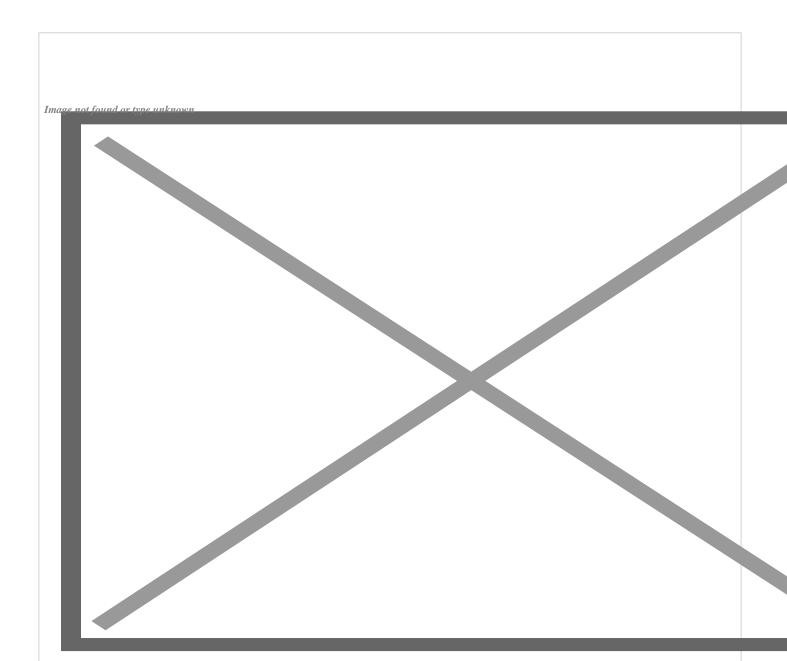
Cuba prepares for important popular consultation



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By María Josefina Arce

Modern, inclusive and in line with the characteristics of today's Cuban society is the draft of the Family Code, which from February will enter an important phase with the popular consultation throughout the country, a process that will last until April.

In order to guarantee that every Cuban can express his or her proposals, the necessary conditions are created. Although the text has been available to citizens digitally, more than one million tabloids are being prepared to guarantee access for all.

The consultation will take place in each community and will involve the participation of jurists, who will be supported by mass organizations such as the CDR, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, and the FMC, Federation of Cuban Women, always present in every transcendental task for the country.

In order to guarantee efficiency and transparency, those who will be in charge of conducting these meetings have been rigorously prepared. Electoral authorities, auxiliary information processing groups and jurists have received training courses.

In a press conference, Alina Balseiro, President of the National Electoral Council, pointed out that alternatives will be implemented so that people who for some reason cannot travel to the meeting place can join this democratic exercise.

We have thought of everyone, that is why those who are abroad are also guaranteed their participation in this process of great importance for Cuban families. Thus, in March, meetings will be held at embassies and consular offices in other countries.

Likewise, they will be able to send their evaluations through the e-mail enabled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The population will also have this possibility, since the National Assembly of People's Power has made an e-mail address available to them.

On the 27th and 28th, a dynamic test will be carried out in the selected communities in the different municipalities of the national territory to evaluate the effectiveness of the training and provide solutions to any situation.

This new version of the Family Code was approved last December by the Parliament in its Eighth Ordinary Session of its Ninth Legislature. It is the result of specialized consultations with institutions and different groups that led to the modification of 273 articles and the addition of eight.

It is a document that respects international treaties and recognizes the rights of each person within the family. In accordance with the current reality and the perspectives of our society, Cuba has worked for a genuinely Cuban Family Code.

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