

Venezuelan Leader Enjoys 53 Percent Approval Rating



Caracas, October 30 (RHC-Xinhua) -- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro enjoys a more than 53 percent approval rating, according to a poll revealed Wednesday. Some 53.2 percent of those surveyed feel the president is doing a good job, the country's Noticias24 TV reported on its website, citing data from pollster International Consulting Services (ICS).

A similar portion of the population, 51.9 percent, "believes the country has improved under Nicolas Maduro, while 38.8 percent think it has gotten worse," the poll showed.

The poll indicates a notable improvement in Maduro's approval rating compared to a month ago, when it was at 45 percent due to a struggling economy and political issues affecting the South American nation.

With an eye on next year's parliamentary elections, the poll also gauged the public's view of the political opposition, showing 68 percent of the Venezuelans surveyed believe things would be worse under an opposition government, while 25.4 percent said things would be better.

ICS Director Simon Cordova said that, if next year's parliamentary elections were to be held now, "43.6 percent would vote for candidates of the (ruling) PSUV (United Socialist Party of Venezuela) and its allied parties, 31.6 percent for opposition candidates, 11.4 percent would vote for neither," and 10.3 percent remain undecided.

The poll queried 1,378 people around the country on Oct. 16-26, and has a margin of error of 2.7 percent, ICS said.

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