

Minister Reaffirms Government's Intention to Make Changes in Chile



Santiago de Chile, April 28 (PL-RHC) -- The Chilean Government has an ambitious program of change to meet the demands of citizens, said Interior Minister, Rodrigo Peñalillo, referring to proposals such as replacing the binomial electoral system.

"Our goal is to make this a better country," Peñalillo said on the Chilevisión television program, Zero Tolerance, adding that they came to power not to do more of the same, but to take responsibility of the popular concerns that have been waiting years.

While the various political factions polemicize about government driven proposals when it is still only two months from the beginning of Michelle Bachelet's presidential term, the minister said he is convinced that it is time for a fundamental change in the country.

With respect to the modification of the binomial electoral system inherited from the dictatorship and its substitution with a proportional and inclusive system, Peñalillo stressed that it is the result of 24 years in which there have been various projects, that it is a "matter studied time and again".

"Hopefully this initiative won't stay frozen because of a right wing that thinks it is still in 1989 ," he said on the subject that raised welts on this political sector.

According to experts and government spokespersons, right wing groups close to Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship have for decades favored the binomial system, which always facilitates the election of the same people and impedes the progress of other parties.

In this sense, the new scheme proposed by the Government advances transformations such as an increase in the number of MPs in both houses and a reorganization of electoral districts in search of greater proportionality in the population by province and elected legislators.

Peñailillo said that in this way, the initiative will give a place in the national policy to "political forces, social movements and independents," referring to "working together, thinking about what's best for the country."

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