



Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs

Weekly Newsletter / April 1st 2022



## TOPIC OF THE WEEK

# Venezuela strengthens education system with full return to on-site classes

Since March 28, more than 8 million primary and secondary school students, as well as 3 million university students, have been carrying out full face-to-face activities in Venezuela, almost two years after the COVID-19 quarantine was decreed. This total return to classrooms is the outcome of concerted actions for the health of teachers and students, who have a key place in the plans to contain the disease.

"We go with joy in this new stage," President Nicolás Maduro affirmed, and announced a set of actions to prevent the spread of the disease among educational communities, to advance in the recovery of schools and to promote the comprehensive education of children and youngsters.

The protection of students and teachers has been a priority since the detection of the first cases of the virus in Venezuelan territory, in March 2020. To protect families, classes were suspended in educational centers and the educational activities were carried out remotely for 17 months.

Since last October, after advancing in the vaccination of the adult population and starting it among children and adolescents, the gradual return to classrooms with a mixed format began. Now,

when 73% of the student population and 97% of workers in the public education sector have been vaccinated, the green light has been given for a full return to the classrooms.

### Educational infrastructure

Along with the total return to classrooms, the Venezuelan government will recover the infrastructure of 1,500 educational centers, which will be added to the 5,100 that were already rehabilitated on the eve of the return to face-to-face classes. "That means that they are all suitable for children to be in," Minister for Education Yelitze Santaella said in a television interview.

In addition to serving schools, food is provided to 5,000,000 boys and girls through the School Feeding Program (PAE), an educational policy that seeks food protection for students, and school supplies are distributed to facilitate the studying conditions of the most vulnerable students.

### For comprehensive training

In this new stage of education in Venezuela, President Nicolás Maduro ordered the expansion of the César Rengifo Theater Movement, born

nine years ago, to all schools in the country, to stimulate the comprehensive education of children and young people.

The movement promotes the theatrical training of new generations, through the promotion of in schools and communities. At least 200,000 boys and girls are part of this cultural project, which has allowed them to discover great works of universal literature.

### An example to the world

In addition to stimulating the training of children and young people, work is being done to improve the working conditions of Venezuelan teachers, who are also suffering the effects of the blockade against the country. In this regard, President Nicolás Maduro recognized the efforts of teachers in the midst of aggression and the pandemic.

The commitment, the President reiterated, is to strengthen the educational system and guide it to the real needs of the country: "I will not rest in my task, I will defend quality education, in which culture, theater, sports and poetry shine. That is the way!"

PHOTO: COURTESY

## IN THIS EDITION

### DIPLOMACY

- Strengthened brotherhood

### NEWS BRIEF

- Technical assistance with ICC

### CAPSULES OF IDEAS

- "...absolute independence..."

### REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS

- Route to self-supply

### UNBLOCK

- The turning year

### VENEZUELA IN IMAGES

- The highest peak

### BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE

- Vanguard in dental health

### HEROIC ROOTS

- Pétion, total solidarity

### UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

- The media dissimulation



## DIPLOMACY



### Brotherhood ties strengthened with Nicaragua and South Africa

The president of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, decorated the outgoing ambassadors of Nicaragua, Yaosca Calderón, and South Africa, Joseph Nkosi, with the Francisco de Miranda Order.

“They have witnessed how, serenely, with great wisdom, our people have waged the battle for democracy and freedom,” said the President at the ceremony, which took place in Caracas, attended by the diplomatic corps accredited in Venezuela and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Félix Plasencia. The President stressed that, despite the illegal sanctions, “Venezuela has been, is and will be the epicenter of the battles for a different world,” under the principles of Simón Bolívar, Nelson Mandela and Augusto César Sandino.

#### Growth links

In the case of Nicaragua, the forthcoming installation of a Mixed Commission with that country was announced, which reaffirms the brotherhood between both peoples. In this regard, Yaosca Calderón stressed that “the gratitude and acknowledgements to the Eternal Commander, Hugo Chávez, grows over time, in the memory and heart of the people.”

A work trip by President Maduro to South Africa is also planned. The outgoing ambassador, Joseph Nkosi, indicated that his country “will continue to support Venezuela in its struggles and we hope that the Unilateral Coercive Measures will be lifted.”

