



Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs

Weekly Newsletter / October 8th 2021



TOPIC OF THE WEEK

Electoral preparations in Venezuela move forward with international observation and elections simulation

The National Electoral Council (CNE, by its acronym in Spanish) approved an exceptional program for the presence of international observation missions in the elections to be held on November 21st, when more than 3,000 positions will be elected in the country, including governors, mayors, state legislators and councilmen.

With this decision, conditions are created in accordance with the Venezuelan legal system and the principles of transparency, respect for sovereignty and objectivity for the organizations that, upon invitation of the Electoral Power, send observers to Venezuela, where the role of international accompaniment and national observation also applies.

The resolution of the CNE also takes into consideration that the upcoming electoral event takes place in the context of the dialogue between the Venezuelan Government and the extremist opposition grouped in the so-called Unitary Platform, which has requested international observation, a mechanism already implemented in processes such as the recall referendum of 2004.

Agreements

As part of the organization of the international

observation, the CNE and the European Union signed at the end of September an agreement for the deployment of a mission, following an invitation made last May and the sending of an exploratory mission in July. The President of the Electoral Power, Pedro Calzadilla, expressed his confidence in this exchange: "It confirms the strength of our institutionality and the good democratic course of Venezuela."

CNE also signed an agreement with the Council of Electoral Experts of Latin America (CEELA, by its acronym in Spanish) to witness the November 21st election day. In addition, upon invitation, Russian electoral authorities confirmed the sending of a delegation.

Schedule

After the registration of more than 70 thousand candidates, a process which closed last September 4th, the Electoral Power completed the configuration of the ballot, according to the positions chosen by the political parties; the substitution of candidates and the discussion of the regulations for the electoral campaign, which will take place between October 28th and November 18.

Of interest

Indigenous peoples will elect their state and municipal legislators according to a regulation that respects their traditions and customs. Next November 26th, more than 4,000 spokespersons will hold general assemblies to elect their representatives in Legislative Councils and Municipal Councils.

Audits to the voting system have also advanced, with the revision of the software of the voting machine and the registry of voters, which reports more than 21 million voters.

This October 10th, 466 centers will be activated for a Voting Simulation, in order to test the technical, logistical and operational structure; and at the same time, allow voters to become familiar with the fully automated voting process.

The simulation "corresponds to the 65th activity, out of the 94 foreseen in the Electoral Schedule for the Regional and Municipal Elections 2021," informed CNE.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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DIPLOMACY

Venezuela and China strengthen relationship for shared development

Over the last decades, China has experienced remarkable socioeconomic growth, which has given it a strategic place in the international community. From that position, it strengthens its relations with countries like Venezuela for shared development. “The Belt and Road initiative, of which Venezuela is part, breaks with a history in which the centers of development approached each other in an imposing manner,” said Venezuelan Foreign Minister Félix Plasencia, at the forum “From the founding of the New China to the Eradication of Extreme Poverty,” as part of the agenda for the 72nd anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China, which also included a floral offering at the Bolívar Square in Caracas. The Minister highlighted the economic results of the Asian country, its high level of development and its commitment with the peoples of the world. As an example, he recalled that Beijing plans to distribute 2 billion Covid vaccines globally.

Support for Global Development Initiative

Venezuela supports the Global Development Initiative, presented by China at the 76th UN General Assembly, which includes actions to overcome poverty and ensure social investment in the post-pandemic era. This initiative “is marked by an agenda of peace, cooperation and shared global development,” said President Nicolás Maduro.

For his part, the Chinese ambassador accredited in Caracas, Li Baorong, asserted that, in the midst of the pandemic, China managed that 99 million rural inhabitants reach a better standard of living: “China has achieved the decisive victory and mature battle of the fulfillment of the eradication of poverty.”

PHOTO: COURTESY

Venezuelans return, leaving xenophobia behind

Marcos Parra, father of a family, emigrated to Chile, where he did not find the overview of progress he was promised. He returned to Venezuela on the flight that the Return to the Homeland Plan enabled for the voluntary return of 200 Venezuelans, after the acts of xenophobia registered in Iquique. “We were looking for what many people said we could find there (...) but in the end, when you live the reality, you realize that it is not the case,” he said.

