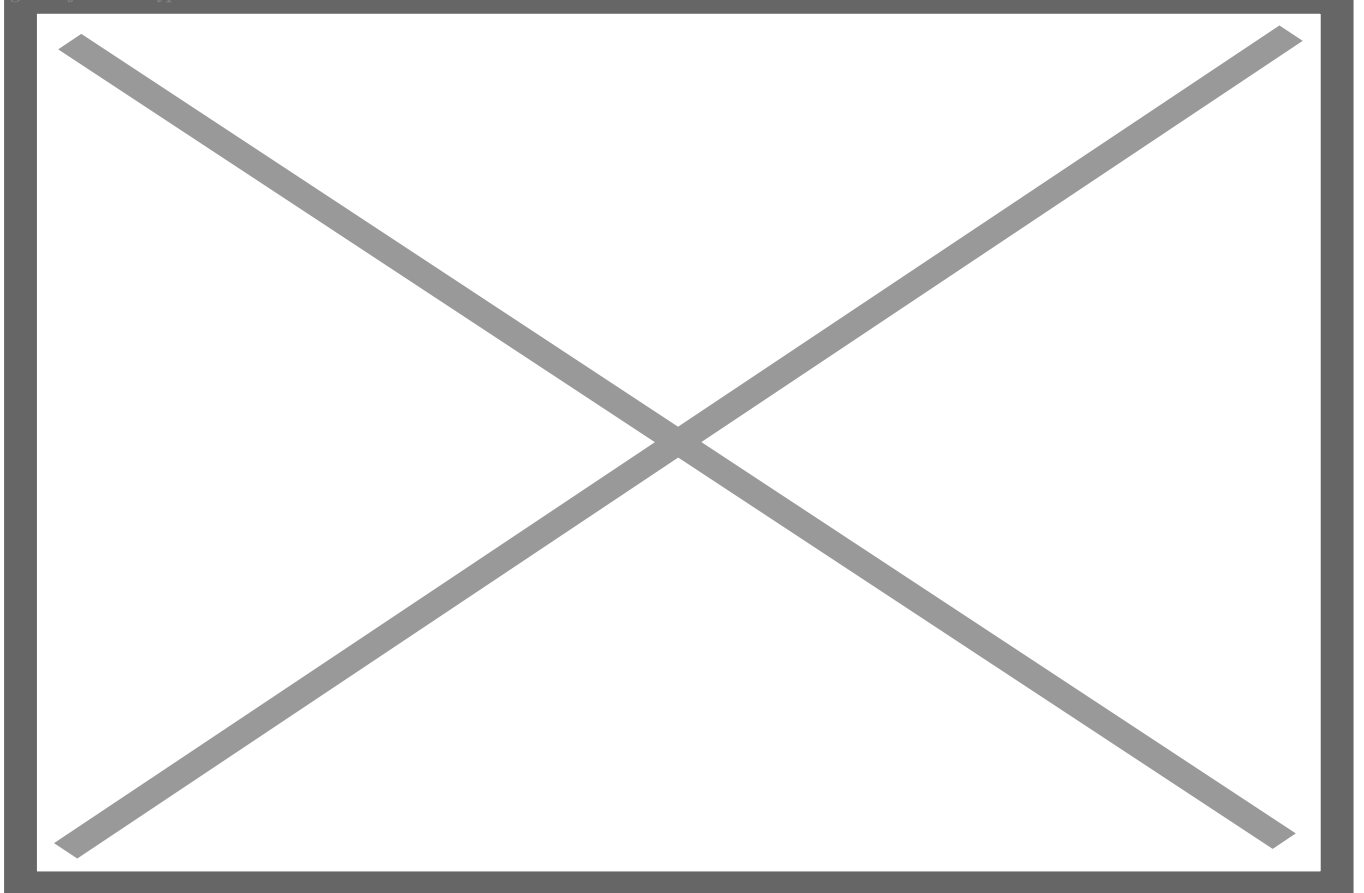


Unity, diversity, and peace in Cuba's path, affirms Díaz-Canel

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Havana, May 16 (RHC)-- President Miguel Díaz-Canel reaffirmed Monday the unity of the Cuban people in diversity and peace in the face of the hostility of the United States to impede the right of his nation to build its independent project.

He made that statement at the closing of the fifth extraordinary session of the 9th Legislature of the National Assembly of People's Power (ANPP), which adopted important laws and advanced towards adopting a new Code of Families in several days.

The first words of the President were dedicated to acknowledging the values that he said his compatriots displayed in the tragedy caused by an explosion in the Saratoga Hotel in Havana on May 6.

In this regard, he mentioned the citizens who immediately came to the aid of the victims, the firefighters, rescuers, ambulance workers, blood donors, authorities, law enforcement, and medical personnel, among many other actors, and mobilized after the blast.

Mercenaries will never understand patriots, he exclaimed in the face of attempts from social media networks to denigrate the actions of citizens and the government in such difficult circumstances.

In his speech, the head of state reiterated his rejection of the exclusion of Cuba and other nations from the Summit of the Americas, scheduled for June in Los Angeles.

He said that the U.S. government should have the capacity and courage to listen to everyone without evasion.

At the summit, there will be no response to the fundamental problems afflicting Latin America and the Caribbean peoples, he said.

He also denounced the actions to provoke a social explosion on the island through disinformation campaigns on technological platforms promoted by the Washington embassy in Havana.

He added that the northern power resorts to old tactics with modern techniques to create a climate of citizen insecurity, which was evident in the campaign to demobilize the May 1 celebration, but that day there was an overwhelming and massive response from the people in favor of the Revolution.

Díaz-Canel highlighted the strengthening of the country as a Socialist State under the rule of law with the approval of eight new laws in the ANPP, which legitimizes the political system and strengthens citizens' rights.

He referred that the holding of popular consultations and referendums, first with the 2019 Constitution and the Family Code, denotes that the legislative exercise is part of the participatory process that seeks legitimacy and consensus.

In another part of his speech, he expressed that the country is betting on innovative measures to move its economy forward in an adverse global scenario.

He ratified that the priorities continue to be the fight against inflation, the recovery of the Cuban peso, the stability of the national electric power system, the attention to people and communities in vulnerable situations, municipal autonomy, and the development of state-owned enterprises.

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