

Peruvian President's Approval Rating Slips to 38% Amid Graft Probe



Lima, February 14 (RHC)-- Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski's approval rating dropped five percentage points for the second month in a row in February, as a widening graft scandal entangled his former boss, an Ipsos poll shows.

Only 38 percent of Peruvians now support Kuczynski, down from a peak of 63 percent in September shortly after he took office amid promises of modernizing Peru, according to the Ipsos survey published in the local newspaper El Comercio.

Kuczynski's disapproval rating climbed six percentage points to 51 percent, according to the poll of 1,291 people that had a margin of error of 2.7 percentage points. The survey was taken between last week as prosecutors accused former president Alejandro Toledo of taking \$20 million in bribes to help scandal-plagued Brazilian builder Odebrecht win lucrative highway contracts.

Kuczynski, who served as finance minister and prime minister during Toledo's 2001-2006 term, has denied any involvement in the alleged schemes in Peru. Kuczynski's popularity has evaporated more rapidly than for Peru's two most-recent presidents, Ollanta Humala and Alan Garcia, both of whom

enjoyed approval ratings of at least 50 percent at this stage of their terms.

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