

Chavez decree rule

For the third time since he took office Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is asking for powers from the National Assembly to allow him to rule the country by decree.

Since 1999 Chavez has passed over 100 laws by decree



■ **Apr 1999:** Chavez given powers to pass laws by decree for six months, but only in economic and financial sectors. 51 decree-laws enacted

■ **Nov 2000:** Chavez given powers for 12 months – 50 decree-laws enacted, including controversial ***Lands and Agrarian Development Law*** that ignites opposition protests

■ **Jan 30, 2007:** Bill allowing Chavez to bypass Congress and rule by decree for 18 months goes before National Assembly. Chavez plans to nationalise electricity, gas and telecoms sectors and amend Constitution to allow him to continue as president until 2021