## Further cabinet reshuffle: Deputy Prime Minister Di-Lella dismissed



Di-Lella (left) at a work meeting on 16 October (source: X)

As the party newspaper Granma <u>announced on Monday</u>, Cuba's Vice Prime Minister Jorge Luis Perdomo Di-Lella has been removed from office for unspecified 'errors in the performance of his duties' on the initiative of President Miguel Díaz-Canel. It is the second case of a senior Cuban politician this year, after Economy Minister Alejandro Gil was forced to resign in February over corruption allegations.

Perdomo Di-Lella, 52, comes from the small town of San Antonio de los Baños in the western Cuban province of Artemisa. He studied electronics engineering and held various positions in the management of the telephone service provider ETECSA before becoming Minister of Telecommunications from 2018 to 2021, when he was promoted to Deputy Prime Minister. In his role as Deputy Prime Minister, he was primarily responsible for digitalisation issues.



He is now succeeded by the former Science and Environment Minister Eduardo Martínez Díaz (56), who was promoted to this post as recently as February and can thus continue his rise. Martínez Díaz has earned great respect in the sector as head of the state-owned group BioCubaFarma. He holds a doctorate in biology and was a researcher at the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB) for many years. He is a member of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. In 2022, he was awarded the title 'Hero of Labour' for his contribution to vaccine development during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Díaz's previous deputy, <u>Armando Rodríguez Batista</u> (47), will become the new science minister. He holds a doctorate in radiochemistry, has been working in the field for more than

20 years and is a member of the technical team of the National Innovation Council set up by Díaz-Canel.

In recent months, Cuban President Díaz-Canel has repeatedly emphasised his 'zero tolerance policy' against misconduct and corruption. Most recently, during the nationwide blackout on 19 October, the governor of Las Tunas, Jaime Ernesto Chiang Vega, was <a href="dismissed from">dismissed from</a> office. (<a href="Cubaheute">Cubaheute</a>)