



**Russian Putin says he can look for another term if the constitutional amendments are adopted**

Photo above: Russian President Vladimir Putin takes the oath during an inauguration ceremony at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on 7 May 2018.

**Polina Ivanova**

**June 21, 2020**

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Vladimir Putin is considering running for a new term as president of Russia if voters approve constitutional changes that would allow him to do so, Russian news agencies quoted him as saying in an interview on Sunday.

Russia will hold a national vote from 25 June to 1 July on the proposed constitutional amendments, including an amendment that would allow Putin to seek two more six-year terms as president when his current term ends in 2024.

Opponents say the reforms are designed to enable Putin to hold on to power until 2036 and amount to a constitutional coup. The Kremlin says they are necessary to strengthen the role of parliament and improve social policy and public administration.

"I do not rule out the possibility of running for office if this (option) appears in the constitution. We will see', Putin was quoted as saying in an interview with state television that was broadcast in the far east of Russia before being broadcast in western Russia. "I have not yet decided anything for myself'.

The changes on which the Russians will vote, already approved by Parliament and the Constitutional Court, would restart Putin's presidency tally to zero. I would not be able to look for a new term under the current constitutional boundaries.

It is to be hoped that the amendments will be widely adopted in the vote.

Putin, who has been in power for two decades and is now 67 years old, has suggested that hunting down a candidate to succeed him could become a distraction if he does not stand again.

"If this does not happen, then in about two years' time - and I know this from experience - the normal pace of work of many parts of the government will be replaced by a search for possible successors," the Interfax news agency quoted him as saying.

"We should be working, not looking for successors," he said.

**<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-putin-vote/russias-putin-says-he-may-seek-another-term-if-constitutional-changes-passed-idUSKBN23S0H3>**