



Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs

Weekly Newsletter / November 19th 2021

## TOPIC OF THE WEEK



# Ready to vote!

This Sunday, more than 21 million voters are summoned to choose 3,082 positions of popular election, among governors, mayors, state legislators and councilors, in the twenty-ninth election of the last 22 years in Venezuela.

More than 70,000 candidates from all political currents are nominated, who carried out their electoral campaign without setbacks for 22 days. Among them 23 governors, 335 mayors, 253 state legislators and 2,471 councilors will be elected, with an automated system that has undergone thirteen audits.

Only the telecommunications system, the National Totalization Centres and the campaign expenses remain to be certified. Thus, 16 audits planned by the National Electoral Council (CNE, Spanish initials) will be carried out, which previously carried out a comprehensive review of the voting system with experts from universities.

### Polling Centre Installation

On November 19, 30,106 voting tables were installed in 14,262 polling centre, a task for which 33,186 voting machines were distributed

throughout the country. The protection of these enclosures is in charge of members of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB).

The 21N elections also have international observers from the United Nations, the European Union, the Latin American Council of Electoral Experts (CEELA) and the Carter Center. In addition, six organizations are accredited as national observers.

Everything is ready for a new democratic day, which will have a second phase on November 26 with the elections of indigenous legislators. As the president of the CNE, Pedro Calzadilla said, this Sunday will be "a supreme moment of republican life," where popular sovereignty will prevail.

PHOTO: COURTESY

### A sovereign and democratic day

Everything is ready for Venezuelans to exercise their sovereignty on November 21; a day that will demonstrate the strengths of our democracy in the face of continuous aggression, said President Nicolás Maduro.

"I ask for the understanding and solidarity of the whole world with the elections of November 21, with the Bolivarian Revolution and with the development of our own democratic model," he stressed in an

international videoconference, where he added that the best defence of democracy is its full exercise.

In this regard, he highlighted the broad popular participation and the commitment of the Public Powers in defence of peace.

After the elections, the Head of State will call elected governors and mayors to a working meeting to sign an alliance of peace and joint work. In addition, resources for projects will be granted through a special fund.

### Terrorism defeated

Security forces arrested four people who tried to set fire to CNE facilities located in the capital region. According to the investigations, the terrorist plan was planned by William Ricardo Sánchez Ramos, alias "Antorcha," who operates from Spain in connection with Leopoldo López, a fugitive from justice. The Venezuelan state will request the extradition of both, said President Nicolás Maduro.

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## DIPLOMACY



## International observers will be present during the 21N elections

The regional and municipal elections of November 21st are a process open to the world, thanks to the design of an international monitoring program, in accordance with the principles of sovereignty and independence, which will allow experts from other nations to appreciate the capacities of the Venezuelan electoral system.

The President of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Pedro Calzadilla, explained that, at the request of the parties participating in these elections, it was decided to increase the number of international observers, a figure contemplated in the Venezuelan electoral legislation.

"It will be a very broad and important international accompaniment that we will have. It is positive and it is good that they come to see what we do, what we have, to know, to see the truth," said Calzadilla, who added that ten organizations accepted the invitation to witness the electoral event, in strict compliance with Venezuelan laws and the principles of non-interference and impartiality.

Among the organizations that were invited are the Council of Electoral Experts of Latin America, the Network in Defense of Humanity, the United Nations, the Carter Centre and the European Union. CNE guests from Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Caribbean will also accompany the process.

### Of interest

The presence of qualified international observers is part of the guarantees of the electoral process, which also includes the deployment of national observers and the monitoring of the recently concluded electoral campaign by CNE prosecutors.

These observers will be joined by international guests from the political parties. "All the invited persons who come to Venezuela to accompany the elections are subject to operating guidelines, regulations, agreements and ethics manuals. They do not have to recognize the results, their role is well defined in the regulations," added Calzadilla.

The International Electoral Observation Plan was installed on November 18th, but previously, members of the international missions have witnessed audits and have known the functioning of the electoral system, as part of the pre-electoral phase. On November 21st, they will witness the process to which more than 21 million voters are summoned and, after the culmination of the voting, they will present a final report.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## CAPSULES OF IDEAS

*"The principle of non-intervention is one of the first obligations of governments; it is the respect due to the freedom of peoples and the rights of nations."*

Benito Juárez, Mexico City, August 19, 1867

## NEWS BRIEF



 **unesco**

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### Venezuela at UNESCO

The Minister for Science and Technology, Gabriela Jiménez, assumed the presidency of the Subcommittee on Science of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Before this instance, Venezuela proposed the commemoration of the International Day of Biosphere Reserves and the International Day of Geodiversity.

