

18 arrested over alleged sale of teaching posts and fake diplomas, including in Chiriquí

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Summary

On Monday 19 October the Public Ministry and National Police carried out Operation Credenciales 2.0 in five provinces, including Chiriquí, arresting 18 people over an alleged network selling teaching posts at the Education Ministry and forging diplomas.

Details (summary of the article)

La Prensa reports that prosecutors and police detained 18 people on Monday 19 October in an operation called Credenciales 2.0, with more than 25 raids at over 20 locations in Chiriquí, Bocas del Toro, Veraguas, Los Santos and Panamá Oeste. Those held include ministry staff, serving and former teachers and private individuals, suspected of crimes against public administration, public faith and collective security. The case follows a first phase on 26 August, when 23 people were charged with money laundering, organised crime, corruption, document forgery and illegally practising a profession. Investigators believe as many as 400 teachers in public schools used forged academic documents to raise their scores in the Education Ministry's recruitment system, with records falsely linked to the University of Cartago, which closed in 2014. Three ministry IT employees are suspected of entering the false data, while a teacher allegedly recruited clients and arranged diplomas for about \$4,000 each, sending those without funds to a lender. Prosecutors put the loss to the ministry at \$767,687 in salaries paid to irregularly appointed teachers and identified \$70,000 in one suspect's bank accounts. The Attorney General's Office says the case continues and has not said how many more people may be implicated.

Original (es)

18 aprehendidos por presunta venta de plazas en el Meduca y falsificación de títulos y diplomas

El Ministerio Público y la Policía Nacional desarrollan este lunes 19 de octubre la Operación Credenciales 2.0 en cinco provincias del país. Entre los aprehendidos figuran funcionarios, docentes, exdocentes y particulares. La investigación da continuidad a un operativo realizado en agosto pasado.