

Indigenous and Farmers Groups Lobby for Evo Morales' Re-election in Bolivia



La Paz, August 4 (teleSUR-RHC)-- Farmers and indigenous unions in Bolivia agreed to work toward indefinite re-elections for the presidency, a move that would allow President Evo Morales to run for president again.

During an event celebrating the agrarian revolution in the central region of Cochabamba, farmers and indigenous organizations emphasized they had been excluded from institutions of power for over five centuries.

“Now is our turn to govern for 500 more years with the leadership of our brother, Evo Morales,” said the head of the Union Confederation of Bolivian Rural Workers. “That's why we will dedicate ourselves to bring the re-election of our president not only until 2025, but I would say 'for life' because now it is the turn of the Bolivian people to govern,” he said.

Other social leaders stated they will support Morales' presidency bid in 2019 general elections so he could govern for the 2020-2025 term.

Morales, who also attended the Cochabamba conference, did not comment specifically on the re-election topic, focusing instead on land conflicts that are affecting indigenous and farmers and how these sectors managed to take power.

In 2009, Evo Morales established a new constitution that allowed two consecutive terms. Last October, he was successfully re-elected with over 61 percent of the vote. The electoral authorities ruled that his candidacy was legal as he never finished his very first term (Morales was first elected in 2006).

Last April, leaders of the National Coordination for Change, a confederation of indigenous and farmers groups, launched the idea of a referendum about modifying the constitution to allow another term. Morales has not commented yet on this initiative.

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