PHOTO: COURTESY

### Strengthened cooperation with the Caribbean

Venezuela reaffirms its willingness to establish a common agenda with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), to overcome shared challenges such as Covid-19. The Secretary General of this organization, Rodolfo Sabonge, met in Caracas with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Félix Plasencia, and the Executive Vice President, Delcy Rodríguez, to strengthen ties.

### Condemnation of the aggression against Nicaragua

Venezuela strongly condemns the new aggression of the US against Nicaragua, expressed in the "RENACER Act", which seeks to attack the re-elected President Daniel Ortega and the Vice President, Rosario Murillo. That law is a "terrorist instrument that threatens the Peace and well-being of the Nicaraguan people," expressed a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Solidarity with Cuba

Social movements held an Anti-Imperialist Tribune in front of the Cuban Embassy in Caracas, to ratify support for the Caribbean country, the target of new attacks by the US. The Venezuelan people "have demonstrated that brotherhood, that solidarity that characterizes our countries," said the Cuban Ambassador to our country, Dagoberto Rodríguez.



## UNBLOCK



### Rebellion and resistance: keys to Venezuela in the face of the blockade

Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) have affected the quality of life of Venezuelan people, but they have not achieved their intentions: to overthrow the Bolivarian Government, which has focused on strengthening social care policies in the face of this brutal aggression.

Imperialism underestimates “the capacity for resistance of our people, the joy and rebellion of this people,” William Castillo, Deputy Minister of Anti-Blockade Policies, affirmed in the forum “Role of the media in the international siege against Venezuela”, organized by the Committee for Peace, Sovereignty, Integration and Non-Interference.

Commander Hugo Chávez rescued “the Venezuelan rebellion, not allowing oneself to be dominated, defending the space, the territory, the homeland, the nation as a whole.”

Similarly, Castillo considered that Chávez recovered the concept of the civic-military union, promoted by the liberators 200 years ago. “The Commander transformed the doctrine and military ideology in Venezuela. The Venezuelan military are patriots first of all.”

Another reason for the failure of the blockade is underestimating the leadership of the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, and of the cohesion of the revolutionary and popular forces, organized in communes, communal councils, Bolívar-Chávez Battle Units and Local Committees of Supply and Production.

Venezuela is the fifth country with the most companies and people sanctioned within a list of 28 nations which are victims of Unilateral Coercive Measures. In the midst of this siege, the social protection system has been sustained and strengthened thanks to the support of China, Russia, Turkey, Iran and Cuba.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS



### Entrepreneurs establish themselves as leaders of the new economic weave

This 2021 has been the first year of the new economic and productive cycle in Venezuela, which leaves behind the oil rentism inherited from the IV Republic. In this new period, entrepreneurs play a fundamental role.

“Entrepreneurs are part of a social economy, of their own initiative, nourishing economic activity and enabling the distribution of wealth,” said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, during a conference in Diego Ibarra square, one of the most important public spaces of Caracas, where an Entrepreneurs Fair was held.

In his meeting with this sector of economic life, the President defined them as a fundamental group in promoting the new productive weave, which will enable an end of the year with positive figures. Only in the Patria (Homeland) electronic platform, 178,668 entrepreneurs from all over the country have registered in the system, they will be

incorporated into the Bolivarian Economic Agenda, a mechanism designed to link the public and private sectors of the national economy.

Likewise, the Head of State instructed the government cabinet to optimize loan grants through a national fund, stipulated in the new Entrepreneurship Law; and ordered the public and private banks to facilitate financing to this sector.

In addition to the Patria system, entrepreneurs will be able to register on the Emprender Juntos (Undertake Together) webpage, which facilitates technical and financial support, and they will also be able to apply for resources through public banks. “The time of oil-dependent rentism has passed. A new time has begun, a new era, of productive growth with its own lung, with its own effort,” President Maduro affirmed.

