Yahoo! Finance: Building an oil economy in Venezuela after regime change](#)

February 20, 2026



Eric Smith, professor of practice and associate director of the [Tulane Energy Institute](#), was interviewed for a story about the rebuilding of Venezuela's oil industry following the removal of President Nicolas Maduro.

“We will impose a contractual situation,” Eric Smith, the associate director of the Tulane University Energy Institute said. “We will indeed set aside some of the royalties to support Venezuela, but they'll go into an escrow account and be distributed as long as they're playing ball with the Americans.”

To read the story in its entirety, visit [finance.yahoo.com](https://finance.yahoo.com):

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/building-oil-economy-venezuela-regime-100000768.html>