Colombia's Santos confident of election victory

Bogotá, June 14,(RHC), – Campaigning is officially closed for the second round of the Colombian presidential elections due on Sunday, which is promising a close-run battle between incumbent President Juan Manuel Santos and challenger Oscar Ivan Zuluaga.

While the Democratic Center candidate Zuluaga won May 25's first round by getting 458,156 votes more than Santos of the Social Party of National Unity, the current president is confident of victory.

"Do not worry, and hear me when I say: I am going to win these elections by a margin of 8 to 10 points," said Santos in an interview with Canal Capital.

As both candidates mobilize support from various sectors, President Santos received a boost in the form of an open letter signed by 80 key Colombian impresarios and industrialists.

"You have directed a government which has resulted in unprecedented economic benefits, increased formal employment, increased foreign investment, the modernization of infrastructure and maintained excellent international relations," said 80 private sector impresarios in their letter.

The second round of the presidential elections takes place against a backdrop of scandals including illegal wire-tapping, e-mail hacking, illegal pay outs, accusations of electoral fraud and the lowest voter

turnout in 20 years in the first round.

Much of the campaigning is now being directed at the ongoing peace dialogues between the government's negotiating team and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC guerrillas) in Havana, Cuba.

The civil conflict is the main source of debate and Colombians appear divided on the peace dialogues with the FARC and the recently announced agreement to negotiate with the country's second guerrilla group ELN, or the National Liberation Army.

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