

Valparaíso: Former Director Ousted 9 Years Ago Over Conflict of Interest Reappointed to Lead Hospital Carlos Van Buren

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Juan Patricio Castro, who resigned in 2016 over an agreement between a private laboratory he represented and the Valparaíso Municipal Corporation, has been reappointed to head Hospital Carlos Van Buren—prompting health unions including Confedepus, Fenats, the Medical College and Afutens to urge the Government to halt the appointment and select a qualified professional with strong management skills and respectful leadership.



“He was removed for breaches of probity,” said Moisés Sagredo, president of Fedepus Valparaíso – San Antonio, telling the Valparaíso daily [La Estrella](#) about the unusual situation at Hospital Carlos Van Buren, where a former director who left the post nine years ago over conflicts of interest has just been reappointed to lead the facility.

The appointee is Juan Patricio Castro, whom the Valparaíso – San Antonio Health Service (SSVSA) asked to resign in 2016 over the existence of an agreement between a private laboratory he represented and the Valparaíso Municipal Corporation (Cormuval).

□While serving as director of Hospital Van Buren, he favored a tender so that, through his laboratory, he secured all the tests that Cormuval performed at the time, which, Sagredo said, meant more than 1,500 million Chilean pesos (CLP) for Juan Patricio Castro,□ emphasized Mois□ds Sagredo.

The union leader detailed that this week they will deliver a letter to the undersecretary for Healthcare Networks, Bernardo Martorell, to voice their concern over the appointment: □His relationship with us, the unions, was horrible; he didn□t listen to anyone. In technical meetings he did not validate his teams,□ the leader said, adding there were several instances of mistreatment.

The news sparked immediate reactions. From the regional council, CORE Paula Rosso (FA) commented that □there is a tremendous debt to the people of Valpara□so on health matters, and it is urgent for the SSVSA to begin responding. We have waited far too long for solutions that are promised and not delivered.□

□As a Regional Councilor, I find it unacceptable and disrespectful to health workers and to those of us treated at Hospital Carlos Van Buren that the position be handed to someone who years ago was dismissed after it was shown there were serious conflicts of interest,□ added Paula Rosso.

The Medical College, meanwhile, suggested that the departure of acting director Dafne Secul was a kind of punishment for her stance on the hospital□s budget, which she described as □insufficient.□

Along those lines, CORE Paula Rosso said that □I know of Dr. Dafne Secul□s work and commitment, because thanks to her and her call, we committed as a Regional Government and funding was provided to equip the Ophthalmology Unit, which had been unable to operate.□

Regional media, meanwhile, also reported dissatisfaction among workers□ unions over the appointment of Juan Patricio Castro as the new director of Hospital Van Buren.

Gremios de funcionarios se manifestaron hoy contra la eleccif3n del nuevo director de Hospital Carlos Van Buren de Valpara□so.

Noticia completa: <https://t.co/En2bNeDPEe#van #buren #director>

— G5 Noticias (@g5_noticias) October 9, 2025

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Manifestación de descontento ante la elección del nuevo director de HCVB

Las abajo firmantes Asociaciones Representantes de Funcionarios de la Salud, desea expresar públicamente nuestro **desacuerdo y profunda preocupación** ante el reciente nombramiento del nuevo **director titular del Hospital Carlos Van Buren**, llevada a cabo por la Alta Dirección Pública.

Consideramos que esta decisión **no representa los valores, intereses ni expectativas** de una parte significativa de nuestra comunidad, puesto que esta persona cuenta con un amplio historial de antecedentes de tratos inadecuados y faltas graves a la probidad que manifestó ejerciendo el mismo rol con el que hoy se le embiste.

Este nombramiento genera dudas sobre el futuro rumbo del Hospital que en el último periodo se ha visto tan mermado, a razón de la falta de gobernabilidad desde el nivel central y por la mala gestión local realizada por la Dirección del Servicio de Salud Valparaíso San Antonio, donde no solo han sido irresolutos, sino que incapaces de realizar acciones a beneficio del Hospital ni de la Red.

Esta última decisión tomada por la directora (S) del SSVSA, de descabezar al equipo directivo del HCVB, siendo que ha demostrado un trabajo permanente y dedicado, mejorando ciertos indicadores en el ámbito clínico y financiero, visibiliza su amateurismo en la toma de decisiones que repercuten negativamente sobre la comunidad usuaria y funcionaria.

Una vez más, se hace imperante que los concursos de ADP sean transparentes y no una herramienta para cuoteo político o nepotismo, sin perder de vista que los nombramientos deben obedecer a contar con la persona idónea a cargo del Hospital más grande de la Valparaíso – San Antonio.

Por tanto, **hacemos un llamado a la reflexión y al diálogo abierto** con todas las partes interesadas. Instamos a las autoridades correspondientes a reconsiderar esta elección y bien a establecer mecanismos correctivos que garanticen la transparencia, representatividad y el respeto por las voces disidentes.

Reiteramos nuestro compromiso con la democracia, la equidad y la búsqueda de un liderazgo verdaderamente representativo y ético.

Atentamente,



We will continue to report.

Fuente: El Ciudadano