

Brazilian President Names 13 Cabinet Ministers



Brasilia, December 25 (RHC-Xinhua) -- Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has announced the names of 13 members of her second-term Cabinet, according to media reports.

In a press release, President Rousseff praised the work done by her previous cabinet, while announcing the members of the new one, that will start working on January 1, 2015. The new cabinet includes six ministers from the conservative Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB), the country's leading G1 news website said.

Rousseff, who belongs to the leftist Workers' Party (PT), was re-elected to a second four-year term in October by a slim margin which has forced her to make more concessions to the country's right-wing forces, which gained seats in Congress.

According to G1, the Cabinet ministers from the PMDB: are Senator and former governor of Amazonas state Eduardo Braga as Minister of Mining and Energy; Senator Katia Abreu, who is also president of the National Confederation of Agriculture, as Agriculture Minister; Helder Barbalho, the former mayor of Ananindeua, in Para state, who will take over the Department of Fishing, Vinicius Lages, who remains as Tourism Minister, and legislator Eliseu Padilha, who heads the Secretariat of Civil Aviation.

The Secretariat of Ports will be headed by Edinho Araujo.

Jaques Wagner, of the PT, will head the Defense Ministry; Gilberto Kassab, of the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB), will lead the Ministry of Cities; and legislator George Hilton, of the Brazilian Republican Party (PRB), will head the Ministry of Sports.

Rebelo, of the Brazil Communist Party (PCdoB), will move to the Ministry of Science and Technology; Cid Gomes, of the Republican Party of the Social Order (PROS) will head Education; Valdir Simon will lead General Auditing; and Nilma Lino Gomes will take over the Secretariat of Racial Equality Promotion.

The heads of important ministries, including Health and Justice, have yet to be named, but are expected to be announced by Dec 29.

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