

## AMLO – Daily press conference coverage

December 19, 2018

- Today, the President addressed the following issues, among others: (1) The adjustment to the budget of public universities; (2) the creation of the National Guard and related topics on public security; and (3) migration policy
- Regarding the budget for public universities, he commented that it will be revised up between MXN\$4-5bn to fulfill his campaign promise of maintaining the resources to these public entities. He added that the needed adjustment will come at the expense of a reduction in other dependencies of the Executive Branch
- He also mentioned that there is still a certain margin to adjust the budget in this phase, on top of the changes that Congress could make. He also reaffirmed that quarterly evaluations will be conducted in order to evaluate and ensure that the budget is being executed properly and in line with to goal of reaching public finance targets
- On the minimum wage, he highlighted that during the whole “neoliberal” period there had not been an adjustment this large, resulting in purchasing power losses between 60%-75%. He was also thankful to sectors who approved this increase
- He highlighted the importance of the creation of the National Guard in order to improve security conditions, supported by more officers. He called on Congress to approve it. This came after a reporter’s question referencing yesterday’s comments by the Minister for Public Security, which stated that a withdrawal of troops would materialize if the National Guard is not created
- He commented that the government rejects the “Merida Initiative”, which promises resources from the US in return for combating organized crime, given that the latter is a sole competency of the Mexican government. In addition, he also stated that espionage activities have ended
- Later today a plan on migration policy will be revealed, focused on migrant protections. He emphasized that the investment agreement with the US is positive, but Mexico has to maintain a policy that places human rights as a top priority. In addition, he mentioned that the Foreign Minister will disclose more information about the cooperation agreement with the US
- On gasoline prices, he reaffirmed that there will not be abrupt changes and added that he understands the attitude of members of Congress that argue against the collection of excise taxes
- Finally, he mentioned that the current practice in terms of budget transfer from one state to another in exchange for political favors has ended with his government, leaving the power to assign resources only to the Executive and Legislative Branches through the budgeting process

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<b>HOLD</b>	<i>When the share expected performance is similar to the MEXBOL estimated performance.</i>
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