
Impeachment of Ecuador's Jorge Glas 'Far From Finished'

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Ecuador's Legislative Administrative Council (CAL) is taking steps to fast-track moves to have former Vice-President Jorge Glas impeached in the shortest possible time, according to reports, but one analyst warns the task will be difficult to complete.

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According to an article by [Diego Puente](#) in El Comercio, even if the process was completed in shortest possible time, it would take at least 28 days according to the rules established in the Organic Law of the Legislative Function and the Law of Jurisdictional Guarantees.

This estimate doesn't take into consideration that there is no fixed time for some stages of the impeachment proceedings, nor does it consider legal moves by Glas to have them delayed or even halted altogether.

company Odebrecht, in Quito, Ecuador, December 13.

While significant progress was made Tuesday with the appointment of Judge Manuel Viteri, mandated to give a ruling on the constitutionality of the move by December 22, the process still requires an inordinate amount of work to get underway.

Roberto Gomez, from the Creo movement against the suspended vice-president, must present a case which will then be analysed to consider whether it falls in line with the parameters established in the constitution for impeachment.

After Viteri reviews and prepares the draft constitutional opinion of the trial request, the President of the Court will convene a plenary session within 24 hours.

The judgment from this meeting will be issued within 48 hours of the presentation of the project and must be approved by two-thirds of the members of the Plenary (at least six of nine votes).

If the Constitutional Court issues a favorable opinion, President of the Assembly José Serrano will inform the Legislative Administration Council (CAL), for the start of processing, with the case being sent to the Supervisory Commission.

Glas has been in preventive detention since October. On January 2 he will meet the 90 days of imprisonment established by law, so in the first instance the case would opt to remove him for the abandonment of his position rather than impeachment, which would delay the process.

Glas was elected vice-president in the second electoral round last April, with President Lenin Moreno as leader of the left-wing Alianza País.

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Reacting on Twitter last Wednesday, former president Rafael Correa denounced the sentence as condemning "an innocent."

"A trial full of so many irregularities will have to go to the international bodies, but they already have their objective: to seize the vice presidency," Correa wrote.

"The same script as with Dilma, Lula, Cristina. It's all a matter of time, and our people will react."

Glas' defense counsel, Eduardo Franco Llor, has also announced that he will appeal the six-year sentence, which he described as "iniquitous" and "barbaric," insisting that his client will not resign.

"The temporary suspension of the sentence will be requested immediately, as established by the regulations so that the vice president can recover his freedom as soon as possible," Llor said. "Of course, he will continue as vice president of the country."

The sentence was handed down by Edgar Flores Mier, who granted Attorney General Carlos Baca's requested six-year jail sentence. Baca argued that "the prosecution has presented the evidence with which it based its trial, and now it is up to the judges to establish culpability or ratify innocence."

Glas and his uncle Ricardo Rivera were two of nine people accused of criminal conduct in connection with the sprawling Latin American corruption case. Odebrecht has admitted paying US\$788 million in bribes to officials in Panama, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Guatemala, Peru and the Dominican Republic.
