

Peruvian President's Approval Rating Slips to 38% Amid Graft Probe



Lima, February 14 (RHC)-- Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski's approval rating dropped five percentage points for the second month in a row in February, as a widening graft scandal entangled his former boss, an Ipsos poll shows.

Only 38 percent of Peruvians now support Kuczynski, down from a peak of 63 percent in September shortly after he took office amid promises of modernizing Peru, according to the Ipsos survey published in the local newspaper *El Comercio*.

Kuczynski's disapproval rating climbed six percentage points to 51 percent, according to the poll of 1,291 people that had a margin of error of 2.7 percentage points. The survey was taken between last week as prosecutors accused former president Alejandro Toledo of taking \$20 million in bribes to help scandal-plagued Brazilian builder Odebrecht win lucrative highway contracts.

Kuczynski, who served as finance minister and prime minister during Toledo's 2001-2006 term, has denied any involvement in the alleged schemes in Peru. Kuczynski's popularity has evaporated more rapidly than for Peru's two most-recent presidents, Ollanta Humala and Alan Garcia, both of whom

enjoyed approval ratings of at least 50 percent at this stage of their terms.

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