

An Open Letter to the Future President of the Republic of Peru

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Mr. or Madam President,

I am writing this letter at a moment when the ONPE electoral commission is frantically recounting fractions of a percentage point of the vote, and the entire country is frozen in agonizing suspense. Whoever you turn out to be—whether the leftist nationalist Roberto Sánchez in his traditional Andean sombrero or the conservative Keiko Fujimori making her fourth bid for power—you must understand one crucial thing: you lack genuine majority support.

In the first round, barely 15% of the electorate voted for either of you. You made it to the runoff simply because our political system is utterly fractured. We went to the polls this Sunday not out of love for your ideas, but because voting is mandatory in Peru, and we were choosing the lesser of two evils. We are bone-weary. Over the last decade, you politicians have cycled through nine presidents in Lima. You have jailed one another, impeached each other, dissolved Congress, and hatched plots, all while we—ordinary Peruvians—struggled to survive.

You are taking the helm of a country in a deep institutional coma. If you wish to remain in office longer than your predecessors, forget about ideological vendettas and immediately set about saving the state:

- Stop the war between the branches of government: Peruvian politics has turned into a gladiatorial arena. A president tries to govern, Congress immediately moves to impeach him on grounds of "moral incapacity," the military wavers, and in the end, the country is run by placeholders like the elderly Balcázar. We need a stability pact. The new bicameral Congress, set to begin work in July, must not become your enemy. If you do not learn to negotiate and build coalitions, you will be swept away in six months, and we will head to the polls all over again.
- A firm response to criminal chaos: The streets of Lima, Callao, and Trujillo have become unsafe. Drug trafficking, armed robbery, and organized crime are strangling small businesses. Peruvians demand order. We need deep police reform, a purge of corruption from the courts, and strict border control. Citizen security is the foundation; without it, any economic programs you propose will be nothing but empty words.
- Reviving the mining sector and overcoming the "Balcázar paralysis": Our economy relies on copper and gold. Yet, due to chronic political instability and regional protests, major international investors are afraid to commit capital. The interim government managed to freeze even defense contracts and major infrastructure projects, citing a "lack of legitimacy." You must restore the confidence of global markets from day one; otherwise, we will lack the funds for basic social needs.
- Healing a divided nation: The 2026 elections once again exposed a stark divide: Lima—prosperous yet fearful of leftist radicalism—voted for the right, while the impoverished regions of the Andes and the Amazon, neglected by the state, voted for the left. This geographic and social rift tears Peru apart every five years. Whoever wins this election must become the president of **all** Peru, not just their own voters. It is time for Lima to listen to the provinces' concerns, and for the provinces to stop believing in radical fairy tales.

Mr. or Madam President, on July 28th, you will don the presidential sash. Remember: the Peruvian people no longer believe in mere words. Our patience has run out

completely. If you begin your term with street-level crackdowns or attempts to usurp power, the fate of Pedro Castillo awaits you. If you become mired in corruption, you will end up like Dina Boluarte or José Heri. Give this long-suffering country at least five years of calm, predictable governance. Restore order, put an end to the circus in Lima, and prove that Peru is capable of being a great republic rather than a testing ground for endless political experiments.

With a firm demand for stability and respect for the rule of law,

A Citizen of the Republic of Peru

P.S. Leadership Audit: A Snapshot of Peru's Crisis. Since the winner has not yet been officially announced, I have assessed the baseline resilience potential of Peru's executive branch system at the start of this new five-year term (on a scale of 1 to 5):

- Institutional stability and the balance of power: 1.8 (Critically low level. The constitutional impeachment mechanism is so unstable that Peru's executive branch remains the most vulnerable on the continent.)
- Connection with society and public trust: 2.0 (The winner will inherit a country characterized by immense skepticism and apathy among the population; over 70% of citizens did not want to see either Sánchez or Fujimori in the final round.)
- Determination to implement reforms: 3.5 (Both the right-wing camp led by Fujimori and the left-wing camp led by Sánchez possess a hard core of supporters and a readiness for radical measures, yet any action will inevitably face resistance from opponents.)
- Economic fundamentals: 3.8 (Despite a decade of political turmoil, Peru's macroeconomy, Central Bank reserves, and mining potential demonstrate phenomenal, paradoxical resilience.)

Final verdict: 2.78 / A Republic at a Crossroads. Peru enters the summer of 2026 suffering from a severe political hangover. The election marathon has concluded with yet another 50-50 split. The incoming president will have to govern amidst profound mistrust and under the microscope of a hostile parliament. Peru's survival as a

unified state now hinges entirely on the new leader's ability to suppress their own political ambitions and build a pragmatic coalition government. The era of the populist loner in Lima has officially come to an end.

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