Venezuelan National Assembly

Oscar Figuera’s Position Paper

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# Venezuelan National Assembly Position Paper

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is in the midst of a severe crisis and it is the responsibility of the National Assembly - as the elected representatives of the people - to tackle the issues plaguing our society today. The issues that take precedence would be the safety and security of Venezuelan citizens, the failing economy and the social division of our population. This paper will discuss these issues and offer resolutions that I, as the Secretary General of the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV), plan to propose in the Assembly’s upcoming sessions.

As the economic crisis gets more severe, the crime rates continue to rise. Venezuela’s capital has been dubbed “World’s Most Murderous City” (USA Today) with other cities not too far behind and according to the Venezuelan Crime and Safety Report, even relatively affluent neighborhoods are experiencing regular violent occurrences. This violence perpetrated by gangs along with violent protests incited by the opposition have created a dangerous atmosphere for citizens. Many will agree that this violence is a symptom of the poor economic situation, as a lack of resources can easily push people into a life of crime. Therefore, I will argue that it is necessary that the government focus on being able to provide its citizens with at least the basic necessities. After that matter is handled we can deal with the direct issue of crimes and violence in Venezuela.

Crime and violence rates in Venezuela have risen exponentially over the past few years and although the opposition may try to place blame on the ruling government, it is really poverty that's at fault. Increasing political and civil rights may also help decrease crime rate, but before that can the done the public's disregard for the police's authority has to be addressed. Police officers tasked with keeping the peace are unable to complete their jobs and in recent news, are sometimes killed by criminals trying to illegally obtain guns. The opposition also fuels this fire by inciting civil unrest that leaves thousands of citizens injured or dead. Policing forces need more funding and better training so that they are able to increase their geographical reach and protect our people. The safety and security of Venezuelans are a priority and our party will make sure that it's treated as such.  
 Another critical topic of discussion is the Venezuelan economy. Venezuela once had a booming economy, but the dropping oil prices have sent it into a devastating economic decline. Our country has been too dependent on our oil reserves in the past and if we want to stabilize the economy we need to start focusing on other sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing. We also seek international help and although “Venezuela has rejected humanitarian assistance” (Washington Post) so far, we can get a loan from an international agency, such as the International Monetary Fund. We can also use oil as collateral to get more loans and use it as a temporary measure to jumpstart the economy, but the country will have to make sure it doesn’t continue to rely heavily on oil exports. Once the economy sufficiently stabilizes, Venezuela can detach itself from oil and focus on other industries. It is also necessary that once the country has enough in its reserves, currency controls gradually removed. Low-income families can be subsidized by the government as the currency stabilizes. The economy plays a major role in the issues troubling Venezuela today and it is important that this assembly takes appropriate measures to keep the Venezuelan economy from sinking completely.

These ever worsening socioeconomic problems have created a troubled and unstable society. There are many allegations of human rights violations and though these may just be propaganda spread by the opposition, this assembly needs to ensure respect for the human rights of the citizens. This assembly should work with the Tribunal Supremo de Justicia (TSJ) to make sure that those responsible for human rights violations are prosecuted and appropriately sentenced. The freedom of expression and right to information also has to be guaranteed, especially so that media personnel and human rights activists aren’t targeted and kept from doing their jobs. A larger and more adept police force will also aid this issue as it will provide protection for all the citizens. There is speculation about reinstalling the party system, but that is unnecessary as the Venezuelan government is already a stable democracy and the opposition wishes to destabilize it by causing civil unrest. This assembly recognizes that any human rights violations are a problem and will work to ensure that they don’t occur in this nation.

To conclude, this great nation of Venezuela deserves better than a failing economy, high crime rates, and human rights violations and my party will strive to make sure it gets something better. The issues will be addressed in the upcoming sessions and we will reach a resolution that will change Venezuela for the better.

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