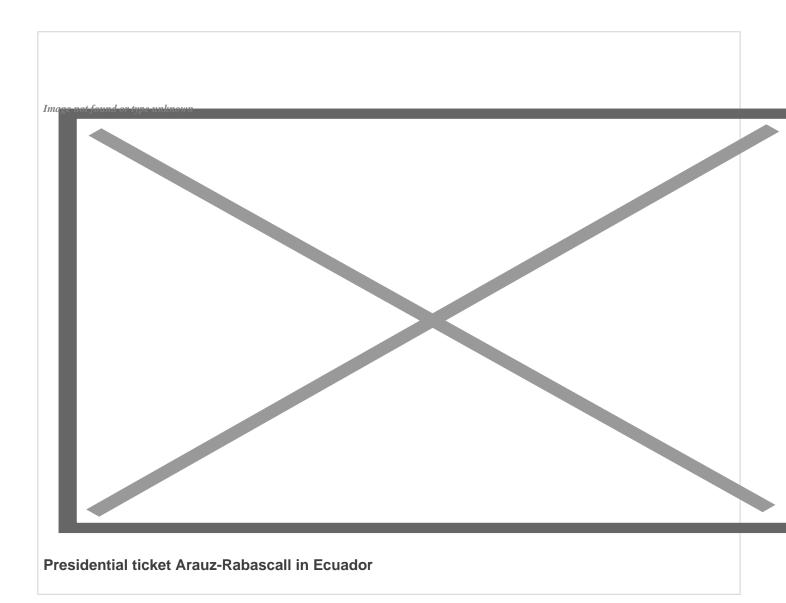
Ecuador begins countdown to presidential elections on Sunday



Quito, February 3 (RHC)-- Ecuador enters the final stretch towards this Sunday's elections when voters are concerned about the economic future of the country and the avalanche of corruption cases uncovered in recent months.

The candidate of the political alliance Unión por la Esperanza (UNES), Andres Arrauz, whose formula is supported by former president Rafael Correa, continues with the campaign caravan throughout the South American country.

Most polls show that the progressive UNES ticket be come out the winner in the first round of voting.

While the campaign of the liberal Christian alliance Creando Oportunidades (CREO) -- Partido Social Cristiano (PSC), of Guillermo Lasso and Alfredo Borrero, comes in second.

More than 13 million Ecuadorians will go to the polls to elect the new president and vice-president among 16 candidates, as well as 137 members of the legislative assembly and five representatives of the Andean Parliament.

The electoral campaign began on December 28, 2020, with biosecurity measures, determined by the National Electoral Council (CNE), such as the prohibition of in-person political rallies to avoid the spread of the coronavirus.

During the process, authorities of several States, as well as the former President of Ecuador Rafael Correa, have shown their concern that the CNE will suspend the elections, in which, according to polls, it is very likely that Andres Arauz will win.

However, the president of the Ecuadorian Electoral Power, Diana Atamaint, ratified on her Twitter account that the presidential elections will be held without any postponement -- on the scheduled date of Sunday, February 7th. The date had been agreed upon by all political parties back in March of 2020.

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