

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs resigns after comments about beggars



Cuba's former Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Marta Elena Feitó Cabrera (source: [Canal Caribe](#))

Cuba's parliamentary session is still in full swing, but the meeting has already caused a scandal: Cuban Minister of Labor and Social Security Marta Elena Feitó Cabrera has [resigned](#) after making controversial remarks about beggars. According to the government, her resignation was accepted by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

During Monday's committee meeting, Feitó Cabrera [claimed](#) that there were no beggars in Cuba, only people who “dress up” as beggars to get money easily. She described people who search through trash cans for recyclables as “illegal self-employed recyclers” who “probably spend the money they earn on alcohol.”

The minister's statements sparked a wave of outrage among the Cuban population. Many saw it as a trivialization of the difficult economic situation the country has been struggling with for years. In view of food and housing shortages and frequent power outages, it is increasingly common, especially in cities such as Havana, to see people searching through garbage cans for food or sleeping in doorways.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel [publicly distanced himself](#) from the minister's remarks without mentioning her by name. The leadership must not act “condescendingly” or be “out of touch with the realities of the people,” he said at a follow-up meeting. The motto of the revolution is “leave no one behind.” Prime Minister Marrero also tried to limit the damage shortly afterwards, striking the same note.

But the minister, whose core task is socialist social policy, was long past the point of no return: an [open letter](#) had already called for Feitó Cabrera's dismissal. Her statements were “not only hurtful,” it said, but also showed an “alarming detachment from reality with regard

to the situation in our country.” Economist Pedro Monreal [commented sharply](#): “There must also be people who dress up as ‘ministers.’”

Feitó Cabrera, who is a member of the PCC's Central Committee and has headed the ministry since 2019, has “recognized her mistakes,” according to the announcement of her resignation. This is the first time in recent Cuban history that the resignation of a cabinet member has followed immediately on the heels of public outrage. ([Cubaheute](#))