

Process and Results of Reforms to the Electoral Law and the election of Magistrates and Alternates to the Supreme Electoral Council

This report informs the Nicaraguan people and the international community of the development of the process and results, both of the election of Magistrates of the Supreme Electoral Council, as well as Reform to Law No. 331, Electoral Law.

Both procedures were carried out in parallel by the National Assembly of Nicaragua, in full exercise of the powers conferred by the Political Constitution and Law No. 606, Organic Law of the Legislative Power, ending on 6 May 2021. Below the testimony:

1. The National Assembly, through a Resolution of its Directive Board approved on 8 April 2021, began the process of reviewing, studying and consulting of electoral issues through the creation of the Special Constitutional Commission for Electoral Matters. The creation of this Commission is supported by article 43, numeral 7 and article 81, numerals 3 and 6 of Law No. 606, Organic Law of the Legislative Power.

2. On Monday, 12 April, seventy (70) congressmen and women of the Sandinista National Liberation Front caucus, presented to the attention of the First Secretariat of the National Assembly, the initiative titled Law of Reform and Addition to Law No. 331, Electoral Law¹.

¹ In accordance with articles 191 and 195 of the Political Constitution and articles 129 and 132 of Law No. 606, Organic Law of the Legislative Power.



3. The process for the election of Permanent and Alternate Magistrates of the Supreme Electoral Council began by means of a Resolution of the National Assembly, summoning the President of the Republic and the Congressmen and women of the National Assembly, so that within a period of fifteen days, from its publication in La Gaceta, Official Gazette, the candidacies for Magistrates will be presented as provided by the Political Constitution². The Resolution was published in La Gaceta on 13 April and the deadline expired on 28 April of the current year.

4. On 13 April 2021, the Special Constitutional Commission was installed, made up of seven congressmen and women, including the three leaders of the Caucuses represented in Parliament and four Commission Chairmen. The candidate review process was carried out

² Article 138 numeral 8) and 170 of the Political Constitution.

based on the provisions of the Political Constitution, the Electoral Law and the Organic Law of the Legislative Power³.

5. Within the term that expired on 28 April, the congressmen and women of all political parties with parliamentary representation in the National Assembly, presented 44 candidates for permanent and alternate magistrates; of which 16 were women and 28 were men.

6. On April 14, 2021, the Directive Board presented to the plenary the initiative titled Bill for Reforms and Additions to Law No.331, Electoral Law; which was sent to the Special Constitutional Commission for consultation and opinion.

³ Articles 138, numerals 8 and 9 and 171 of the Political Constitution; Law No. 331, Electoral Law, in force, published in La Gaceta, Official Gazette, No. 168 of September 4, 2012 and articles 140 and 141 of Law No. 606, Organic Law of the Legislative Power.

7. Once the mandate was received by the Plenary of the National Assembly, the Special Constitutional Commission, in compliance with the provisions of the law⁴, invited the nineteen (19) Political Parties with Legal Status in the country, to carry out the corresponding consultations, having attended all of them.

On 21, 22, 23 and 26 April, the representatives of the following political parties appeared before the Special Commission: Independent Liberal Party (PLI), Caribbean Unity Movement Party (PAMUC), Alliance for the Republic Party (APRE), Conservative Party (PC), Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC), Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance Party (ALN), Alternative Party for Change

⁴ Articles 110 and 111 of Law No. 606, Organic Law of the Legislative Power and its reforms and Law No. 475, Law of Citizen Participation.

(AC), Nicaraguan Resistance Party (PRN), Yapti Tasba Masraka Nanih Asla Takanka Party (YATAMA), Christian Unity Party (PUC), Sandinista National Liberation Front Party (FSLN), Multiethnic Indigenous Party (PIM), Autonomous Liberal Party (PAL), Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN), Yapti Tasba Masraka Raya Nani Movement Party (MYATAMARAN), Nicaraguan Christian Pathway Party (CCN), Citizens for Freedom Party (CxL), Democratic Restoration Party (PRD), Moskitia Progressive Indigenous Movement Party (MOSKITIA PAWANKA). Each of these parties presented their contributions verbally and in writing.

