



TOPIC OF THE WEEK

Venezuela prepares for elections on November 21 at full speed

Two weeks before holding joint elections of governors, mayors, state legislators and councillors, the preparations for the electoral event are going according to the schedule designed by the National Electoral Council (CNE), with events such as the beginning, on the 28th of October, of the campaign of the 70,244 candidates for 3,082 positions that will be elected on November 21.

The proselytizing activities, which will end on November 18, are followed by more than 2,000 prosecutors appointed by the Electoral Power. In addition, a media monitoring room was activated to monitor the dissemination of content to promote candidacies.

"The campaign has started very well, we feel the vibrant Venezuelan democracy deployed in the country," said the president of the CNE, Pedro Calzadilla, who added that calls for attention have been made

in those cases in which imbalances were detected, to preserve the normal development of the contest.

Electoral observation

For the November 21 elections, around 300 international companions are accredited, including observers. One of the organizations that will participate in the process is the Carter Center, which on October 25 signed a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Electoral Power setting out the terms in which it will deploy a mission of experts in electoral matters.

Thus, it joins other organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the Council of Electoral Experts of Latin America (CEELA) and the European Union (EU). The head of the EU mission, Isabel Santos, met with the president of the Electoral Power, Pedro Calzadilla, in Caracas, in order to review the deploy-



A great challenge

With the campaign activities, the audits completed and the production of the voting machines, 82% of the electoral schedule has been met, in a process that represents a great political and technical challenge, said the president of the CNE, Pedro Calzadilla.

In an interview with a Venezuelan television station, he stressed that the participation of more than 70 thousand candidates in these elections "is a good indicator of the political process that we are experiencing in Venezuela."

ment of the group of observers.

In addition to the international observers and overseers, six civil organizations were accredited as national overseers, who must also carry out their work with transparency, impartiality, responsibility and independence.

Ongoing audits

Technicians from the CNE and from the political parties that participate in the electoral event comply with the cycle of 16 audits of the data, computer programs and technological equipment used in the electoral process.

The operation of the technological infrastructure for data transmission has already been verified and the production of the voting machines is reviewed, through the selection of a sample of the equipment that will be sent to each of the 23 Federal entities of the country on November 14, when they will be reviewed again in a different audit before their shipping.

Previously, the voter registry was reviewed, with a total of more than 21 million voters, as well as the voter data, the voting notebooks and the program for the totalization of the results.

Still to be checked is the telecommunications infrastructure that will be used in the voting, the verification of the total cleaning of the data of the National Totalization Centre before the voting day, the campaign expenses and the verification that the voters make on the same 21st of November.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

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Venezuela and ICC sign historic Memorandum of Understanding

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Venezuelan State, in which it commits “to work collaboratively and independently with full respect for the principle of positive complementarity” in the new phase of the Venezuela I Case, referring to events that occurred during the violent protests of 2017. ICC Chief Prosecutor, Karim Khan, assured President Nicolás Maduro that his office is committed to work with the Venezuelan government and people. He also thanked for “the engagement and constructive dialogue” during his three days of work in Caracas. For his part, President Maduro ratified that Venezuela has frankly expressed that it was not

allowed “to know the documentation and the content that was evaluated in the preliminary examination” and that the country is in keeping with “the spirit and the letter of the historic document” signed with the ICC. “In the country there is a dynamic peace, under construction, based on constitutional rights (...) We want to consolidate the right to peace and therefore there must be justice,” he added. In addition to the Venezuela I Case, another case is open at the ICC denouncing the criminal nature of the so-called sanctions against the country. In both cases, the Venezuelan State has expressed its full willingness to cooperate.

PHOTO: PRESIDENTIAL PRESS

The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the UN rejects double standards on human rights

The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) urges all countries to adhere to and comply with the principles established in this document that governs international relations, on the basis of respect and the right to self-determination of peoples. The Venezuelan Ambassador to the UN, Samuel Moncada, spoke on behalf of the bloc at the presentation of the 15th Report of the United Nations Human Rights Council at its headquarters in New York. From there, he considered that the UN Charter, which dates back to 1945, is the way to “advance towards the establishment of a more peaceful and prosperous world and a truly just and equitable world order.” Likewise, he considered that the only valid mechanism for the evaluation of human rights is the UN Universal Periodic Review and not those “unilateral ones that pretend to make an evaluation” in this matter, with the purpose of attacking certain States.



“We reject all kinds of double standards that undermine human rights and prevent a harmonious environment and progress in this field,” he emphasized. The Group of Friends in Defense of the UN Charter is made up of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, Laos, Nicaragua, Palestine, Russia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Zimbabwe and Venezuela.

