

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
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To: H
Subject: Fw: Brazil's Rousseff gov't hit by another resignation (Reuters)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Saturday, August 06, 2011 05:58 PM
To: NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O
Subject: Brazil's Rousseff gov't hit by another resignation (Reuters)

BRASILIA (Reuters) - A top official at Brazil's agriculture ministry tendered his resignation Saturday following corruption allegations, the latest blow to President Dilma Rousseff's seven-month old government.

Three cabinet ministers have resigned in the last three months due to alleged corruption or disputes with Rousseff, straining relations with members of her coalition and slowing economic reforms in Congress.

Brazilian newsmagazine Veja reported that Executive Secretary Milton Ortolan had allowed a lobbyist to set up an office within the ministry to help businesses get contracts in exchange for illicit payments.

The agriculture ministry said Ortolan tendered his "irrevocable" resignation but denied wrongdoing.

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