For the returning Venezuelans “we can say that they have made the best decision (...) that of putting all their abilities at the service of the country we all want,” said Rander Peña, Vice Minister of Foreign Relations for Latin America, who emphasized that those violent groups in Iquique “do not represent the feeling of the Chilean people.” Since its inception in April 2018, Return to the Homeland Plan has transferred 26,733 people in 152 flights and one sea voyage.

CAPSULES OF IDEAS

“Let us think of the indestructible unity of our entire Continent, let us think of all that binds us together and unites us (...) let us think that we are part of an army fighting for its liberation in every part of the world where it has not yet been achieved.”

Ernesto Che Guevara, Havana, 25 May 1962.

NEWS BRIEF



Venezuela in the showcase of Expo Dubai

From this October 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2022, the culture, landscapes and gastronomy of Venezuela are exhibited at the Expo Dubai 2020, in the United Arab Emirates. Our 1,000-square-meter pavilion, which pays tribute to the greatest Venezuelan artists of kinetic art, will host business and investment meetings.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Commercial passage reactivated

Starting this week, Venezuela reactivated the commercial crossing on the border with Colombia, closed since 2019 due to destabilizing actions by the national right and the neighboring country, enemy of peace. The Executive Vice President, Delcy Rodríguez, announced that biosecurity measures will be taken for a successful commercial exchange in the area, which in the past has reached more than 7 billion dollars.

Solidarity with refugees

Our country has been a host nation for refugees: “Millions of Venezuelans of foreign origin live with us, many with the status of refugees from Colombia, the Middle East, and Europe,” said the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Félix Plasencia, in the act for the 20th anniversary of the Organic Law on Refugees and Asylees, and the 18 years of creation of the National Commission for Refugees.

William Izarra, exemplary militant

Authorities and members of the diplomatic corps honored Commander William Izarra, Venezuelan ambassador to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, who died on October 1st, awarded posthumously with the Order of Liberators of Venezuela. Foreign Minister Félix Plasencia ratified his commitment to the continuation of the formative work of this exemplary militant and scholar of the Bolivarian Revolution. For his part, President Nicolás Maduro highlighted Izarra as “a great comrade in the revolutionary struggle, loyal and intelligent.”



UNBLOCK



Venezuela takes legal action to recover assets

Venezuela will take all legal actions to recover the Citgo Company, a subsidiary of the state oil company PDVSA located in the United States (U.S.), and the Monómeros chemical products company, in Colombia, assets stripped from the Venezuelan people by foreign agents in collusion with the extreme national right, grouped around the former speaker Juan Guaidó.

The Sectorial Vice President of the Economy, Tareck El Aissami, ratified that the Venezuelan State “invokes international law to stop this arbitrariness” and called on the U.S. government, which supports the operators of the robberies, to lift the so-called sanctions against PDVSA, as well as to re-establish, on the basis of respect, “relations with business and productive sectors that Venezuela has had with the United States.” This plot began in 2019 with the illegal appointment of “boards of directors,” both in Citgo and Monómeros, by the previous National Assembly led by Guaidó, which was in contempt of the Venezuelan legal system and with which hegemonic powers sought to establish a parallel institutionality to justify the dispossession.

The Citgo sequestration has endangered the lives of 860 patients with chronic diseases and waiting for transplants, treated until 2018 by the Simón Bolívar Foundation, which used to receive funds from that PDVSA subsidiary. The Foundation, created in 2006, financed without problems until that year medical treatments to 3,300 Venezuelans abroad.

“We are investigating, since these funds have become a kind of petty cash for the relatives of Guaidó, Carlos Vecchio (Guaidó’s representative in the U.S.), Julio Borges (...) This money is squandered and spent on trips and on luxurious hotels,” said the Vice President.

He condemned the pretension of former MP Borges, who lives in Bogotá, to evade his participation in the bankruptcy of Monómeros, by pointing to Guaidó as the only person responsible.

Added to Borges’s accusations is Guaidó’s former “representative” in Colombia, Humberto Calderón Berti, who blamed Leopoldo López - a fugitive from justice protected in Spain - for the theft of Monómeros.

