

Venezuelan President Announces Cabinet Reshuffle



Caracas, September 3 (RHC) -- Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced on Tuesday a big “shake up” of his administration.

The cabinet reshuffle saw Rafael Ramirez being pushed from his twin posts as oil minister and chief of state oil firm PDVSA to the post of Foreign Ministry, replacing Elias Jaua.

Maduro promoted former PDVSA exploration and production chief Eulogio Del Pino to the company's top job and tapped Asdrubal Chavez, the cousin of late leader Hugo Chavez, to lead the energy and mining ministry, in a country that has the world's largest crude reserves.

Maduro also promoted Finance Minister, Rodolfo Marco, to economy vice president, a post also held by Ramirez.

The cabinet changes split the leadership of PDVSA from the oil ministry, which for years had been run simultaneously by Ramirez.

Speaking for almost three hours Tuesday, Maduro outlined five “revolutions” he said the socialist administration needs to take, including the economy, knowledge and what he called “eco-socialism.”

Elias Jaua, for his part, was appointed as liaison with local governments. New appointments and restructuring also include, Isabel Delgado as the new minister for trade, Jose Cabello for industry, Giuseppe Yoffreda for transport, and Jose Berreteran for agriculture. Andres Izarra will remain as minister for tourism.

There will also be a vice-presidency of security and food sovereignty. The ministries of higher education and the ministry of science and technology will be combined, and headed up by Ricardo Menendez.

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