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*By Mariana Álvarez Orellana* 07.11.2021

## Vote of confidence in the Peruvian cabinet, after the fall of party minister

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After the fall of Interior Minister Luis Barranzuela, the Peruvian Congress granted the vote of confidence to the ministerial cabinet led by Prime Minister Mirtha Vásquez, with 68 votes in favor, 56 against and one abstention, in a vote in which 16 congressmen of the ruling Free Peru voted against, considering it "moderate".

The government has as a priority the fight against corruption, the economic reactivation and the control of the Covid-19 pandemic, said Vázquez, while President Pedro Castillo stressed that "with the vote of confidence granted by Congress, we will continue to fight tirelessly for the changes that the people need. We are the Government that promotes the feat of social demand and that is committed to the development of our regions. With unity and consensus, we will do it," he said.

The government emerged victorious from this ministerial crisis in the second cabinet, after in October he was dismissed from the head of the cabinet aGuido**Bellido.** If Congress denied him a trusted elvote, the cabinet would have to resign. The departure of the Interior Minister, who had already been very questioned before the scandal of the party, plays in favor of the cabinet to obtain the vote of confidence in Congress.

At the same time, the Government surprisingly appointed Generals Walter Alemán and Alfonso Artadi as new heads of the Army and Air Force. Córdova replaces General José Vizcarra and Artadi replaces Jorge Chaparro Alfonso Javier Artadi and the substitutes went into retirement.

But the right-wing siege against Castillono's government ceases. Analyst Roger Taborda points out that "through opinionologists, political dinosaurs, rented columnists and junk television, they point out daily that Peru is a chaos, that they are concerned about the homeland, the closure of mines, because we are governed by a communist."

"That chicken, bread and the dollar went up because Guido Bellido was prime minister, that with his departure everything fell in price and that now things have risen again because, despite having a soft premier, President Pedro Castillo has announced the nationalization of gas, tax reforms and insists on a new Constitution."

## The Peruvian minister who fell on Halloween

A party overthrew the Interior Minister, the most criticized of Pedro Castillo's cabinet. Luis Barranzuela, a lawyer and former police major, was forced to resign after it was revealed that on Sunday, October 31, he organized a party at his home despite a ban on gatherings due to the pandemic. He did not reach a month in office: for him it was a halloween.

Avelino Guillen came in his replacement. He is remembered for having been part of the technical team of Perú Libre supporting Pedro Castillo during the second round and for participating in the debate of technicians organized by the National Jury of Elections (JNE). Barranzuela, questioned for his past of 27 years as a policeman – where he accumulated 158 sanctions for abandonment of office, disobedience and other offenses – and his clients as a lawyer, ended up falling for a noisy night of celebrations in his house.

When he was appointed as minister, he had among his clients the secretary general of the ruling Peru Libre (PL) party, Vladimir Cerrón, and other party leaders accused of money laundering. He had become chief of police investigating his recent clients as a lawyer.

La llegada de Guillén le sacó un peso de encima a Castillo. Barranzuela también fue abogado detraficantes de armas que operaron en la dictadura de Alberto Fujimori de la mano con el llamado monje negro del régimen, Vladimiro Montesinos. La derecha parlamentaria y los medios explotaron al máximo la cuestionada figura de Barranzuela para atacar al gobierno.

La jefa del gabinete ministerial, Mirtha Vásquez, le pidió públicamente explicaciones a Barranzuela por su fiesta de Haloween tras lo cual se reunió con Castillo y se decidió la salida del ministro. En medio del escándalo de la famosa fiesta se publicó una norma, firmada por Barranzuela y el ministro de Defensa, en la quese dispone que las fuerzas armadas salgan a las calles para apoyar a la policía en el combate a la delincuencia.

Sin duda, una concesión a la derecha La militarización y está lejos de solucionar el problema de la delincuencia y la inseguridad pública.

Desde distintas posiciones bombardean al gobierno de Castillo. El presidente del Banco Central Julio Velarde, ratificado en el cargo por este gobierno, es el responsable del dólar caro con inflación al alza; del encarecimiento del costo de la canasta básica y de la exacerbación del conflicto político.

El Banco Central tiene una regla de intervenciones cambiarias esterilizadas, precisamente para morigerar las fuertes fluctuaciones del precio del dólar, originadas por shocks que generan incertidumbre. Esta vez el Banco Central ha vendido muy poco en comparación a otros dos episodios de alza del dólar, en los que vendió montos significativos de dólares para forzar la caída de su precio. Velarde lo sabe, porque estuvo como presidente del Banco Central en ambos episodios.

Velarde knows that the increase in the price of the dollar has inflationary effects and that it affects, not only companies that have debts in dollars and income in soles, but also the fiscal accounts of the government that currently has 55.3% of its debt in foreign currency. He knows that the financial services of this debt rise, when the exchange rate increases, says economist Félix Jiménez.

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