PHOTO: COURTESY

REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS



Housing program has changed the lives of 3,700,000 families

Yoselis Marval’s worry about not having a home of her own has ended. This nurse, her husband, Jovani Suárez, and their two young children lived crammed in a relative’s house, a reality that changed on October 1st. That day, the Suárez Marval family moved into a three-room apartment, two bathrooms, living room and dining room: the 3,700,000th home delivered by the Great Housing Mission Venezuela (GMVV, by its acronym in Spanish).

The milestone of housing is located in the “Villa Zoita” urban area, in Nueva Esparta, an island entity in the east of the country, where the Suárez Marval family received the key to their new apartment, in a televisual contact with President Nicolás Maduro, who directed the allocation of 350 homes in five states.

“The Great Housing Mission Venezuela is a walking miracle (...) that we have maintained in the worst circumstances that no one ever thought we could

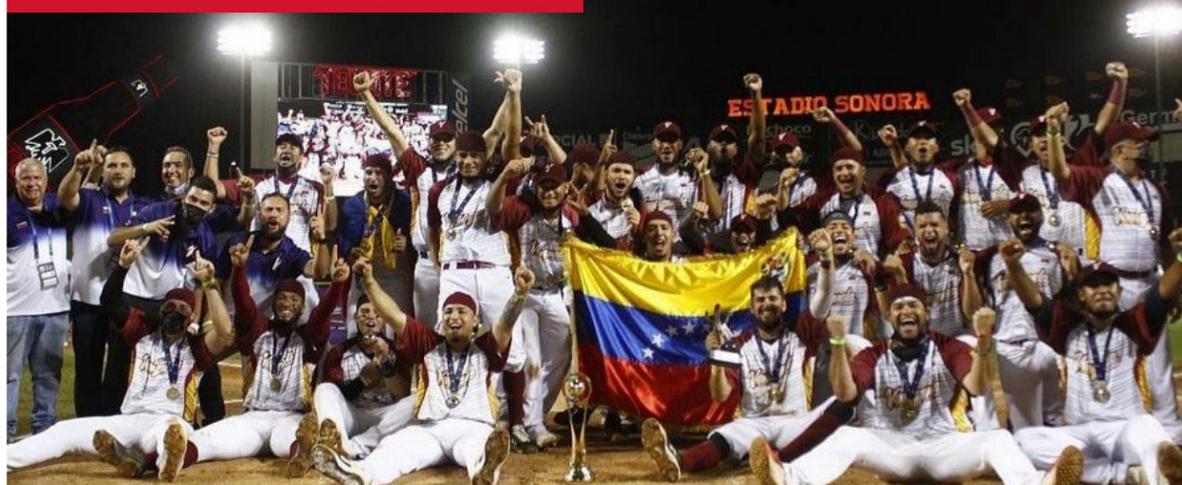
face,” said the Head of State, referring to the fact that previously Venezuela received 54 billion dollars a year for the sale of oil, while, due to the economic blockade, revenues in 2020 were reduced to 600 million dollars.

Despite this brutal attack, the GMVV has delivered 300,000 new homes so far this year and plans to close off 2021 with 500,000. The total goal is to deliver 5,000,000 homes by the year 2025.

From the urban area of Lomas del Guadalupe, in the Miranda State, in the central north of the Country, where home keys were handed over to firefighter Yudeisy Moreno, her husband, José Barrios, and their little 7-year-old daughter, the President reaffirmed the GMVV as “the demonstration that socialism is possible to build, the socialism of solidarity, of coexistence, of peace and of putting the human being at the centre.”

PHOTO: COURTESY

VENEZUELA IN IMAGES



Champions!

Venezuela won the U23 Baseball World Cup for the first time, in the 2021 edition held in Mexico. Received with joy by the Venezuelan people, the team was condecorated by the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, who congratulated it for knowing how to represent the national sport: “Venezuela is the land of champions!” For his part,

manager Carlos García thanked the support received and highlighted the joint work: “The combination of all together, rowing towards the same direction (...) to bring this gold medal and this trophy that is for this beautiful Venezuela that we all want.”