PHOTO: COURTESY

CAPSULES OF IDEAS

“Let’s not change the climate, let’s change the system and consequently we will begin to save the planet.”

Hugo Chávez, Copenhagen, Denmark, 16 December 2009.



Honours to Ambassador of Algeria

President Nicolás Maduro honoured, with the Francisco de Miranda Order, the Ambassador of Algeria, Ben Moussat Ghaouti, who after 6 years in Venezuela returns to his country to fulfil other tasks. “We, Mr. Ambassador, are on the right side of history, because we want peace, cooperation, survival on the planet and this twenty-first century will see our peoples emerge with their energy and their culture,” the President said.

PHOTO: PRESS PRESIDENTAL

67% of the population vaccinated

Thanks to the cooperation between Venezuela and Russia, more than 450,000 doses of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine were received in recent days through the state airline Conviasa. President Nicolás Maduro announced that 67% of the population is protected against Covid-19, adding that as of this month children of two years and older will join the immunization program.

Brotherhood with Turkey

Venezuela reaffirms its ties of brotherhood with Turkey, who on 29th October commemorated the 98th anniversary of its founding. Deputy Minister for Europe, Daniela Rodríguez, highlighted the crucial role of the leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in the nation’s independence. Likewise, the Venezuelan Ambassador to Turkey, José Bracho, sent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a message of solidarity on behalf of the Government and people of Venezuela.

Protection of Nationals

Venezuela ratifies the protection of Venezuelans abroad, especially those who have migrated because of the economic blockade. At the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Meeting of Government Institutions Engaged with the Diaspora, the Director of the Foreign Consular Service, Eudys Almeida, said that our country has 105 consular offices and the Plan Vuelta a la Patria (Back to the Homeland Plan) has served more than 26,000 Venezuelans.



UNBLOCK



Women, one of the main victims of the blockade

The more than 450 Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) of the United States against Venezuela affect, without distinction, the entire Venezuelan population. However, women have been the ones hardest hit by this brutal aggression, denounced the Deputy Minister of Anti-Blockade Policies, William Castillo, at the National Meeting of State Coordinators of the Mission Homes of the Homeland (Misión Hogares de la Patria), a policy aimed at approaching families in conditions of vulnerability.

Venezuelan women have been attacked “for being women, for being mothers, for being daughters, for being sisters, they have been attacked as workers and as breadwinners,” said Castillo, who warned that the UCM have torpedoed, for example, the purchase of supplies for cytologies, vital procedures to prevent cervical cancer, one of the main causes of death among Venezuelans.

Since the so-called “sanctions” began to be applied, Venezuela has denounced to international bodies the damage caused to our people. The Public Consultation on the implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, presented to the United Nations in 2020, found that 86% of the more than 9,000 women who participated in the survey indicated that the blockade has affected the progressive development of their rights and 42% reported difficulties in the acquisition of medicines.

Despite the siege, women have been a fundamental pillar in circumventing the UCM, by leading instances such as the Local Supply and Production Committees, which distributes food to 7 million families monthly.

They, in Castillo’s words, “have played a fundamental role, in the productive field, in family and social protection, and in community organization.”

PHOTO: COURTESY

REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS



Government strengthens care for people with disabilities

Today, when the country is going through the Covid-19 pandemic and is the victim of a brutal and illegal economic blockade, the system of missions and large missions, which brings together social policies of the State, faces the challenge of articulating even more to strengthen the protection of Venezuelans, especially people with disabilities, who have remained mobilized in defense of their integral rights.

Faced with the demands of this population, the missions should not lose sight of “all the social work, solidarity, love in action, socialism in the territorial and social,” said President Nicolás Maduro in an act for the 157 years since the birth of José Gregorio Hernández, known as the Doctor of the Poor, for his special attention to vulnerable people.

This distinguished doctor gives his name to the José Gregorio Hernández Mission, created in 2008 for the comprehensive protection of people with

disabilities. By this mission, a monthly financial contribution is delivered, through the Patria digital platform, to more than 2,000,000 people with disabilities; specialized medical spaces are created, such as a dental care unit in Caracas, to serve 120 patients per month; and more than 1,000,000 technical aids, such as wheelchairs, have been delivered in the last 13 years.

Also to detect and care for people with disabilities, it has the support of more than 200,000 brigade members of the We Are Venezuela Movement, who are deployed in the communities to identify needs and coordinate care directed at vulnerable people. That was the objective of Commander Hugo Chávez, said President Maduro: to follow the example of José Gregorio Hernández, “that we attend to the needy (...) that we go with care to bring health to those who need it most.”

