

» A new Brazil is emerging

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It may seem strange that in the middle of these political, economic, moral –and perhaps institutional– crises we are saying that you can discern a new country arising on the horizon.

Those who have had the opportunity to follow what is happening on the streets of Brazil since last Sunday have the same feeling: under the control and pressure of millions of Brazilians, who have organized themselves to state that enough is enough, their efforts are building a new country.

It has been truly impressive that millions of people in more than a hundred small, medium, and large cities, without violence and with much civic courage, have reaffirmed loudly and clearly that the country is not the same. Everyone in the streets was very clear as to what they did not want and who they did not want. The desire was clear, rapid and more democratic changes, in accordance with the law, with greater respect for institutions and without corruption.

Operation Lava-Jato (Car Wash), under the command of Judge Sergio Moro and a team of prosecutors, is providing the tools that will serve as fuel for a society tired of witnessing explicit scenes of theft and destruction of public property built over decades.

It is a new rule on the scale of values of a whole society that is tired of seeing so much abuse and corruption.

This explains the reaction that occurred in the streets when the Government, like a slap in the face of protesters, decided to appoint former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as Chief of Staff, belittling the voice of society, and acting, as demonstrated in recordings, in a desperate attempt to shield him against a possible jail term.



The result: the pressure increased. Lula's inauguration is being challenged in court, and even if he becomes Chief of Staff, which could happen, he will be weakened, frightened and cornered, trying to reorganize a political base that is in shambles with the possibility of losing the support of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), his only thread of hope to contain the impeachment process.

It is worth noting that the Impeachment Committee of the National Congress was installed in record time, an unusual thing to have happened in the legislature, and has already had two sessions since the installation, one of them on Friday. With this, the vote on the House floor, which determines the removal of the President, should happen by the end of April.

All of this speed is the result of the substantial pressure coming from the streets, such as the possible removal of the PMDB, which quickly feels the change of the winds of power that are underway.

However, difficult times lie ahead.

Political tension rose sharply. Politics, and politicians, have been discredited; trust will have to be rebuilt. Unemployment and inflation are growing before our eyes, we lack immediate prospects of renewed growth due to a thunderous public deficit and the disorganization of the public sector left by the last Lula/Dilma governments.

However, the root of all these crises, the political crises, may feed back once the process of impeachment is completed. We will attend the inauguration of Vice President Michel Temer, now president of Brazil's largest party, the PMDB, and who behind the scenes is already sewing a "Government of National Unity".

The example of Argentina, our neighboring country, proves beyond doubt that the reversal of the political expectations, and the credibility of the new governing officials, has an impressive ability to attract investments that were only waiting for this sign. Here we will witness the same phenomenon; companies quickly cease to be idle as the new political signals are sent. Also this week, in another unprecedented event in the country, dozens of business-class organizations favored the Impeachment.

Politicians and governing officials, who may manage to survive this hurricane, do not think that the company will give them a safe conduct to the exercise of future positions. Henceforth, seriousness, character and ethics should be the basis of any citizen, candidate or leader who aims to be a political representative in this new emerging country.

This is the great merit of the new scale of values that Operation Lava-Jato brings to us.

Today's leaders, who belittle or think that this is a passing wind, run the risk of being swallowed by this new wave of civic courage of a country which now knows it deserves respect.



Marco Antonio Sabino is Partner and President of S/A LLORENTE & CUENCA. Journalist (Cásper Libero) and lawyer (USP), postgraduate degree in Organizational Communication (USP), is specialized in economic, legal and government affairs. He has extensive experience in developing communication plans for the Brazilian government and multinational companies. He was superintendent of Communication Telefonica Group in Brazil and led the drafting of radio and TV Bandeirantes. He was a reporter and editor of the business magazine Exame and also served as a special reporter for Globo TV.

masabino@llorenteycuanca.com



Emerson Kapaz is Public Affairs Counsellor at S/A LLORENTE & CUENCA. He was one of the founders and president of Abrinq and the Abrinq Foundation. Secretary of Science, Technology and Economic Development of São Paulo from 1994 to 1998, and y federal deputy in 1998. He was CEO of the Brazilian Institute of Competitive Ethics (ETCO) and Executive Diretor of the Institute for Trade Development (IDV). Partner and Chairman of the Board of Elka Plastics Ltda., Partner and presidente of Chairman of the Board of Elka Plasticos Ltda, he founded and directs ALEK Business Consulting.

ekapaz@llorenteycuanca.com



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