PHOTO: COURTESY



HEROIC ROOTS



Bolívar confronted the imperial cravings of the US

Venezuela's independence process confronted not only the Spanish yoke, but also faced US maneuvers, like the one by North American agent, John Irvine, who arrived in July 1818 to Angostura (today Ciudad Bolívar, at the South of the country) to undermine the project lead by Simón Bolívar.

Irvine began an exchange of letters with the Liberator, on July 25, to demand compensation for the seizing of US schooners Tiger and Liberty, which intended to navigate the Orinoco river in 1817 to supply provisions and armament to the Spanish troops.

In a letter sent by Bolívar on July 29, he states that there would be compensation only if the seizing of the ships used to "give armaments to murderers and to feed some tigers" responsible for 3 centuries of onslaught, was recognized as an act of justice.

The agent sent ten more letters, he insisted on provoking Bolívar and even insulted him. With a letter dated October 7 the Liberator refused to take the exchange to that level: "...I won't allow the government or the rights of Venezuela to be affronted or despised (...) It is the same for Venezuela to fight against Spain or the whole world, if the world offends her."

Two centuries later the Venezuelan people find in that episode the strength to reaffirm an anti-imperialist character in light of the fierce blockade imposed by the US. "It is the same determination that assists us today to defend our sovereignty with dignity," President Nicolás Maduro expressed.

IMAGE: COURTESY



BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE

Chávez sealed his perfect victory under the warmth of the people

The night of October 7, 2012, Venezuela sealed the victory of loyalty, of tenacity and of the anti-imperialist consciousness. More than 8 million voters elected Hugo Chávez as President again to continue the path of the Bolivarian Revolution.

"It was a perfect battle in the whole line," the revolutionary leader manifested before thousands of men and women gathered in the Miraflores Palace, to celebrate the results obtained after three months of electoral campaign.

Back then, the people filled the rallies that the candidate of the Great Patriotic Pole, a coalition of revolutionary parties, made from July 1, when he initiated his campaign in Carabobo state, at the center of the country, which is where the Liberation Army sealed the definitive independence against the Spanish yoke in 1821. Inspired by that battle, Chávez, who remained

firm in spite of the health difficulties he was facing, called to continue the project initiated in 1999 to preserve national independence, to consolidate the Socialism of the 21st Century and to turn Venezuela into a power, to develop a new geopolitics and to preserve life in the planet, the objectives of his government program called the Homeland Plan.

The compromise with that project was reaffirmed on October 4, when the people filled seven avenues in Caracas under a "blessed rain" that soaked the Venezuelan capital to close the electoral campaign. Three days after the Chavismo triumphed with over 55% of the votes.

After the results, Chávez went to meet with the people to celebrate this perfect victory: "October 7, bless this day, we have written another memorable page in history."

PHOTO: ARCHIVE / COURTESY

UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

Media intends to inoculate lies about anti-covid vaccination

Since February, Venezuela is moving towards the goal of vaccinating 22 million people, 70% of its population, against Covid-19. With the support of Russia, China, Cuba and the Covax mechanism, by the end of September 9.7 million Venezuelans were registered with the first dose, whilst 5.9 million have been completely immunized. Nevertheless, in the discourse of big media corporations, agencies and influencers these figures don't exist.

Even though the arrival of antigens was broadcasted, as well as the 452 vaccination centers activated along with 179 new ones to be opened and the daily number of vaccinated went from 100,000 to 300,000, media like Colombian magazine *Semana* insist on ignoring advances on vaccination. They replicate information promoted by organizations linked to opposition sectors that

lie and without statistic evidence assure that the process is slow and tend to hide that the goal of 44% of herd immunity has been exceeded.

The promotion of the false information is also based on international news agencies such as EFE and Reuters. "Foreign news agencies lie, they say in Venezuela only 12% of the population has been vaccinated," President Nicolás Maduro warned, and also announced that this week Venezuela will reach 50% of the target population vaccinated.

The Head of State reassured the compromise to achieve the whole goal, in order to initiate classes in schools on October 25 and flexibilize quarantine measures in November and December. Additionally, in January 2022 the anticovid reinforcement vaccination plan is expected to begin.