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**Maduro Slams Venezuelan Opposition for Refusing to Go to Municipal Elections**

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The Venezuelan president, Nicolas Maduro has expressed concern over the three opposition parties among them Democratic Unity, MUD Coalition's decision to withdraw from the upcoming municipal elections tentatively scheduled for Dec.10 to elect regional leaders such as mayors.

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Maduro asserted that the government would continue "on the peaceful, democratic path," in a meeting with the Federal Council of Government at the Miraflores Palace, Caracas.

Further adding that the Bolivarian Revolution will continue along the electoral, peaceful and constituent path.

"We will continue along this path regardless of the circumstances in the years to

come," the president reiterated during a meeting with the recently elected governors, where he also reviewed the investment plans for each of the states.

Stressing that Venezuelans "should feel proud of our electoral system," the head of state said Venezuela needed a democratic opposition that is respectful of the Constitution, the laws and that is willing to have a dialogue "for the great interests of the country."

Adding, that those who violate the law and go against the municipal elections in December, will see legal repercussions.

"I declare myself in the battle against those who intend an insurrection of the Venezuelan electoral system," he said.

Maduro urged the right-wing leaders to recognize Chavismo as the country's greatest political force after the government democratically gained 18 governorships during the mid-October elections.

"Chavismo is a determining force of the political, social and electoral life of the country, those who do not recognize this in Venezuela are absent from reality," the Venezuelan president stressed.

He stated that after the municipal elections the Federal Council of Government will be installed immediately for the planning and coordination of policies and actions "with all mayors who are elected."

Things started to go downhill for MUD after it lost 18 out of its 23 legislative seats to Maduro's United Socialist Party of Venezuela, PSUV, during the mid-October regional elections, tipping the balance in the current government's favor.

Fractions of the opposition accused Maduro's government of rigging the elections and using undemocratic means to gain votes.

Saying that the "Federal Council of Government must be an instance of dialogue, understanding and permanent institutional action," he announced the council will be put to work immediately after the municipal election to plan and coordinate policies and actions with the elected mayors in December.

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