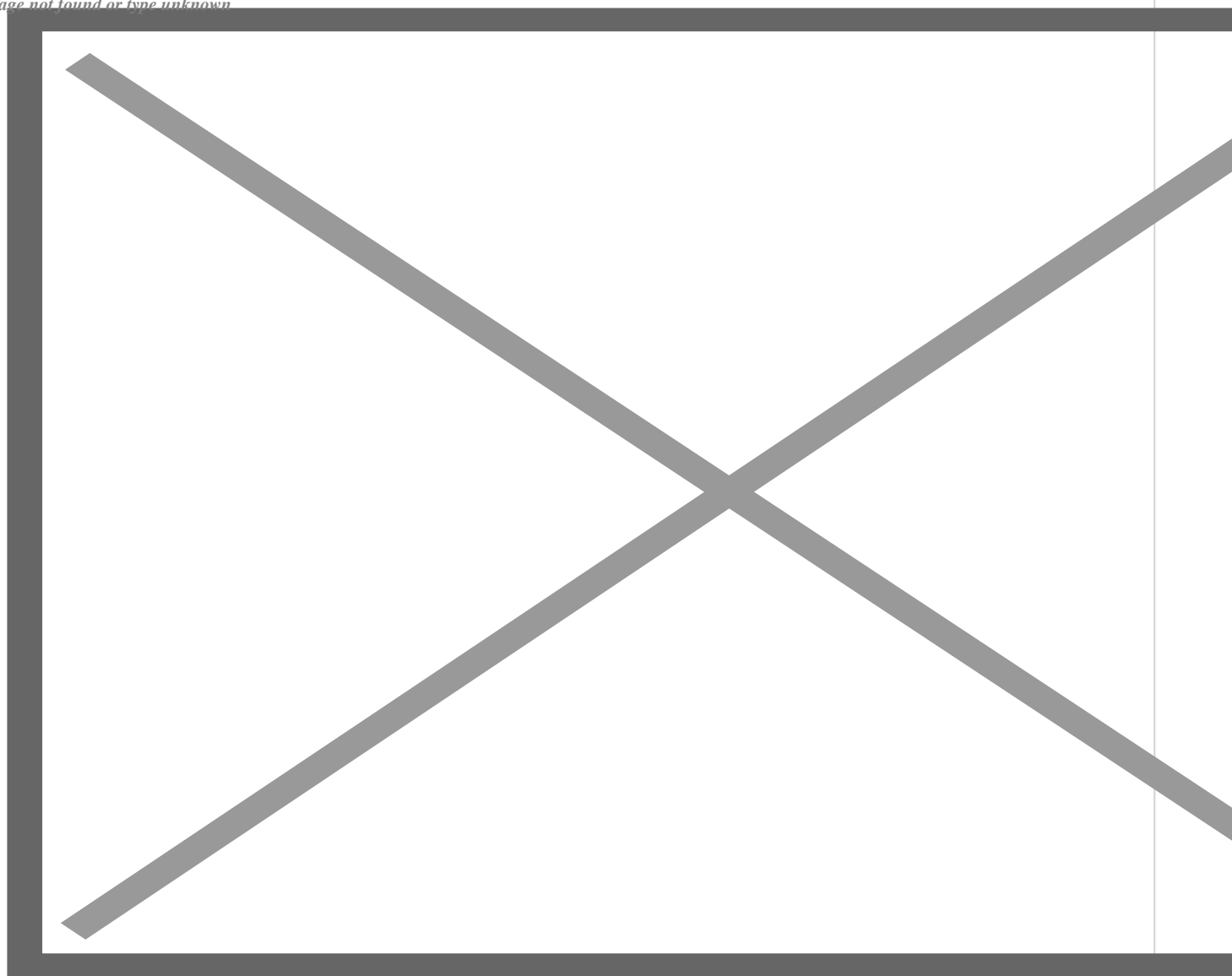


Mexico's Lopez Obrador hopeful worst of his COVID illness is over

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AMLO has a history of heart problems and hypertension. (Photo:[File: Alfredo Estrella / AFP])

Mexico City, January 30 (RHC)-- Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador says he's hopeful that he was through the worst of his coronavirus infection as he reappeared in a video message to the nation.

“I still have COVID but the doctors already tell me that the critical phase is passing,” said the 67-year-old leader from the National Palace, where he has his office and official residence.

“Now, I present myself to you so that there are no rumours,” he added in the video posted on social media. “I’m fine although I still have to rest,” he said in a steady voice. Dressed in a suit, tie and overcoat – but without a face mask – he is seen walking and talking for around 13 minutes through the National Palace.

Lopez Obrador said that while in isolation he continues to work in particular on efforts to secure more vaccines for Mexico, which has one of the world’s highest COVID-19 death tolls at more than 156,000. The country began a mass immunisation programme on December 24 but like many nations, it is struggling to acquire enough doses.

Lopez Obrador said Mexico expected to receive six million doses from various manufacturers in February and 12 million in March, by when it hopes to have given a first shot to all older adults.

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