

Panama Selects Minister to Coordinate Presidential Transition



Panama City, May 6 (Xinhua-RHC) -- The Panamanian government has designated a minister to coordinate power transfer to Juan Carlos Varela, who won Sunday's presidential poll.

Presidency Minister Roberto Henriquez is to coordinate a "transparent and harmonious" transition with representatives of Varela's incoming administration, outgoing President Ricardo Martinelli said in a statement on Monday.

With 95 percent of the ballots counted, Varela, candidate of the Panamenista Party, has garnered 39 percent of the vote, followed by Jose Domingo Arias from the ruling Democratic Change party with 31.5 percent, and Juan Carlos Navarro from the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party with 28 percent.

Voter turnout was estimated at 76 percent.

The National Voting Board has not confirmed the outcome of Sunday's vote, in which voters also elected a vice president, 71 legislative deputies, 77 mayors, and 648 town councilors.

The new president will take office on July 1st.

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