

# *Venezuelan Supreme Court Electoral Chamber certifies victory of Nicolás Maduro*

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Judge Caryslia Beatriz Rodríguez Rodríguez, head of the Electoral Chamber of the TSJ (center),

**ratified the jurisdiction of the Electoral Chamber to initiate a judicial process of verification and investigation to assess the results of the electoral process.**

Caracas, August 22 (RHC)-- The Electoral Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) of Venezuela issued a ruling in Caracas on Thursday on the investigation carried out regarding the contentious appeal filed by President Nicolás Maduro, regarding the presidential elections of July 28th.

Magistrate Caryslia Beatriz Rodríguez Rodríguez read the ruling. She was accompanied by magistrates Fanny Márquez and Inocencio Figueroa, members of the Electoral Chamber. Based on the results obtained in the expert appraisal, she assured that the results bulletins of the National Electoral Council (CNE) are consistent with the reports of the electoral machines.

Based on the in-depth investigation carried out, the Electoral Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) declared the dispute admissible and validated the results of the presidential election offered by the CNE.

She pointed out that there was an exhaustive and in-depth appraisal of the physical/digital materials on the elections, carried out in accordance with the highest national and international standards: "Based on the process, the CNE bulletins are supported by the minutes of scrutiny by the voting machines deployed in the process. The machines coincide with the totalization centers," said the magistrate.

Magistrate Caryslia Beatriz Rodríguez ratified the competence of the Electoral Chamber of the TSJ to initiate a judicial investigation process, appraise the results of the electoral process and resolve the dispute. She asserted that the courts of justice constitute instances to decide in the States of Law.

She pointed out that the competition is based on local legislation and legislation compared to other regional and global experiences (among which she cited the Mexican court).

Magistrate Caryslia Beatriz Rodríguez highlighted the attendance of the CNE when it was summoned, except for one rector who did not do so. She recalled that of the 38 political parties that participated in the presidential elections, all attended the appearances before the Electoral Chamber of the TSJ and 33 submitted electoral material.

She specified that nine of the ten candidates summoned also attended. She added that the former candidate Edmundo González did not attend and was declared in contempt for not adhering to the constitutional order. She emphasized that representatives of the political parties that supported the former candidate of the Democratic Unitarian Platform (PUD) did not submit electoral material. During the hearing they reported that they did not have minutes and did not safeguard anything.

The magistrate confirmed that an attempted coup d'état accompanied by a large-scale cyber attack took place in the country.

Magistrate Caryslia Beatriz Rodríguez urged the CNE to publish the results in the Electoral Gazette, according to article 155 of the Organic Law of Electoral Processes. "The CNE will order the publication of the results in the GE within 30 days following the announcement," he said.

She said that she urgently sends a copy of the sentence to the Attorney General of the Republic to determine responsibilities for alleged crimes of impersonation of functions, computer crimes, criminal association and incitement to cause disorders, among others.

Magistrate Caryslia Beatriz Rodríguez thanked the collaboration of the international observers and experts who were involved in the expertise of the presidential election. And she highlighted the support shown by the observers and their high technical level.

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