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Bolsonaro blocks another R$ 1 billion from education and can paralyze universities

The Brazilian federal government announced a new blockade of more than R$ 1 billion in financing for higher education in the country. As a result, public universities are once again at risk of not having the money to pay staffing and operating costs.

The contingency (temporary blocking of funds until the government decides whether or not the cut will be final) was announced last Friday (30), on the eve of the first electoral round, through Decree 11,216, which modifies Decree No. 10,961 , which deals with the execution of the budget of the Ministry of Education for this year.

Added to the blocks of R$ 1.34 billion announced between July and August, the contingency in education reaches R$ 2.4 billion.

In a note, the National Association of Directors of Federal Institutions of Higher Education (Andifes) points out that the blockade resulted in a cut of R$ 328.5 million in the amounts available for university expenses.

“This value, if added to the amount that had already been blocked throughout the year, makes a total of R$ 763 million that were taken from the federal universities from the budget that had been approved for this year,” the entity highlighted. For Andifes, this new cut “puts the entire university system at risk”, already affected by the contingencies carried out throughout the year.

The entity criticized, in a meeting with the Secretary of Higher Education, Wagner Vilas Boas de Souza, that the contingency affects resources destined for October expenses, already committed, which could have “very serious consequences and legal effects for federal universities” .

For Andifes, “this limitation established by the Decree, which practically exhausts the possibilities of making payments from now on, is unsustainable.” The entity called an extraordinary meeting of its board of directors for this Thursday 6, to discuss the context and debate the actions and measures that will be taken.

repercussion

In social networks, the National Union of Students (UNE) of Brazil complaint that the “Federal Government confiscates the balance of all the accounts of the Federal Institutes and Universities this Wednesday 05/22/10, and does not leave a penny to pay anything!”.

After publication, the hashtag #ConfiscoNaEducação appeared among the most popular terms on Twitter.

According to an analysis by the Centro de Estudios Sou Ciência published in early September, the Bolsonaro government registered a 94% reduction in investments destined for federal universities in the last four years. Of the 21 existing research institutes in the country, 19 had a budget drop between 2019 and 2021.

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