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Accountability: continuity and change

People's power has two fundamental planes or expressions when analyzing it: one is real power, the other is the institutional plane.

Real popular power was forged in the revolutionary struggle throughout our history and had a definitive impulse in the deed of moncada, the Sierra Maestra and the clandestine struggle, which ended up dismantling the dependent capitalist system and opening the floodgates for the enormous popular energies to flow freely.

This power was expressed organically in the emergence of the incipient institutionality of the Revolutionary Government, in the popular organizations, particularly the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution that with a broad concept of their main mission initially assumed their own tasks of government, practical tasks of organization of the community to respond to the needs of education, public health, production and services, distribution, environmental protection. And once the process of institutionalization of People's Power began in 1976, they reorganized their projections and this was an important contribution to the historical experience of the Cuban revolutionary process: they remained active in the defense of the revolution and as a link of support for institutionalized power in its obligation to remain always linked to the voters.

We have now begun across the country to hold delegates accountable to their constituents. It is part of what is established by our political system, but today it has a special content and this for several reasons.

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It is a moment to meet again the neighbors and with our voices sometimes out of tune sing the Hymn of Bayamo in a key of celebration because we are overcoming the tenacious pandemic that has punished the world and our country and we are doing it against all odds, with the daily vigilance of our government, of our scientists, with our own vaccines, medicines and protocols, with the careful attention of our medical staff, with the participation of that majority part of the population that has consciously observed the biosecurity measures.

Also because children and young people have already resumed face-to-face classes, the country's economy severely hit, but victorious from the blockade and the effects of the global crisis caused by COVID19 is advancing with measures that break obstacles and give signs of vitality, ventures arise that articulate with economic activity on very different fronts, the country reopens its doors to tourism, we enter the new normal with the joy of beginning to leave in the past the long gray days of home refuge, few outings and little contact with family and friends.

And they will be meetings that have the encouragement of change in the ways of doing politics. We will no longer see the rendering of accounts as an exercise in which the delegate reported what could be done, what could not be done, to finally collect new approaches. Without detriment to the duty to inform with transparency and to know the concerns and needs of citizens, in the exercise of People's Power from now on the word participation must be embodied through the real empowerment of voters by deciding, supporting and controlling. The word requirement must be filled with participatory content and citizen responsibility.

In the immediate future, the people will have the decisive word in the priorities for the use of the scarce resources available and those that can be contributed in the future. The policy is thus loaded with real content through an interaction with results between the voters and those elected with the participation of the agencies and institutions that operate in the territory. But it is only the beginning of a path that must be developed in an upward way in order to make People's Power more effective and to strengthen socialism in the country.

It is undeniable the existence throughout the revolution of a permanent Government-Party-People dialogue through which the social and political consensus of the country has been

reconstructed and renewed. However, there has been mechanism, weak links and others that have been missing in this relationship, which today are being identified to change what needs to be changed.

Replenishing in the hands of citizens in neighborhoods and communities that ability to decide is a form of decentralization. To decentralize is not to divide or separate but to better articulate the local, the municipal, the provincial and the national. It is a new approach to the organization of society, the way in which socialist politics takes steps for the empowerment of citizens as a whole. It is democratization by placing decisions and responsibilities in all areas and levels of the nation.

In turn, this decentralization seeks to find all the existing reserves for development by stimulating concern, action and creative thinking, qualities that are generated when people know and feel that it is really in their hands that something is done, participate in doing it, control its quality and then take care of it and maintain it.

Popular power is reborn because, despite the difficulties, deficiencies and unmet needs, it preserves its content of power of the people, because there is confidence in its potentialities, it is multidimensional, it is expressed not only in what happens in the neighborhood, in the community, but in the country, in its laws and policies, in the face of challenges of any magnitude, in the collective, patriotic defense of cultural identity, independence and national sovereignty and in all citizen work. There is still much to be done.

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