

## PMDB Party Gets 3 Cabinet Posts in Exchange for Good Will in Brazil

Contributed by Carolina Pimentel  
Thursday, 07 July 2005

Brazil's presidential spokesman, André Singer, announced Wednesday, July 6, that Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva now has three new ministers.

Senator Hélio Costa, from the Minas Gerais's PMDB party, is the new Minister of Communications. He substitutes Eunício Oliveira, also from the PMDB.

In 2004, Costa was named one of the most active members of the Congress by the union-linked congressional watchdog organization Departamento Intersindical de Assessoria Parlamentar (Diap).

The president of Eletrobrás, Silas Rondeau, is to be the new minister of Mines and Energy. He substitutes Dilma Rousseff, who is the new presidential chief of staff.

Deputy Saraiva Felipe, also from the PMDB of Minas Gerais state, is the new Minister of Health, substituting Humberto Costa, who is from the PT (Workers Party), the President's party.

Felipe studied at the Federal University of Minas Gerais medical school. He was a secretary in the Ministry of Health from 1989 to 1990, and the state of Minas Gerais secretary of Health from 1991 to 1994.

The three new ministers will officially take office on Friday.

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