

# WEEKLY REPORT



07/31/21

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## POLITICS

### **BOLSONARO'S POLITICAL NOMINATIONS SHOW WEAR AND TEAR OF GOVERNMENT**

The political wear and tear experienced by Jair Bolsonaro has forced the president to negotiate with the Senate to unlock hearings for nominees to regulatory agencies, to judiciary and prosecution control bodies and to posts abroad. The choices expose the federal government's apparatus. [Read more](#)

### **BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO TURNS TO CENTER-RIGHT SENATOR FOR POLITICAL SURVIVAL**

Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro has asked Senator Ciro Nogueira to be his chief of staff to shore up support in Congress in the face of falling popularity and growing outrage over his handling of the world's second deadliest COVID-19 outbreak. Nogueira, a leader of the center-right Progressives Party (PP), tweeted on Tuesday that he has accepted the job and is expected to be sworn in this week as Bolsonaro's closest minister, replacing a retired general. He will be the first heavyweight politician to enter Bolsonaro's inner cabinet as the embattled president seeks allies to shield himself from calls in Congress for his impeachment and a Senate investigation of irregularities in the government's purchase of COVID-19 vaccines. [Read more](#).

### **BOLSONARO ADMINISTRATION SEES 27 CABINET CHANGES IN 30 MONTHS**

President Jair Bolsonaro has made 27 changes at the top level in two and a half years of government with the recent ministerial changes. After meeting with senator Ciro Nogueira (PP-PI) on Tuesday (27), Bolsonaro invited him to be the chief of staff, which until then had been occupied by General Luiz Eduardo Ramos. With the current changes, Ramos takes over the command of the General Secretariat of the Presidency, currently with Onyx Lorenzoni. Lorenzoni will move to the Ministry of Employment and Welfare, to be recreated with the dismemberment of the Economy ministry. [Read more](#).

### **BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO ESCALATES RHETORIC OVER ELECTORAL FRAUD**

Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro pleaded on Thursday for the adoption of printed ballots that can be counted, alleging that it is necessary to avoid fraud in the country's electronic voting system in next year's election. "I want elections next year, but clean, democratic and sincere elections," he said in his weekly social media webcast to supporters. Bolsonaro showed a series of internet video clips as alleged evidence of past fraud, maintaining that democracy was at risk in Brazil. Critics say that Bolsonaro, like former U.S. President Donald Trump, is sowing election doubts to pave the way for him not to accept defeat in 2022. [Read more](#).

### **BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO INSINUATES ELECTORAL AUTHORITY WANTS TO FAVOR LULA**

Brazilian leader Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday implied that the president of the Supreme Electoral Court (TSE) Luis Roberto Barroso refuses to change the electronic voting system because he intends to favor Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in next year's elections. [Read more](#).

## **INVESTIGATING BRAZILIANS CALLING FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION "UNFAIR" – PRESIDENT BOLSONARO**

Bolsonaro criticized the investigations opened in the Supreme Court last year after a series of demonstrations calling for the "closure" of the high court and the Parliament through a "military intervention" that would keep the current head of state in power. [Read more.](#)

## **WHY BRAZIL'S ENHANCED FAMILY GRANT THREATENS THE SPENDING CAP**

President Jair Bolsonaro on Friday (30) said he intends to raise the average amount of Bolsa Família (Family Grant) by at least 50% and even argued that the country should go into debt to pay for the social program. The president said that on Friday he would meet with the federal government's economic team to determine the Bolsa Família's new amount, which is currently "low" at R\$192 (US\$37). [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL CONSIDERS REDUCING 2022 BUDGET DEFICIT TARGET BY UP TO US\$14 BILLION**

The Ministry of Economy evaluates the convenience of sending a bill amending the Budget Guidelines Law (LDO) to reduce the primary deficit target for 2022 between R\$60 billion and R\$70 billion (US\$14 billion). The current deficit target is R\$170.5 billion for next year. The information was published in the newspaper "O Estado de S. Paulo" and confirmed by Valor. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STANDS AT 14.6%, REACHING 14.8 MILLION BRAZILIANS -IBGE**

The unemployment rate was 14.6% in the quarter ended in May (March, April, and May), virtually unchanged from the quarter ended in February (14.4%). In practice, 14.8 million Brazilians are looking for a job in the country. The data come from the Continuous National Household Sample Survey (Pnad), released Friday (30) by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). [Read more.](#)

## **INFORMALITY RATE IN BRAZIL LABOR MARKET RISES TO 40%**

The informality rate in Brazil's labor market went up to 40 percent of the employed population in the quarter ending in May 2021. The figure was disclosed today (Jul. 30) by the government's statistics agency IBGE. Of the 86.7 million employed people in Brazil, 34.7 million were reported to be workers with no formal registration at all, people working autonomously with no registration as firm, and people who work helping their families. [Read more.](#)

