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Maduro Admits Errors and Corruption Led to Electoral Defeat

10/12/2015



"Either we in Venezuela get out of this logjam thrust upon us by this economic war, by our own errors, the bureaucracy, the corruption that enveloped our revolutionary policies (...) or the country is going to witness a huge conflict," said Maduro in a brief speech outside the Miraflores presidential palace, addressing dozens of people who had gathered to show their support to him following Sunday's parliamentary elections, which the opposition won with 112 seats against the 55 won by Chavistas or followers of former President Hugo Chavez.

Maduro said such a conflict will affect the entire Latin American and Caribbean region.

"There is set of problems, of accumulated mistakes that our people should know I am perfectly aware of, and have called for a dialog with the people," he added.

He asked his supporters to identify the main enemy, the counter-revolutionary fascist right and its allies, who, he said, conceal themselves in various posts.

He reiterated his call for a debate among Chavista forces to build "a revolutionary strategy and turn this crisis into a revolutionary crisis," to strengthen the so-called Bolivarian revolution.

He added he wanted "a rebirth of the popular forces of the Bolivarian revolution," and said he was ready to lead a "radical, socialist, and popular revolution."

Referring to the impending Jan. 5 beginning to the new National Assembly - the Venezuelan Parliament - he accused the new opposition legislators of intending to repeal laws of "popular

power," of threatening to shut down pro-government media such as the Parliament channel and radio, the state-run broadcaster VTV, and the regional Telesur, and of wishing to put an end to Petrocaribe, an oil alliance of many Caribbean states with Venezuela.

Calling the opposition victory a fascist counter-revolution, he warned the bourgeoisie not to mistake a passing setback to the revolution as its victory.

"Sometimes, revolutions need to face adversity and difficulty, the lash of counter-revolution to wake up," he asserted.

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