



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

# Communiqué

The President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro Moros, on behalf of the Bolivarian people and government, expresses his fraternal words of congratulation to the sisterly Republic of Haiti on the occasion of commemorating the 202<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the “Les Cayes Expedition”, event that marked our independence and libertarian process.

Bolivar arrived in *Les Cayes*, in our sisterly island of Haiti, on December 24th, 1815. From there he went to Port-au-Prince where he held a meeting with President Alexandre Petion on January 2nd, 1816. Petion, thanks to his revolutionary spirit and desire of freedom, provided unrestricted assistance to the Liberator, thus facilitating him the necessary resources to endeavour a new stage in the liberation struggle of Venezuela.

Therefore, the historical importance of the expedition that sailed on March 31st, 1816, is that it resulted in the liberation of the Eastern Venezuela and also allowed that other heroes furthering into mainland definitively, thus paving the way to the final triumph of the Republic.

The support to our independence by the brotherly people of Haiti is much to be admired, and that is why we will always have a historical debt with our Haitian brothers and sisters.

*“Haiti: That known by Bolivar. That which on 1816, provided to Les Cayes Expedition the unrestricted support of illustrious Petion, who only asked the freedom of the slaves in return. He was, after all, named by the Liberator as “the author of our freedom.”*  
Hugo Chavez, 17/01/2010

**Caracas, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018**