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Ecuador: Government Announces Public Spending Cutbacks

by Barbara Khol

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On May 6, Public Administration secretary general Washington Herrera said President Rodrigo Borja had decreed a 15% cut in public spending, excepting salaries of public employees. Herrera did not provide details on the sum the government expects to save. Purchases of furniture, equipment and vehicles are to be reduced by 15%. With the exceptions of management posts, public school teachers, health sector technicians and professionals, and public security forces, government departments and divisions are prohibited from hiring to fill vacant positions. In addition, the decree specifies prohibitions against the creation of new public sector jobs, and new contracts for occasional services. (Basic data from AFP, 05/06/91)

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