



RENEWAL OF THE ELECTORAL AUTHORITY

As the Supreme Court's Constitutional Chamber is sworn in as the new National Electoral Council (CNE) authorities on Venezuela

Executive Summary

The Supreme Court's Constitutional Chamber is sworn in as the new National Electoral Council (CNE) authorities on Venezuela

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LOPE Article 26⁷, it was not posted on the NA website until three days later (December 13), contrary to what is established in Article 3, paragraph 7 of the Rules of Procedure⁸.

Once the list of candidates was published, the committee secretary opened the period to accept objections for six consecutive days beginning on December 10 according to LOPE Article 27 (flowchart Step 8).

Requirements for filing objections included a personal visit to Committee headquarters at the Bolivarian Museum and completion of a form specifically designed for this purpose⁹. In order to facilitate this process, two NGOs, the Foundation and the , created links to this form on their websites, providing citizens a guide to filing objections.¹⁰

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NGOs criticized the decision, arguing that the intention was to save time in order to stick to the government-imposed timetable ([see note](#)).

Having omitted this step, the CPE proceeded to put together each candidate's files which, according to LOPE Article 29, must meet the application requirements, including profile and criteria followed for selection, along with objections and appeals, if any, in order to send the final list of selected individuals and their records to the NA so it can appoint the new rectors (flowchart Step 10).

The National Assembly called for December 19¹⁴ extraordinary session to put the list to vote. Though the number and names of the selected candidates were not disclosed, the national press leaked this information out beforehand so it was known that there were 33 candidates on the list.

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As announced, the renewal of Citizen Power (General Comptroller, Attorney General and Public Ombudsman) and the Electoral Authority, along with the appointment of judges to the Judiciary were all placed on the agenda for the extraordinary session of the NA to be held on Monday, December 22.

. First of all, following a controversial interpretation of Article 279 of the Constitution, NA deputies appointed new representatives to the Citizen Branch by a simple majority (99 deputies) in a session that ended that day.¹⁹ Thus Luisa Ortega Díaz was reappointed for a seven-year term as Attorney General, former PSU Anzoátegui state governor Tarek William Saab was appointed to the office of Public Ombudsman and Manuel Galindo (who 00 1 39sn

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With respect to the appointment of three members to the electoral authority, after reading the CPE report, PSU Deputy Eekhout announced the names of the 33 candidates selected by the Committee. While NA spokespersons had formally announced that the new CNE rectors would be appointed from a list of 33 individuals (see note), the definitive list of names was not officially published on the NA website or any media outlet. As of the date this report was published, no official information was available as to the criteria used and methodology followed by CPE members to pare down the list of 124 names to 33 individuals.

Deputy Eekhout immediately put the slate of nine names proposed by the ruling party to vote (see Table 1).

Table 1: The ruling party's proposal for rectors and alternates

<u>PRINCIPAL RECTOR</u> Tibisay Lucena	<u>PRINCIPAL RECTOR</u> Sandra Oblitas	<u>PRINCIPAL RECTOR</u> Marco Octavio Méndez
<u>ALTERNATE</u> Abdón Rodolfo Hernández	<u>ALTERNATE</u> Carlos Enrique Quintero	<u>ALTERNATE</u> Luis Emilio Rondón
<u>ALTERNATE</u> Alí Padrón	<u>ALTERNATE</u> Pablo José Durán	<u>ALTERNATE</u> Andrés Eloy Brito

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