

# **Fox's riches trigger a probe in Mexico**

## **A government commission was formed to investigate former Mexico President Fox's wealth.**

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MEXICO CITY --

(AP) -- Lawmakers have approved an investigation of former Mexican President Vicente Fox amid allegations that he illegally enriched himself during his presidency.

The Council of Political Coordination, Congress' governing body, voted Monday to create a special commission to carry out the probe, but its goals and makeup will be determined next week, it said in a news release.

The allegations surfaced this month after Mexican celebrity magazine Quien showed Fox, whose six-year-term ended in December, and former first lady Martha Sahagun at their newly renovated ranch, complete with a pool, artificial lake and expansive gardens.

Columnists and radio hosts questioned whether he could have earned enough as president to afford such luxuries, raising the specter of corruption that clouded many earlier Mexican administrations.

In a statement e-mailed to media outlets Monday, Fox said that "ethics, transparency and full accounting have been the permanent norm throughout my entire life." He also provided his tax returns from 2001 to 2006, the years he was president.

Fox, a former Coca-Cola executive, struggled in business ventures and drained his savings while serving as a congressman and state governor with the conservative National Action Party, which made decades of quixotic attempts to win the presidency.