

Brazilian President's Approval Rating Hits Record Low



Rio de Janeiro, July 28 (RHC-Xinhua) -- The approval rate of Brazilian President Michel Temer and his government reached a record low of 5 percent, according to a presidential survey by pollster Ibope.

The poll showed 5-percent voters viewed the government positively, 70 percent viewed the government's performance as bad or very bad, 21 percent regarded its performance as regular, and the remaining 4 percent did not express their opinions.

The figures marked the worst outlook for a sitting government since 1986 when the Ibope presidential poll was first launched. The previous lowest approval rate of a sitting president was in 1989 with a 7-percent approval for then President Jose Sarney.

Temer took full office in August 2016, following his predecessor Dilma Rousseff's controversial impeachment process. Temer's popularity has taken a dive since the last poll in March with a 10-percent approval and a 55-percent disapproval.

Temer has regarded as his main priority the austerity reform to whip Brazil's economy back into shape and exit a two-year recession, while critics say his controversial reforms will heighten burdens on the poor.

Several states, including the tourism hotspot Rio de Janeiro, are suffering severe economic problems, while the federal government has been hesitant to offer aid.

Although Brazil's economy registered a slight 1-percent GDP growth in the first quarter of 2017, experts predicted that indicators for the second quarter are not promising with high unemployment and a stagnating industry.

In addition, Temer is facing corruption charges for receiving a bribe from a major meatpacking company. The Chamber of Deputies will vote on whether or not the charges should be accepted by the Supreme Court.

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