PHOTO: PRESIDENTIAL PRESS

## VENEZUELA IN IMAGES



### The largest symphony orchestra in the world is Venezuelan

A total of 12 thousand musicians joined their talents to set a Guinness World Record as the largest orchestra in the world, with the interpretation of Tchaikovsky’s “Slavic March”. In a concert offered in Caracas, they also paid tribute to José

Antonio Abreu, founder of the System of Youth and Children’s Orchestras of Venezuela, promoted by the Bolivarian Revolution, today the reaches more than one million members throughout the country.

PHOTO: COURTESY



## HEROIC ROOTS



### A star honors Guayana's commitment to our independence

Guayana was a key space for the independence of Venezuela. After the patriot triumph in the Battle of San Félix, on April 11th, 1817, Simón Bolívar's project took on new forces when this province in the south of the country was freed from the Spanish, crossed by the Orinoco River, the third largest in the world.

With this tributary available, a safe route for trade, the transfer of troops and the provision of food was guaranteed. At the same time, the economic resources of the region, such as cattle or timber, were available.

In this scenario, Bolívar instructs on November 20th, 1817, to include in the National Flag an eighth star in honour of the liberated territory, where events such as the Center Campaign, destined to occupy the central plains and Caracas, or the Congress of Angostura would be planned, in 1819.

The measure on this province, which thus joined Margarita, Caracas, Cumaná, Barinas, Trujillo, Barcelona and Mérida, was not sustained over time by other events such as the constitution of Gran Colombia. It would take almost two centuries to become a reality.

Bolívar's instruction was retaken in 2006 at the initiative of Commander Hugo Chávez, who asked the National Assembly to debate the inclusion of the eighth star in the national Tricolor. The proposal, after a rich historical debate, was approved in honour of the people of Guayana and the Father of the Nation.

In March of that year, the flag with the new star was raised for the first time in Caracas, which, as Chávez said, "is the star of Bolívar, the star of the Liberator."

IMAGE: COURTESY

## BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE



### Voting system with Venezuelan seal

Since the creation of the Electoral Power, more than 20 years ago, the Venezuelan people have been the great architect of its voting system, valued as one of the best and most auditable in the world, capable of responding to any requirement of political organizations or overcome any contingency.

This was demonstrated more than a year ago, when a fire caused by an extremist group in the warehouses of the National Electoral Council (CNE, Spanish initials) in the capital region, where voting equipment is stored, tried to torpedo the 2020 parliamentary elections. However, the aggression became an opportunity, as Venezuelan technicians presented the country with a new model of voting machine: the EC-21.

The 100% Venezuelan equipment has an LCD touch screen, a 10-hour battery, easy-to-use hardware, a scanner and a fast integrated

printer for voting receipts and records. Its reliability was demonstrated in the elections of December 6th, 2020.

This November 21st, 33,186 EC-21 machines (30,106 main and 3,080 contingency) will be used in 14,262 voting centers throughout the country. They were subjected to a production audit and a new review on November 14th, known as a pre-dispatch audit, with the presence of national and international observers, as well as technicians and witnesses from all political organizations.

In these elections, as usual, the people will be the main protagonist: more than 21 million Venezuelans will elect 3,082 positions among governors, mayors, regional legislators and councilors, with a system that demonstrates the technical capacity of our country.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

### The lie is also defeated with elections

Singing fraud without proof and ignoring the strengths of the electoral system are some of the strategies of the right to try to taint the electoral processes in Venezuela. It is a practice that seeks to destabilize the population and justify foreign interference.

In this effort, one of the most popular lies is to ensure that the results are fraudulent: that accusation was made in 2004, after the referendum that ratified Commander Hugo Chávez as President. After 17 years, the alleged evidence has not been presented.

The same maneuver was attempted in the presidential elections of April 2013, when a wave of violence erupted, causing 11 deaths. Based on incidents that do not count as irregularities, such as the absence of a witness from a political party in a voting center, the intention

was to undermine the credibility of the process. The only thing that was highlighted was the failure: with the extension of the audit on the proceedings and voting vouchers, the validity of the results was confirmed.

The list of lies also includes the false superiority of manual voting over electronic voting, which is audited by technicians from political parties, including opposition parties; or the exercise of double voting, an action that is prevented with the use of a biometric system for the identification of voters.

This November 21st, the twenty-ninth election of the last 22 years of the Bolivarian Revolution will be held, with guarantees requested by the opposition such as the presence of observers and international companions. It will be another opportunity to defeat the lie with votes.