PHOTO: COURTESY



VENEZUELA IN IMAGES

The tepuis, the oldest abode of gods on the planet

Although they were decreed as a Natural Monument on November 2nd, 1990, the Venezuelan tepuis were formed more than 1,700 million years ago and are the oldest rock formations on the planet. It is estimated that there are more than 100 elevations and plateaus

of this type in the states of Amazonas and Bolívar, in the south of the country, with a wide biodiversity. Their name is a word from the Pemón indigenous language, which means “abode of the gods.”

PHOTO: COURTESY

HEROIC ROOTS



Amazon woman who fought for the independence of Venezuela

A special bond united Colonel Vicente De La Torre with his daughter Barbara: the love for freedom and sovereignty. The girl, who was born on December 4, 1790 in the current state of Trujillo, in western Venezuela, followed in the footsteps of her father in the defense of the independence cause.

Without fear or doubt, Barbarita, as she was known, fought in several of the battles of the Admirable Campaign, a military action led by Simón Bolívar in 1813. She witnessed the signing of the War to Death Decree, the Liberator's response to the criminal actions perpetrated by the royalists after the fall of the First Republic.

But the combative energy of this woman was accompanied by her leadership among the inhabitants of Escuque, her native land, who called her "La Capitana (The Captain)." Also due to her appearance and ability for war actions, she was known as "The Amazonian from Trujillo."

Barbarita remained in combat after the end of the Admirable Campaign and was captured by the royalists in 1814. Colonel De La Torre turned himself in to the Spaniards in exchange for the freedom of his daughter and was shot in 1815. Two years later, the warrior is again arrested and outraged by the royalists, who assassinated her on November 1, 1817. However, this cruel action did not erase the mark of this heroine in our homeland, which honored her by recognizing her, postmortem, with the degree of general.

Today, as President Nicolás Maduro has said, she remains a benchmark for the value of women in the fight for freedom: "Barbarita continues in battle, along with our leaders who fight with passion to achieve new victories."

IMAGE: COURTESY



BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE

A mission to bring the university to the communities

In Güiria, a coastal town in the east of the country, Commander Hugo Chávez gave the first master class of the Sucre Mission, a program designed to provide university education to those who, due to lack of conditions, couldn't continue their studies.

"No government could ever guarantee a university education to the entire population (...) only at a time like the one we are living in, can we dare and do the impossible," the revolutionary leader assured to the students gathered on November 3, 2003, in a University Village, as the 1,016 educational centers established by the Sucre Mission are known in communities, institutions, work spaces and prisons.

Today, in these villages 21 National Training Programs are taught, which unify the criteria and

structure of the careers offered through this educational policy, also conceived as a space oriented towards productive activity and commitment to development of the communities.

Until last July, more than 600,000 professionals had graduated from this mission, which bears the name of the Grand Marshal of Ayacucho, Antonio José de Sucre.

The next goal is to reach one million graduates, who also have the possibility of advancing in their graduate studies.

"Venezuela needs an army of people prepared at the highest level to bring development to all fronts of social life," said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro.

PHOTO: COURTESY

UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

Manipulation accompanies injustice in Alex Saab case

Before the abduction of Alex Saab was consummated in Cape Verde, on June 12, 2020, media corporations, aligned with the right and influencers were preparing a campaign to criminalize the Venezuelan diplomat, who circumvented restrictions caused by the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) to bring food, medicine and fuel to Venezuela.

These operations were presented by these media actors, including the media from Bogota, Miami and Caracas, as actions outside the law, with a speech that was radicalized as of last October 16, when Saab was kidnapped again to be taken illegally to the United States.

After his presentation hearing, on October 18, a new wave of lies, such as the involvement of his wife, Camila Fabri, with illegal acts, tried to justify the accusations of the US government, which lack legal basis, as the defense of the

diplomat has shown.

At the same time, irregularities in this process are silenced, such as the issuance of Interpol's red alert against Saab one day after his arbitrary arrest in Cape Verde, the violation of his diplomatic immunity and the disrespect for his human rights.

In the midst of these maneuvers, this November 1 the Saab audience was postponed for fifteen days, at the request of the diplomat's own defense, who had not had contact with him, and seven of the eight charges against him were dropped. As Saab's defense warned, none meet the minimum requirements established within a criminal indictment, to be valid.

Camila Fabri, wife of the diplomat, argues that the ruling reveals the media campaign against her husband: "The United States has nothing consistent in the case, it is pure media and harassment."