## **ONYX WANTS TO ACCELERATE CHANGES IN LABOR LEGISLATION FOR THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

President Jair Bolsonaro's decision to recreate the Ministry of Labor and Welfare should, in the opinion of technicians at the ministry, speed up projects related to the digital economy. Before, labor and social security matters were handled by a secretariat within the structure of the Ministry of Economy, headed by Paulo Guedes. Onyx Lorenzoni will lead the new ministry, having left the post of Minister of the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic. The team will focus, for example, on service providers for mobile applications. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL'S CHAMBER PRESIDENT SAYS INCOME TAX REFORM AND CORREIOS PRIVATIZATION ON CONGRESS'S AGENDA**

The President of the Chamber of Deputies, Arthur Lira (PP-AL), said on Wednesday (28) that the first part of the tax reform, which includes changes in income tax for individuals and companies, will be voted in a plenary session as soon as Congress returns from recess next week. According to parliamentarians, the reform had already matured among House leaders, but they decided to use the 15 days of the recess to offer constructive criticism of the project. Lira also pointed out that the proposed privatization of the Postal Service Correios will be on the agenda for a vote. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL SUFFERED 20-YEAR SETBACK IN EDUCATION DUE TO PANDEMIC, SAYS SECRETARY**

According to Maurício Cunha, interviewed this Sunday (25) in the program Brasil em Pauta, more than 3 million Brazilian children do not have access to remote education. "With the pandemic, we have gone back 20 years in Brazilian education," he said. In addition, these children live out of school with nutritional problems (for many, the snack in the school was the only meal of the day), psychological problems, violence (teachers are among the main plaintiffs in domestic violence against children), and socialization problems. [Read more.](#)

## **FROSTS STAIN BRAZIL COFFEE BELT, GROWERS SEE NEARLY A THIRD OF FIELDS HIT**

Brownish spots have stained large areas of coffee fields in the south of Brazil's top producer Minas Gerais, a sign that the worst cold snap in nearly 30 years will hurt production for at least the next two crops, according to an agronomist. Adriano de Rezende, technical coordinator at the Minasul coffee cooperative, estimated that between 20% and 30% of the crops were hit by the unusually cold temperatures that reached the region on July 20, spurring the worst frost since 1994, according to farmers and analysts. [Read more.](#)

# HEALTH

## **MINISTRY OF ECONOMY WANTS NEW DRUG PRICING RULES IN 2021**

The Ministry of Economy's Competition and Competitiveness Advocacy Department hopes that the review of the rules for drug pricing in Brazil, within the scope of the Medicines Market Regulation Chamber (CMED), will be completed in 2021. Currently, the process is regulated by CMED Resolution 2/2004. The draft discussed by CMED's Technical-Executive Committee was approved for public consultation on July 16, after changes to a text initially proposed by the Economics team. The result is a consensus also involving representatives of the Ministries of Health, Justice and Public Security and the Civil Couple. [Read more.](#)

## **CMED DRAFT CREATES CATEGORY FOR INCREMENTAL INNOVATION**

The draft agreed within the scope of the Medicines Market Regulation Chamber (CMED) to change rules for defining new products creates a specific category for medicines with incremental innovation. There was also a change in the description of category I, drugs with radical innovation. Categories were also established for the classification of biosimilars and medicines arising from the transfer of ownership. JOTA PRO Health subscribers learned of this information last week. Learn more about the product that anticipates the main regulatory decisions in the field of health in the country. [Read more.](#)

## **BOLSONARO VETOES BILL THAT WOULD EXPAND ACCESS TO ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY**

President Jair Bolsonaro fully vetoed a bill that would facilitate access to oral cancer drugs. The Bill 6330/2019, sponsored by Senator Reguffe Senator, would benefit more than 50,000 patients who could perform the treatment at home, without the need for hospitalization. The veto message was published in the Official Gazette of the Union this Tuesday (27). According to the project, private health plans would be required to cover expenses with outpatient and home antineoplastic treatments for oral use within 48 hours. According to the veto message sent by Bolsonaro to the National Congress, the text "would compromise the sustainability of the market", "would create discrepancies" and "privilege patients affected by cancer diseases that require the use of oral antineoplastics". Also, according to the President of the Republic, "the high cost of oral antineoplastics" could compromise the "sustainability of the market for private health care plans". According to him, the consequence would be "the inevitable passing on of these additional costs to consumers, which would make health plans even more expensive, in addition to bringing risks to the maintenance of private coverage to current beneficiaries, particularly the poorest". [Read more.](#)

