

# *Cuban Ministers Brief Legislators Prior to National Assembly Mid-Year Session Tomorrow*

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Havana, July 7 (PL/RHC)-- Cuban ministers continued today to present legislators with an overview of their respective sectors, as part of the current period of sessions of the National Assembly.

Gathered since Monday into 10 working committees, Cuban parliamentarians have been briefed on issues ranging to the performance of tourism to education, disease control, agriculture, budget implementation, and others.

Sessions this Thursday heard reports from the ministers of Industry and Science, Technology and the Environment. Also yesterday, several ministers and representatives from central government agencies presented statements.

Agriculture Minister Gustavo Rodriguez told parliamentarians on Wednesday that new technologies as well as research findings were being used in efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change in Cuba's agriculture. Facing the effects of climate change on crops implies changing working methods commonly used, said the minister.

Ena Elsa Velazquez, National Education Minister, briefed parliamentarians on the upcoming introduction, in the 2017-2018 school year, of new textbooks, teaching methodologies and programs in the educational system, resulting from a just concluded upgrade.

During the opening session of the working committees' debates on Monday, Economy and Planning Minister Marino Murillo told parliamentarians that the first semester of the year had been marked by a complex context in which falling prices of oil and nickel had combined with a general decline in national revenues that has caused a lack of liquidity.

The mid-year debates at the Cuban National Assembly will conclude on Friday with a plenary session, in which the working groups will present summaries of their discussions.

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