8. Once the consultation process was concluded, the Commission proceeded to prepare its Opinions, taking into account the contributions provided during the process, incorporating those that coincide with the purpose of



the reform and substantially enriching the text of the law.

9. The Report that stated that the candidates for Permanent and Alternate Magistrates of the Supreme Electoral Council met the requirements to exercise the position, and the Favorable Opinion of the Initiative of the Bill for Reforms and Additions to Law No.331, Electoral Law, were presented to the First Secretariat on 29 April, which proceeded to incorporate them into the Agenda and make it available to all congressmen and women, to be discussed in the ordinary session held on 4 May, National Dignity Day, complying with the procedure established by the Organic Law.

10. On 4 May, the plenary of the National Assembly proceeded to vote for the



election of the Magistrates of the Supreme Electoral Council, and the following citizens were elected:

- Brenda Isabel Rocha Chacón, woman, 54 years old, lawyer, heroine of the Nicaraguan People, originally from Bonanza, Las Minas in the Autonomous Region of the Northern Caribbean. Permanent Magistrate with 70 votes.
- Alma Nubia Baltodano Marcenaro, 58 years old, woman, participant in the National Literacy Day. In 2019 she was appointed Ombudsman for the Human Rights of people with disabilities, with more than 20 years of work defending the rights of people with disabilities. Permanent Magistrate with 70 Votes.
- Devoney Johaira McDavis Álvarez, 44 years old woman of the Miskito ethnic group



from Bilwi, Autonomous Region of the Northern Caribbean, with a degree in Law. Permanent Magistrate with 69 Votes.

- Mayra Antonia Salinas Uriarte, 57 years old, woman, originally from the City of León, Doctor in Social Sciences, Master in Senior Management and Public Administration, Master in Business Administration and Management. Permanent Magistrate with 70 Votes
- Lumberto Ignacio Campbell Hooker, 71 years old, man, Afro-descendant, with a degree in Mathematics and Physics, originally from the City of Bluefields, Autonomous Region of the Southern Caribbean. Permanent Magistrate with 73 votes.
- Cairo Melvin Amador, 70 years old man, originally from Matagalpa, Bachelor of

Social and Economic Sciences, Former Director of the Institute of Procompetence. Permanent Magistrate with 75 Votes.

- Leonzo Knight Julián, 62 years old, man, Originally from Karawala, Desembocadura del Río Grande, Autonomous Region of the Southern Caribbean, Ulwa ethnic group, Teacher, Graduated in Sociology. Permanent Magistrate with 74 Votes.
- Adriana Marina Molina Fajardo, 54 years old, woman, originally from the City of Jinotega, Lawyer, Alternate Magistrate with 70 Votes.
- Maura Lizeth Álvarez Ortiz, 44 years old, woman, originally from the Sutiava Indigenous People, member of the Board of the Sutiava



Indigenous Community, Lawyer. Alternate Magistrate with 75 Votes.

- Alberto Julián Blandón Baldizón, 66 years old, man, Graduate in Agricultural Sciences, Producer from the City of Matagalpa. Alternate Magistrate with 85 Votes.

11. In the plenary session of May 4, the discussion and vote on the Bill on Reforms and Additions to Law No.331, Electoral Law, which was approved by 85 congressmen and women. The text of the Law was published in La Gaceta, Official Gazete No. 81 of 5 May 2021.

12. The 7 Permanent Magistrates and 3 Alternate Magistrates were sworn by law and took possession of their positions before the

Plenary of the National Assembly, in the ordinary session of 6 May.

13. After the inauguration of the members of the Supreme Electoral Council, they elected Brenda Isabel Rocha Chacón as President of the CSE and Cairo Melvin Amador as Vice President.

This report was prepared by the First Secretariat of the National Assembly in conjunction with the Legislative Secretariat of the Special Constitutional Commission.

-Seal and signature-

**First Secretary Board of Directors
National Assembly of Nicaragua**