

# *Evo Morales calls for MAS unity in next Bolivian elections*

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Buenos Aires, February 19 (RHC)-- Bolivia's former President Evo Morales expressed his desire for unity amongst his political party, the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS), for the upcoming general elections on May 3rd.

Evo Morales made these statements at a meeting with MAS presidential candidate Luis Arce and the nation's Secretary of International Relations Juanita Aniceta at the Bauen Hotel in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

After the meeting, Morales acknowledged the presence and support of his political allies and said on his official Twitter profile: "We all agree that the best strategy of our campaign is the unity of the militancy towards our political program. I congratulate you on your unwavering commitment. This call for unity comes in a difficult context, due to the de facto cuts by the Añez government in MAS' previous social and labor works.

The former Bolivian president, social activist and indigenous representative, who was recently in Cuba and Mexico, arrived in Argentina as a political refugee last December, after being the victim of a coup d'état. However, since then, he has served as the campaign manager of the MAS.

In the next elections, the leftist Bolivian party will run Luis Arce for president. He was Bolivia's Economy Minister from 2006, 2007 and 2019. The formula includes David Choquencaua, who serves as a foreign minister from 2006 to 2017.

In other comments to reporters, Evo Morales said that the de facto government of Jeanine Áñez has destroyed “everything we built with the Bolivian people under our government.” Evo pointed out the elimination of other economic and social projects by the regime. One case is the Metropolitan Train, a public and ecological work with a cost of \$447 million, intending to link the administrative centers of Sacaba, Cercado –in Cochabamba- Colcarpihua, Quillacolo, Vinto, and Sipe Sipe.

The move was announced on February the 13, two days after the current administration eliminated the payment of the Juana Azurduy Bond, created by Morales in 2009 on behalf of pregnant women, mothers and babies under two years old. This program has benefited 2.6 million mothers and minors, since its creation in 2018. It demanded a payment of \$164 million, according to official sources.

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