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Strategy Flash – Ecuador

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Ecuador Strategy Flash

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The Control Commission recommended in its report not to impeach Mr. Lasso. However, the report did not get enough votes inside the commission to pass to the Assembly. On Saturday, the Control Commission presented its report not recommending the impeachment of Mr. Lasso. The draft of the report had already been leaked on Friday, and the final resolution of the text determined that there were no grounds to impeach Mr. Lasso. However, when the commission voted to approve the report, the majority of its members rejected it, as we suggested would happen. Four of the committee members voted in favor of approving the report, albeit five members decided to vote against it. One of the correist assembly members presented a motion to change the report, as to make it favor the impeachment, which was rejected by the President of the Commission, Mr. Villavicencio. So, with the report not being approved, the entire Assembly will now decide if Mr. Lasso must be impeached or not. Mr. Saquicela, president of the Assembly, called for a session to take place on Tuesday to vote on said matter. Mr. Saquicela also cites Article 146 of the Legislative Function Law, which establishes that the Assembly can make decisions when there is no consensus within the commissions. These decisions are made with a simple majority of 70 votes.

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So now, on Tuesday the Assembly will vote whether to continue or not with the impeachment against Mr Lasso. The established procedure gave the power to decide whether to take the impeachment to a vote in the Assembly or not to the Control Commission. If the report had been approved in said stance, then its decision would have been final, and in this case, the process would have been archived. In fact, there is no chance of said report being rewritten, marking its importance, and the pressure of the correist members on the commission as soon as the draft of the report was leaked. However, as the report was not approved, the decision to take the impeachment to a vote now passed on to the General Assembly. If the Assembly decides to move forward with the impeachment, then it will need 70 votes in favor to approve it. The opposition should comfortably reach that number, as correism counts with roughly 47 votes, the PSC with at least 13, and then Pachakutik and the ID have around 23 and 15 seats, respectively. That adds up to 98 votes, which would be enough to take the impeachment to a vote, and then oust Mr. Lasso. However, the report does present a final hurdle for the opposition, as now there is no motivation for the impeachment to take place. According to the Law, it is the report of the Control Commission that gives the motivation for the impeachment. But, as the report was not approved, then the Assembly is the one that must decide on what basis the accusation against Mr. Lasso is made. And it can't be on the presented charges against him, as the report already states there are no grounds to impeach the president on the embezzlement charge. Still, we believe the result of tomorrow's session could be a good proxy for the possible result of an impeachment vote. The president is also running out of time to call for the Muerte Cruzada, and as we argued (for further analysis, [click here](#)), without said threat, his chances of surviving the impeachment attempt drop considerably.

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