PHOTO: PRESIDENTIAL PRESS

### Venezuela reaffirms commitment to peace in the 20th Edition of the Doha Forum

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Félix Plasencia, participated in the 20th Edition of the Doha Forum, in Qatar, where he ratified, on behalf of the Venezuelan people and government, his message of peace and solidarity. With regard to this event, which took place on March 26th and 27th, the Foreign Minister carried out an intense work agenda, which included bilateral meetings with representatives of states and governments.

The senior Venezuelan diplomat met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, to whom he reiterated the mutual commitment to increase bilateral cooperation.

“We exchanged on issues of global interest and the importance of the Doha Forum for constructive dialogue,” said Minister Plasencia.

He also held a meeting with Soltan Al Muraikhi,



Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. “We talked about the opportunities for mutual development that the relation of friendship and cooperation between Venezuela and Qatar envisions,” he added.

Plasencia also met with his counterpart from Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard. Both diplomats discussed ways of mutual cooperation, and agreed on the importance of Latin America and the Caribbean in global dialogue spaces such as the Doha Forum.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## CAPSULES OF IDEAS

*“I have never believed that anything solid or stable can be built in a country if absolute independence is not achieved first.”*

Letter from Francisco de Miranda to Home Riggs Popham, 1806

## NEWS BRIEF



### Venezuela and ICC accord technical assistance

Venezuela and the prosecution of the International Criminal Court (ICC) agreed to open an office in Caracas, which will facilitate technical assistance between the State and the organism, for “a more effective level of dialogue, in real time,” said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, after meetings in the country with ICC prosecutor, Karim Khan. The President stressed that the instance will contribute so that “Venezuela advances even more towards an efficient State in access to justice.”

PHOTO: COURTESY

### A center to commemorate Mandela’s fight

In Valencia, a city that Madiba visited more than 30 years ago and where he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Carabobo, the Nelson Mandela Cultural Center was inaugurated, which commemorates the struggle of this great South African leader, who fought tirelessly against apartheid in his country. “Thanks to this museum, Venezuela has become an important partner in protecting Mandela’s legacy,” said South African Ambassador to Venezuela, Joseph Nkosi.

### 254 Venezuelans back to the Homeland

This March 24th, 254 Venezuelans arrived in the country, as part of the new phase of the Return to the Homeland Plan, a repatriation program that, since 2018, has facilitated the return of more than 28,000 compatriots. “We have been able to achieve our dream, which is to set foot on Venezuelan soil,” said Greidimar Doria, one of the travelers.

### Diversifying exports

Footwear and food companies from Venezuela, together with the Foreign Trade Bank (Bancoex), participated in the 38th Edition of the International Trade Exhibition, Expocomer 2022, in Panama, which brought together more than 600 businessmen and businesswomen from different branches from some 30 nations. Our country also exhibited national products with export quality.



## UNBLOCK



### 2021: A turning point for economic recovery

The year 2021 not only represents the beginning of a new cycle of growth for Venezuela. It is the contrast between the pretensions of a fierce blockade that the country has been experiencing for seven years and the results of a model of resistance, sustained by policies of social protection that in 2013 were recognized as an example for the region.

