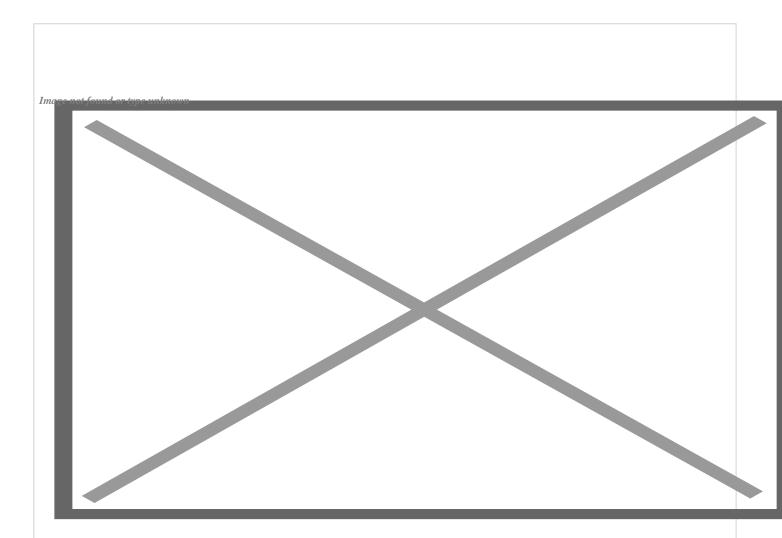
Polling stations close and vote count begins in Peru



For this second round of elections 83,048 polling stations were installed in the national territory and 3,440 polling stations abroad. | Photo: EFE

Lima, June 6 (RHC)-- Authorities of the National Jury of Elections (JNE) of Peru announced the closing of all polling stations, as well as the formal beginning of the vote count to know the next head of state of the South American nation.

After the announcement of the closing of the election day, the head of Citizen Services of the JNE, Luis Ernesto Grillo, reminded citizens who did not vote to present their medical justification to avoid fines.

In a few hours, Peruvians will know their next president. The race is contested by the candidate for Peru Libre, Pedro Castillo, and the ultra-right candidate for Fuerza Popular and daughter of former dictator Fujimori, Keiko Fujimori.

Preliminary results -- based on polls published by IPSOS -- shows a virtual tie between the two candidates. Keiko Fujimori comes in with 50.3% and Pedro Castillo has 49.7%.

A total of 25,287,954 citizens are summoned to exercise their duty to elect the next Peruvian executive authorities, both abroad and in the national territory.

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