

Polls open in Brazilian presidential election run-off

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Brasilia, October 30 (RHC)-- Polls have opened in Brazil's most polarised presidential elections to date, with left-wing former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva aiming to defeat right-wing incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in the run-off vote.

Polling stations opened at 8 am (11:00 GMT) and will close at 5 pm. The result is expected at about 2 am local time on Monday.

Lula, who was president from 2003 to 2010, won the first round on October 2, but by a much smaller margin than expected by pollsters. Sunday's race is considered open. The mood in Latin America's largest country of more than 210 million people is very heated after an extremely hard-fought election campaign.

Bolsonaro has repeatedly cast doubt on the electoral system and hinted that he might not recognise the result if he loses. The election is also receiving a lot of international attention. As a huge carbon reservoir, the Amazon rainforest plays an important role in the fight against global climate change.

In addition, Brazil has enormous natural resources and a large agricultural economy, making it an important player in international trade.

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