

PRESS RELEASE: PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ENACTS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION LAW TO ENSURE THAT THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT ELECTION IS HELD IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE, DESPITE THE DOUBTS HE HAS ABOUT SOME OF THE REGULATIONS

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His Excellency the President of the Republic, Taur Matan Ruak, enacted today the amendment to the Parliamentary Election Law to ensure that the National Parliament Election is held in an atmosphere of peace, despite the fact that he still has doubts about some of the solutions it offers.

In his message sent to the National Parliament on the enactment, the President of the Republic expressed his disagreement with the provision that foresees that Members of Parliament who break party discipline are disqualified from holding office. Instead he advocates promoting the healthy functioning of a vibrant democracy in which the right to dissent should be guaranteed to all in the pursuit of the best solutions for our shared future. Similarly, the President considers that the creation of a new crime of “misuse of acronym or symbol” has the potential to restrict the quality of electoral campaigns. Finally, the President of the Republic reaffirmed his preference for a solution that strengthens CNE’s regulatory powers to uphold the independent supervision of elections.

The President of the Republic Taur Matan Ruak concludes his message by stressing that safeguarding the regular functioning of the democratic institutions is the primary duty of the President of the Republic in times of peace and that he hopes that the upcoming National Parliament election is held in a peaceful, free and just manner, embodying another celebration of our democracy.

Presidential Palace of Nicolau Lobato, 5 May 2017

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