## **MINISTER OF HEALTH WANTS NEW RULE FOR TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT FOR HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS**

The Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga said, at a press conference granted this Wednesday (28), that the ministry wants to propose the edition of a provisional measure (MP) to create an administrative process with deadlines for the approval of medicines at the National Health Agency Supplementary (ANS). The announcement came after the repercussion of President Jair Bolsonaro's (non-party) veto of a bill that would speed up access to chemotherapy drugs. The bill, authored by senator Reguffe (Podemos-DF), forced health plans to provide different oral cancer treatments soon after approval by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa). Currently, this procedure must also go through the ANS, but the deadlines can be long, reaching up to three years of waiting. [Read more.](#)

## **MINISTER CELEBRATES 100 MILLION BRAZILIANS VACCINATED WITH FIRST DOSE**

Brazil's Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga on Wednesday (28) celebrated the mark of 100 million people inoculated with the first dose of an anti-Covid vaccine, equivalent to 47.6% of the country's 210 million inhabitants. "Today we can be proud of the success of our vaccination campaign: 100 million Brazilians received at least the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine," the head of the Ministry announced on a national radio and television network. Queiroga, the 4th Brazilian Health Minister since the start of the pandemic and leading the portfolio since last March, also urged Brazilians to complete their vaccination schedule, as some 4 million people have not yet visited vaccination centers to receive the second shot. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL ALSO REPORTS GUILLAIN-BARRE CASES AFTER VACCINATION**

Rare cases of the Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) after vaccination against COVID-19 have been reported in several countries, including Brazil, the country's national sanitary regulator Anvisa warned. In a statement released Wednesday (Jul. 28), Anvisa says it has thus far received 27 notifications of suspected cases of GBS after immunization with vaccine AstraZeneca, in addition to three other cases with vaccine Janssen, and other four with CoronaVac, adding up to 34 occurrences. [Read more.](#)

## **COVAXIN VACCINE CLINICAL STUDIES CANCELED IN BRAZIL**

Brazil's national sanitary regulator Anvisa definitively canceled the clinical studies on Indian vaccine Covaxin in Brazil. In a note released last night (Jul. 26), the agency said the measure was taken after Precisa stopped representing the vaccine in the country. "The decision was made after a technical assessment concluding that the end of Precisa's authorization to represent the vaccine makes fulfilling the requirements for the clinical trials in the country impossible," Anvisa declared in the statement. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL TO CANCEL CONTRACT FOR RUSSIAN COVID-19 VACCINE, MINISTER SAYS**

Brazil plans to cancel a contract signed in March for 10 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga said on Thursday, as the South American nation struggles with one of the worst outbreaks in the world. Queiroga said the move was due to lapsed deadlines in the registration process with Brazilian health regulator Anvisa. He added that Brazil's national immunization program does not currently need the Russian vaccine, though that could change if Anvisa licenses Sputnik V. [Read more.](#)

## **BRAZIL RECEIVES REQUEST FOR USE OF COVID-19 VACCINE SINOPHARM**

Brazil's sanitary regulator Anvisa on Monday (Jul. 26) received a new request for the temporary authorization of the emergency use of a vaccine against COVID-19. This time, the request was sent by Chinese laboratory Sinopharm and presented by Blau Farmacêutica, representing the inoculation in Brazil. [Read more.](#)

## **SHORTER INTERVAL BETWEEN APPLICATION OF PFIZER VACCINES DEPENDS ON DELIVERY OF NEW DOSES, SAYS GOVERNMENT**

The executive secretary of the Ministry of Health, Rodrigo Cruz, said this Monday (26) that it is considering reducing the recommended interval for the application of the second dose of Pfizer and that the ministry is deciding when to apply the change. With this measure, the interval should change from about three months to 21 days. According to him, the ministry will follow the directions of Pfizer and representatives of health secretaries to decide the execution date. The Minister of Health, Marcelo Queiroga, said they extended the time between the doses in order to apply more first doses. [Read more.](#)

### **COVID-19: BRAZIL SEES 42.2K CASES, 1.3K DEATHS IN 24H**

In 24 hours, Brazilian health authorities have registered 42,283 new cases of COVID-19 and 1,318 deaths from the disease. The figures were registered between Wednesday and Thursday and can be found in the daily update on the pandemic by the country's Ministry of Health. The new statistics, disclosed Thursday (Jul. 29), brought the nation's death toll for COVID-19 to 554,497. There are also 3,414 fatalities under investigation. [Read more.](#)



**CONSULTORES**  

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**Relações Governamentais**