

Unasur, OAS to Observe Bolivian Elections



La Paz, September 20 (PL-RHC), -- The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Organization of American States (OAS) are the two international organizations that have confirmed their presence as observers in Bolivian elections scheduled for Oct 12.

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal in the last hours admitted that despite invitations sent to more than thirty international organizations, only the OAS and Unasur have confirmed their participation, with more than 140 observers, from both bodies.

The mission from the OAS, to be headed by the Guatemalan former president Alvaro Colom comprises 80 people, while Unasur will bring to the country 60 observers, with the intention to certify the cleanliness of the elections, on Oct 12.

Ramiro Paredes, from the tribunal, said the entity is working on the necessary details to receive 30 other persons from electoral organizations in the region.

Paredes said they are expecting delegations of the Carter Foundation, the European Union and the United Nations, among others.

Five political parties vie for the presidency of Bolivia: Movement Toward Socialism (MAS), Green Party of Bolivia (PVB), Democratic Unity (UD), Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and Fearless Movement (MSM).

To date and according to recent surveys, MAS goes ahead with its candidates Evo Morales, for president, and Alvaro Garcia Linera for vice president.

Recent polls give more than 40 percentage points of advantage to Morales, ahead of Doria Medina (UD), while other organizations are going further behind.

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