



**ACADEMIA DE CIENCIAS
FÍSICAS, MATEMÁTICAS
Y NATURALES**

DECLARATION FROM THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF HISTORY AND THE
ACADEMY FOR PHYSICAL, MATHEMATICAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES OF
VENEZUELA IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS

The National Academy of History and the Academy for Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences of Venezuela, as representative institutions in fundamental areas of Venezuelan thought and obeying their statutory bylaws that asks them to be vigilant about the historical legacy of our people, publicly wish to state their position concerning the non consulted alteration of the constitutional order which is being forced upon our people, and on the consequences which might derive from this, in view of the lack of a basic consensus of the social pact around which citizens of a state should gather.

The constitution, as a fundamental instrument of the institutional organization of a political and social community, must be the expression of the free consensus of its associates, adopted in an ample, informed and free way. It should thus be because it is the fundamental tool for an organized political consensus, because only so does it regulate an equilibrium amongst the different branches of public power, defines the scope of personal liberty and guarantees the individual and general rights. A different direction would bring about the germ of illegitimacy, which has been the historical cause of serious political upheavals which we Venezuelans have a right to consider as surpassed.

In summary, out of such a consensus, there cannot be but a unilateral imposition which can only be the complete contrary to the democratic essence which is essential for the elaboration of a Constitution as in it, the rights of the whole of society must be safeguarded, without exclusions or prejudices.

There is a considerable alarm in our society by the pretension of (presidential) continuity, by the sectarian orientation of the educational agenda, by the attacks towards private property and the incertitude as to its destination, by the judicial and social insecurity, by the signs of growing corruption and militarization and by the intolerance shown towards free thought and culture. This situation has moved diverse personalities, both from the secular and religious sectors, to formulate a motion in favor of an opening of roads which would lead to rectifications and agreements so as to re establish a climate of social togetherness.

The National Academy of History and the Academy of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences of Venezuela estimate that the Constitution cannot be reformed amidst a radical and excluding controversy; that the public power cannot constrict the liberty, the free thought and the will of free expression of its citizens, nor its wish to formulate it, their right to private property and the right to educate their children. To damage the essential postulates of civilized life, going against the nature of democracy would create conditions for social conflicts of unknown dimensions.

For the reasons exposed, the National Academy of History and the Academy of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences of Venezuela exhort that the proper and right conditions be created for debate and for a civilized process leading towards an appropriate social agreement. This is an essential requisite for any constitutional reorganization, taking into account that when the citizens are called upon to pronounce themselves with respect to any modification as to the social

pact, the process of consultation must happen free of any suspicion, of manipulation, advantage, abuse of power or undue speediness.

It must not be forgotten that we Venezuelans have won our right to decide our destiny, as individuals and as a society, with bravery and tenacity and we shall persevere to safeguard this historic achievement.

Caracas, October 18, 2007

Elias Pino Iturrieta
President

Marianela Ponce
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Claudio Bifano
President

Antonio Machado Allison
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