

Communication to the Public Opinion

The undersigned, Juan Carlos Delpino Boscán, Principal Rector of the National Electoral Council (CNE), exposes in this letter the irregularities that occurred during the electoral process of July 28, 2024, and the challenges before and after the election day that led to a loss of confidence in the integrity of the process and in the announced results.

From my experience of more than 20 years in technical positions and as Rector of the CNE, I can affirm that, during the electoral day, the process developed with relatively few reported incidents until 5:00 p.m., by which time a participation of between 60% and 65% of the electoral register was projected, according to the opinion of the experts.

After the closing of the polling stations, a breach of essential rules and regulations was evident, when incidents of eviction of opposition witnesses were reported during the closing of the polling stations, which constituted a direct violation of the principles of equity and of non-observance of the rights of voters to have access to the voting records, compromising the legitimacy of the process in those polling stations.

According to protocols, the transmission of results was to be done immediately upon closing of the polling stations. However, it was during that period that the transmission was interrupted and said interruption was justified by an alleged hack, with silence and an unexplained delay.

At just 9:00 p.m., I was informed of the alleged hacking, and it was claimed that it seriously affected the transmission of results, reducing the effective transmission to 58%. This event supposedly prevented the issuance of the first bulletin at the appropriate time and kept the country in an unjustified wait.

Given the eviction of witnesses in many centers, the lack of transmission of the QR code to the command data centers, and the lack of an effective solution to the alleged hacking, I made the decision not to go up to the totalization room and not attend the announcement of the first bulletin.

As the main rector, by not going up to the totalization room, I lack the evidence to support the announced results.

On July 29, I declined the invitation of the president of the CNE to attend the proclamation ceremony, maintaining my position in disagreement with the lack of transparency in the process. This decision is based on my commitment to electoral integrity and my responsibility to ensure that the results reflect the true will of the Venezuelan people.

International experts have agreed that the events described do not meet national and international standards on transparency and legality.

I also did not agree with the lack of timely publication of the results polling station by polling station according to tradition within the following 48 hours and not letting the term of the period established in article 125 of the electoral law (LOPRE) run, almost immediately after the first announcement, which resulted in the suspension of citizen verification audits phase II, electoral data phase II, telecommunications phase II, thereby affecting the chain of trust of the audit and generating uncertainty.

Regarding the call in relation to the appeal filed before the Electoral Chamber of the Supreme Court (TSJ), I did not attend it as I consider that the resolution of the conflict should be done within the electoral body itself, calling on electoral technicians and experts to compare the minutes that the CNE has from the day of the election, with those held by the different campaign commands and that they be audited by international observers and certified independently.

Incidents Prior to Election Day

Since the beginning of my duties at the National Electoral Council (CNE), I have worked with a firm commitment to ethics and transparency. For that reason, during the 2024 presidential electoral process, I identified and warned about a series of critical challenges that threatened the proper conduct of the process, for which I voted repeatedly before the CNE board sessions.

Regarding the Election Date: Since January 2024, the possible dates for the electoral call were evaluated, taking into account the Barbados agreements and, later, the Caracas Agreement. My recommendation was to call the elections for the end of March, with an electoral date set for October, which would allow a schedule of at least 100 activities and 16 audits. However, on March 5, 2024, the CNE decided to call the elections to be held on July 28, with a tight schedule but which complied with the regulations of the LOPRE and its regulations.

Regarding the Participation of Different Organizations with Political Purposes and Unilateral Decision-Making: On March 15, a board meeting was held to determine which political organizations would be authorized to participate in the elections. Despite my objection, parties with a higher percentage of votes in previous elections were excluded, also affecting their right to resources and their participation. This decision was made with a vote of 4 to 1, with my vote dissenting.

Since that date, the CNE experienced a worrying lack of board meetings, which prevented its effective functioning. I expressed my concern about unilateral decision-making, stressing that the CNE is a collegiate body that requires the participation of all its members, and a transparent and collective decision-making process must be guaranteed.

Regarding the Registry Update: During the special Electoral Registration session, the right to vote of Venezuelans abroad was discussed. Although the Constitution and the LOPRE clearly stipulate the requirements for voting, conditions and restrictions were imposed that significantly limited the registration and updating of data of citizens inside and outside Venezuela. This matter was never brought to the CNE board, which I consider a serious error.

Regarding the Nomination of Candidates: The automated system for the nomination of candidates, open between March 21 and 25, presented problems of intermittence and lack of equity in the hours assigned to political organizations. This situation generated concern about the transparency of the process. Although I requested a 48-hour extension to resolve these difficulties, my request was not discussed.

On the Participation of International Observers: The absence of board meetings also prevented discussion on the presence of international observers who had already been invited, such as the European Union Electoral Observation Mission. I categorically opposed the exclusion of these observers, considering that their presence was crucial to guarantee the transparency of the electoral process.

On the Accreditation of Witnesses: The process of accreditation of witnesses, which is essential for the validation of the automated voting system, experienced delays and confusion, due to problems attributable both to users and to internal technical aspects. The impact of these incidents was significant for the development of the electoral schedule.

Everything that happened before, during and after the presidential election points to the seriousness of the lack of transparency and veracity of the announced results. I deeply regret that the result and its recognition are not useful to all Venezuelans, that it does not resolve our differences and does not promote national unity and that instead there is underlying doubt in most Venezuelans and in the international community about the results.

Juan Carlos Delpino Boscán

Principal Rector of the National Electoral Council (CNE)