

Mexican President Peña Nieto Forced to Change Asset Declaration Amid Scandal



Mexico City, June 2 (teleSUR-RHC)-- Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto has made changes to his declaration of assets after lawmakers demanded that he declare all of his financial property.

The move follows public documents released by Reuters showing he had misled authorities about how he acquired one of his properties. The scandal is the latest to knock Peña Nieto in the lead up to regional elections which take place at the end of this week

The president, who has been the center of several financial scandals, released the update to his declaration of assets late Sunday, days after the report emerged detailing his purchase of a 1,000 square meter plot of land in a town of Valle de Bravo, which he had formally declared to have been a gift from his late father.

The addition to the declaration includes notes explaining why Peña Nieto had claimed the property and a further one, were donated by his father. "The price was paid by my father, Enrique Pena del Mazo, who determined that the properties would be in my name, and it is for that reason that the same are declared as donations," the note said.

However, according to lawyers consulted by Reuters, under Mexican law, even if his father gave him the money to purchase the property, he could not declare it as a donation, pointing to articles 7610 and 7620 of the Civil Code of the State of Mexico.

Opposition politicians have demanded that the president make a full declaration of his assets, which total at least \$3 million. "These sorts of excesses, evidence the falsehood in his declaration of assets ... are incredibly serious," said Alejandro Encinas, senator from the PRD party.

In November, journalist Carmen Aristegui revealed Peña Nieto and his family had bought a mansion owned by businessman Juan Armando Hinojosa, who had benefited from contracts for public infrastructure. Pena Nieto lists five other properties as donations from his parents, but has given no details on where they are located.

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