



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Communiqué

The President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro Moros, on behalf of the Venezuelan government and people, congratulates the brotherly people of the Republic of Cuba for the impeccable, democratic and participatory performance in the appointment of their legislative and executive authorities, which has culminated today with the election of the members of the Council of State, particularly the election of comrade Miguel Diaz-Canel as its new President, by the sovereign People's Power National Assembly .

President Nicolas Maduro expresses his profound admiration and touching recognition towards General of the Army Raul Castro Ruz, for the upright leading of his people in recent years, consolidating independence, progress and the socialist project in the Cuban society, as well as for his leadership in the world and in Our America, promoting respect for international law, and fostering regional integration processes, by expanding solidarity, knowledge and equality among the peoples of the world.

Comrade Raul Castro has more than fulfilled the enormous responsibility entrusted by the Cuban people to receive the baton from Commander Fidel Castro, performing with wisdom, loyalty and courage; as he did in all the tasks that history placed before him, as a combatant of a thousand battles with Fidel, since July 26, the *Granma* and the *Sierra Maestra*, with the triumph of the Revolution, for almost six decades of anti-imperialist resistance and comprehensive progress of the Cuban people.

During the recent years, Presidents Raul Castro and Nicolas Maduro, strengthened the solidarity-based and impregnable union between Cuba and Venezuela, as well as the consolidation and strengthening of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), honoring the strategic vision and the infinite legacy of the Giant Commanders, Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez. Comrade Raul Castro has many things left to accomplish in order to contribute to his country and to humanity, from his new trenches of struggle.

Likewise, President Nicolas Maduro enthusiastically congratulates the new President of the Councils of State and of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, comrade Miguel Diaz-Canel, a faithful representative of the brilliant new



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generation, which was born, grew and was forged with the Cuban Revolution, thus affirming that his election guarantees that the homeland of Marti and Fidel will remain free, sovereign and socialist. Miguel Diaz-Canel has demonstrated rectitude, efficiency and revolutionary commitment in each responsibility, of the many that the leadership of the Cuban Revolution has entrusted him.

President Diaz-Canel and the revolutionary people of Cuba have the unrestricted support of President Nicolas Maduro and the Bolivarian Revolution, to deepen our union even more and face together the challenges and battles for social justice and human development in this tumultuous world, in the months and years to come.

On this date, which commemorates the beginning of the revolutionary counter-offensive of *Playa Giron*, which in less than 72 hours managed to defeat the mercenary imperialist invasion, the Cuban people continue to teach lessons of dignity to the world in the 21st century; and the Bolivarian Revolution and the Cuban Revolution will continue to be united by the emancipatory legacy of Marti and Bolivar and the indissoluble alliance sealed with the historic embrace between Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro.

Towards victory always! We shall prevail!

Caracas, April 19th, 2018