

Venezuela Top Court Confirms Constituent Assembly Will Go Ahead

12/06/2017



Venezuela's electoral authority has signaled that elections to select the National Constituent Assembly representatives will take place July 30.

Venezuela's top court rejected Monday an appeal filed by the country's attorney general, confirming that the National Constituent Assembly called by President Nicolas Maduro to rewrite the Constitution will continue as planned.

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"The Electoral Chamber declared inadmissible the legal action exercised by the Attorney General of the Republic for inept accumulation of claims," Venezuela's Supreme Court announced on its Twitter account to 81,400 followers.

Attorney General Luisa Ortega Diaz filed an appeal Thursday to the Supreme Court calling on justices to halt the National Constituent Assembly, deepening tensions between her office and the Maduro government.

Together with her appeal, Ortega Diaz urged Venezuelans to reject the constituent assembly process, arguing that it went against the legacy of late President Hugo Chavez, who oversaw the creation of the country's current 1999 Constitution, regarded as one of the most progressive constitutions in the world.

Members of Maduro's PSUV party have accused Ortega Diaz, long considered an ally of the

socialist government, of acting with bias.

Maduro called the National Constituent Assembly last month in a move to promote dialogue amid an ongoing wave of opposition protests that have increasingly turned violent. The announcement has further ignited flared tensions, as opposition leaders have refused to back the process.

The National Constituent Assembly's 545 members, including regional and sectoral representatives, are set to be elected on July 30. Maduro has vowed that the new Constitution resulting from the constituent assembly process will be approved in a referendum.
