

PETROBRAS - PETROLEO BRASILEIRO SA  
Form 6-K  
May 19, 2009

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 6-K**

Report of Foreign Private Issuer  
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

**For the month of May, 2009**

**Commission File Number 1-15106**

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**PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S.A. - PETROBRAS**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Brazilian Petroleum Corporation - PETROBRAS**  
(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

**Avenida República do Chile, 65**  
**20031-912 - Rio de Janeiro, RJ**  
**Federative Republic of Brazil**  
(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F  Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes  No

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### Clarifications about News

(Rio de Janeiro, May 18 2009). PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S/A - PETROBRAS, [Bovespa: PETR3/PETR4, NYSE: PBR/PBRA, Latibex: XPBR/XPBRA, BCBA: APBR/APBRA], a Brazilian international energy company, clarifies an article published by the Folha de São Paulo newspaper titled "Petrobras Balance Sheet omitted Fiscal change".

The Company clarifies that the model used to calculate the taxes payment in 2008 is supported by the legislation in effect, according to the Company's understanding, and is unrelated to accounting issues.

According to the Brazilian Accounting Practices (BR GAAP), taxes are accounted under the accrual basis, and when they differ from the fiscal calculation, which sometimes is under the cash basis, the difference is presented as deferred taxes (CVM Deliberation # 273). Therefore, there is no accounting issue related to the balance sheet, considering that the Company accounts its taxes under the accrual bases, and will have to continue doing so.

The effect of calculating the tax payment incurring on the exchange variation under the cash basis, instead of the accrual basis, is that they are accounted as Deferred Income Tax and Social Contributions in the 2008 Financial Statements submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Brazil - CVM on 03/06/2009.

Additionally, with regard to the amounts Petrobras compensated for, the Company reasserts that tax compensation derived from adopting tax calculation based on exchange variations (cash basis) was only R\$1.14 billion, since using Interest on Equity benefits is a practice that is widely adopted by several Brazilian companies and there is no difference in interpretation regarding this issue.

Adopting the new system was a business management decision that is in line with the Company's governance, which always seeks to align the best interests of its shareholders (majority and minority), of the society, and of all other stakeholders.

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***www.petrobras.com.br/ri/english***

**Contacts: PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S. A. - PETROBRAS**

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This document may contain forecasts that merely reflect the expectations of the Company's management. Such terms as "anticipate", "believe", "expect", "forecast", "intend", "plan", "project", "seek", "should", along with similar or analogous terms, are used to identify such forecasts. These predictions evidently involve risks and uncertainties, whether foreseen or not by the Company. Therefore, the future results of operations may differ from current expectations, and readers must not base their expectations exclusively on the information presented herein.

## SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: May 18, 2009

PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S.A--PETROBRAS

By:           /s/ Almir Guilherme Barbassa

**Almir Guilherme Barbassa**  
**Chief Financial Officer and**  
**Investor Relations Officer**

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release may contain forward-looking statements. These statements are statements that are not historical facts, and are based on management's current view and estimates of future economic circumstances, industry conditions, company performance and financial results. The words "anticipates", "believes", "estimates", "expects", "plans" and similar expressions, as they relate to the company, are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Statements regarding the declaration or payment of dividends, the implementation of principal operating and financing strategies and capital expenditure plans, the direction of future operations and the factors or trends affecting financial condition, liquidity or results of operations are examples of forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect the current views of management and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. There is no guarantee that the expected events, trends or results will actually occur. The statements are based on many assumptions and factors, including general economic and market conditions, industry conditions, and operating factors. Any changes in such assumptions or factors could cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations.

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