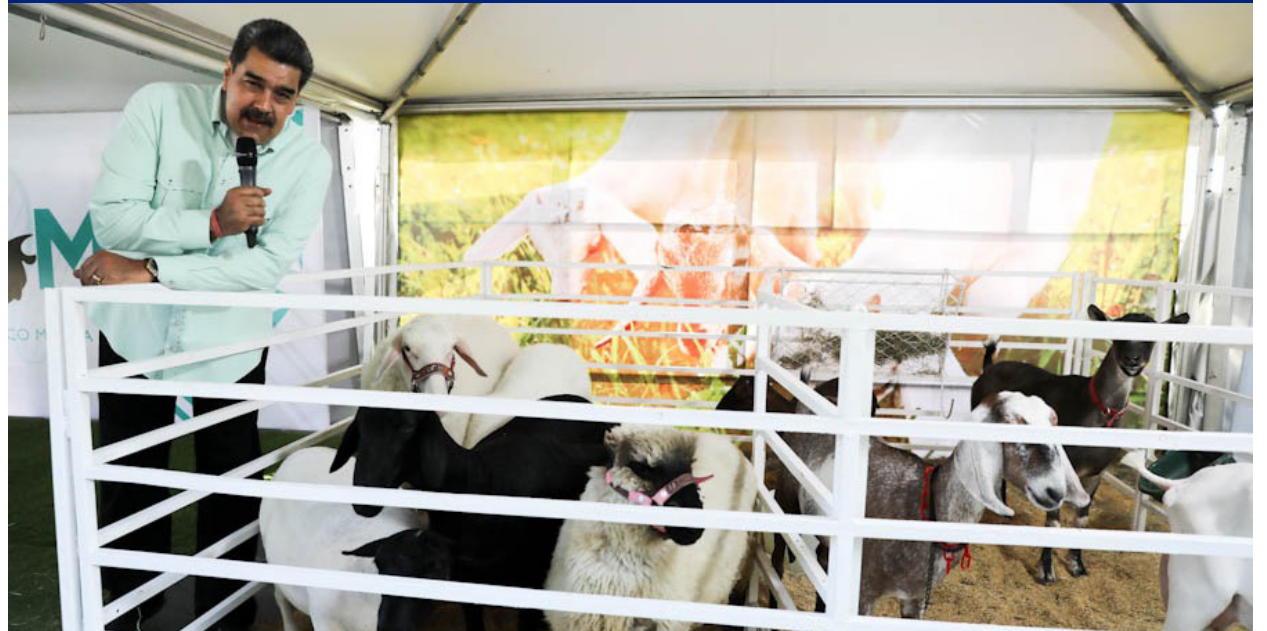
According to the Annual Report and Accounts of the Executive Office, presented to the country in March, the 502 Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) against the nation aimed at paralyzing the Venezuelan State, since 22% were against government institutions and 25% aimed at undermine the oil industry, the main generator of wealth for Venezuelans.

Also, of the total amount of UCMs 10% were against the right to health, 7% against the right to food, 5% against public transportation and another 7% against the private sector.

This group of actions “as a whole sought not only the economic financial asphyxiation of the country, but also the total stoppage of government institutions,” said Executive Vice President, Delcy Rodríguez, who indicated that the response has been the construction of a new economy, which began to pay off since last year. Thanks to the robust social protection system, which brings together policies to guarantee the fundamental rights of the population, and the promotion of a diversified economy, Venezuela maintains its GINI index stable at 0.39, a value that places it among the least unequal countries. In addition to this achievement, there are other indicators such as the 76% increase in non-traditional exports and the maintenance of single-digit inflation for the last six months. As reiterated by the Executive Vice President: “the year 2021 is the year of the inflexion of the blockade and social recovery.”

PHOTO: COURTESY

## REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS



### Venezuela works for full self-supply through alliances

In view of the harmful effects of the blockade against Venezuela, which reduced the income of the nation by 99% and restricted food imports, the national Government is promoting strategies to achieve full self-supply and expand export capacity.

“The first challenge from the productive point of view is to be self-supply with national production, and we are achieving it step by step in a sustained and sustainable way,” said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, after participating recently in a fair that gathered goat and sheep producers from 14 federal entities.

The exhibition of the productive potential of this sector, said the President, also points towards another central objective for the country: to become “an exporter of food to the world in the midst of the crisis it is going through.”

In the face of the economic siege against Venezuela, the country accelerated the process of overcoming the oil rentier model to establish a diversified and

sovereign economy.

“With the sanctions, what we did was to stand up, look for the best advisors in economy, finances, fiscal and productive policies,” added President Maduro, who stressed that the path is clear: to strengthen every day the alliances between the State, community organizations, producers and companies.

#### Stimulating production

In addition to promoting the production of proteins, support is also given to other actors such as rice producers. Together with them, we are working for the gradual substitution of rice imports.

These actions contribute both to the saving of foreign currency and to the development of domestic production, with tariff and regulatory policies, said Executive Vice-President Delcy Rodríguez, who added that work is also being done to expand sugar production.

PHOTO: COURTESY



## VENEZUELA IN IMAGES

### Legend and beauty surround the highest peak in Venezuela

At 4,983 meters above the sea level, Pico Bolívar, located in Mérida, Andean region of our country, is the highest mountain in Venezuela. The formation is part of the Sierra Nevada National Park which has other high latitude peaks. An

Indigenous legend says that the peaks of this area are white eagles turned into huge ice masses that, by flapping their wings, bathe their summits in snow.

