

New code of ethics against corruption



"The party is the soul of the revolution": A propaganda sign in Havana commemorates the 8th Party Congress of the PCC in 2021 (Source: Cubaheute)

A new code of ethics for state executives came into force in Cuba on Monday in the form of a presidential decree. Compared to the previous version from 1996, the regulations have been streamlined and formulated in a more binding manner, with new emphasis placed on combating corruption, lifestyle, and economic efficiency.

Patriotism, anti-imperialism, loyalty, and honesty are the first headings in the new code, which comprises a total of 15 detailed points. The document is "based on the thoughts of national hero José Martí, the revolutionary concept of Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, and the ideas set out in the speeches of Army General Raúl Castro Ruz and Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, First Secretary of the PCC and President of the Republic," writes the ACN news agency. "These guidelines cultivate the dignity and sensitivity of people from Marxist-Leninist, Martian, and Fidelist positions," reads the introduction to the new code.

The first code of ethics for Cuban executives was adopted in 1996 in the context of the economic reforms of the time and was intended to counteract negative tendencies resulting from the opening up. Many core elements of the 1996 version can also be found in the current version, e.g. the duty of cadres "to defend the socialist fatherland" and to safeguard state secrets, the role of personal example, transparency, and accountability. The point "anti-imperialism" begins with the duty "to defend, preserve and remain faithful to the principles of socialism that we have declared irrevocable".

A new emphasis was placed on the topic of thrift, which now has its own chapter. Cadres are obliged to "refuse privileges and favors" and "exemplify honesty, simplicity, and modesty [...] both in the physical and digital space", and "motivate family and work colleagues to behave

in this way and demand it". In addition, compared to the 1996 version, it is formulated more precisely that "all forms of breaches of discipline, illegalities, crimes, and corruption in the administrative environment are to be combated and reported".

Those responsible must use state resources "effectively, rationally, and efficiently with a view to the economic and social development of the country". The state organs are obliged to "implement a cadre policy based on merit". What is also new is that cadres are required to "communicate using all possible media" and promote a "frank and open exchange of opinions". The obligation to "fight against hypercriticism and defeatism", which still existed in the old code, has been removed; instead, "adversity should be met with optimism and creativity". A new section entitled "Professionalism" calls for the development of an economic and legal culture, independent further education and training, the fight against bureaucracy, the use of science and digitalization as well as a "spirit of innovation".

Finally, the document states that violations of the values and principles contained therein will lead to a "disciplinary review", in which a penalty may be imposed according to the severity of the violation.

As Miriam Marbán González, a member of the PCC Central Committee group responsible for drafting the new code, explained, 5,600 opinions were evaluated in advance and several changes were incorporated. The new Code of Ethics applies to all 118,000 leaders in the state, party, and mass organizations, as well as Cuban representatives in joint ventures, who will sign the document on 24 February "in a solemn ceremony", reports the party newspaper "Granma". ([Cubaheute](#))