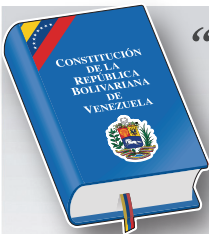


# Crisis looms ahead of Chavez inauguration

Venezuela could face a constitutional crisis if President Hugo Chavez fails to be sworn in to a new six-year term on January 10



*“When an elected President becomes permanently unavailable to serve prior to his inauguration, a new election... shall be held within 30 consecutive days”*

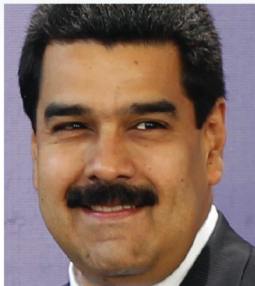
*Article 233 of The Constitution*



**Hugo Chavez, 58:** Has ruled Venezuela for past 14 years, winning fourth presidential election on October 7. Chavez wrote his so-called **Bolivarian Constitution** in 1999



**Diosdado Cabello, 49:** National Assembly President says he will not call new elections if Chavez is unable to be sworn in as scheduled – suggesting inauguration could be postponed or Supreme Court justices could travel to Cuba to administer oath of office. **Head of Parliament will take charge of Presidency if new elections are required**



**Nicolas Maduro, 50:** Vice President, Foreign Minister and Chavez's chosen successor. If Chavez is sworn in but dies during first four years of his new term, new election still has to be held within 30 days but Vice President becomes President during interregnum. **If Chavez dies during last two years of term then Vice President completes term**



**Henrique Capriles, 40:** Centre-left Governor of Miranda state adjoining Caracas. As candidate of Democratic Unity coalition – group of some 20 parties – Capriles won 45% of vote, against Chavez's 54%, in October election. **Capriles will be main challenger to go up against Maduro in any presidential election**