PHOTO: COURTESY



## BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE

### Venezuelan scientists at the forefront of dental regeneration

In the face of adversity, Venezuelan ingenuity has no limits. This is attested to by a group of experts from the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research (IVIC), which reported the first case of regeneration of dental pulp with stem cells from a healthy patient in the world.

This is an achievement of the Cell Therapy Unit (UTC) of the IVIC, the only one of its kind in Venezuela, which contributes to the development of regenerative medicine. Now, it puts the country at the forefront of dental tissue regeneration by reporting the case to the Journal of Endodontics, of the American Association of Endodontists.

According to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, 70% of the Venezuelan population suffers from some type of tooth decay. Many are detected and healed in time, but another important number ends up in expensive root canal

treatments (which leads to removal of the pulp) or total loss of pieces.

With the technology developed in Venezuela, the tooth “comes back to life” and prevents the patient from losing his piece, to which sensitivity returns, offering him a higher quality of life.

Since 2021, the Dental Service of the IVIC was working on this project. “With the application of these protocols (...) we have created a national reference center for dental problems, especially with the endodontic and periodontal approach,” Dr. José Francisco Gómez, a member of the UTC, told a press team at the time.

With this therapy, “we can serve a large number of people who would have to assume very high costs when it comes to having a root canal and this type of therapy could reduce those costs,” said the scientist.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

### Media dissimulation against Guaidó’s links to drug trafficking

Despite the efforts of conservative media, the links of the former right-wing Parliamentarian and main ally of the United States in Venezuela, Juan Guaidó, to drug trafficking and Colombian terrorist groups are increasingly evident, as demonstrated by the recent capture of drug trafficker Biagio Garófalo in Cartagena, Colombia. With strategic dissimulation, media such as Cablenoticias, owned by Alberto Federico Ravell, in charge of Guaidó’s communications, discreetly reviewed the arrest of Garófalo, who maintains links with the former Parliamentarian, promoter of the alleged parallel institutionality in Venezuela, and was a financier of the opposition terrorist organization Voluntad Popular (VP).

The President of the National Assembly, Jorge Rodríguez, showed the press screenshots of messages, videos and photos in which appear Guaidó, the former

Parliamentarians of VP Marco Aurelio Quiñones and Franco Manuel Casella, as well as other leaders of this party with Garófalo, on who was issued a Red Notice from Interpol and requests from 193 countries.

“What does it matter to the U.S. government that Juan Guaidó partners with drug traffickers, or launders drug money if it serves his ends. There is the immense hypocrisy with which the centers of imperial power exercise their politics,” warned the Parliamentarian, who recalled that VP also receives funding from USAID.

Guaidó’s links with criminal groups have been known since 2019, when photos came to light of the former Parliamentarian with the leaders of the narco-paramilitary gang Los Rastrojos, an organization that facilitated the illegal transfer of the former deputy to direct the events of violence of February 23 of that year on the Venezuelan Colombian border.

## HEROIC ROOTS



### Alexandre Pétion, solidarity that transcended borders

Imperialism does not forgive Haiti for having been the first colony to liberate itself and to lend support to emancipatory causes. This Caribbean Antilles is the land of distinguished revolutionaries such as Alexandre Pétion, an exemplary fighter in favour of the freedom of the most oppressed.

He was born on April 2, 1770, and from a young age was committed to the principles of social justice. In the Haitian Revolution he fought alongside leaders Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines, and was one of the first signatories of his country’s Act of Independence.

In addition to a clear conviction for freedom, Pétion had a high esteem for solidarity, and thus, as a ruler, he lent all his support -with weapons, resources and supplies- to Simón Bolívar in the Expedition of Los Cayos, in 1816, in exchange for the abolition of slavery in Venezuela, a commitment assumed by the Liberator.

In addition to Simón Bolívar, many were the independentists who had the unconditional help of Pétion: Pedro Labatut, José Francisco Bermúdez, Gregor MacGregor, Carlos Soubllette, among others.

The Haitian leader transcended on March 29, 1818. The Liberator thanked him all his life and highlighted Pétion as the “first benefactor of the land whom America will one day proclaim its Liberator.”

Today, the brotherhood between the Peoples of Pétion and Bolívar is armored, since it was in Haiti where the Liberator “finished forging the temper of his revolutionary spirit. Haiti is then a holy land for us,” Commander Hugo Chávez exclaimed, proof of a bond of brotherhood that President Nicolás Maduro maintains today.

IMAGE: COURTESY