

## Nicolás Maduro: Hugo Chávez se me apareció como un pajarito

03 de Abril de 2013 8:45 am. // El candidato oficialista a la presidencia de Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, dijo el martes que el fallecido presidente Hugo Chávez, **se le apareció en forma de "pajarito chiquitico"** y lo bendijo al arrancar este martes su campaña electoral desde Sabaneta del estado Barinas.

Maduro contó que estaba orando en una pequeña capilla, completamente solo, cuando apareció el ave con la que se comunicó con silbidos. "**De repente entró un pajarito, chiquitico, y me dio tres vueltas acá arriba**", dijo señalando su cabeza e imitando un aleteo.

El pájaro se paró en una viga de madera donde comenzó a silbar, a lo que Maduro también respondía con silbidos. "**Yo sentí el espíritu de él**", agregó refiriéndose a Chávez.

"Lo sentí ahí como dándonos una bendición, diciéndonos: '**Hoy arranca la batalla. Vayan a la victoria, tienen nuestras bendiciones**'. Así lo sentí yo desde mi alma", relató Maduro en el patio de la casa natal de Chávez.

Nicolás Maduro dio inicio a su campaña proselitista con miras a las elecciones presidenciales del próximo 14 de abril en la que competirá contra otros seis candidatos, principalmente el representante de la Mesa de la Unidad Democrática (MUD), Henrique Capriles Radonsky.

### **Comprehension and cultural knowledge questions:**

1. What did Nicolas Maduro claim according to the article?
  - a. Hugo Chavez came to him in the form of a bird and spoke to him
  - b. The spirit of Hugo Chavez spoke to him through a chirping bird
  - c. He chirped to a bird and the bird spoke back with Hugo Chavez' voice
  - d. Hugo Chavez's spirit remained at his birthplace in a bird that stayed there, and later spoke to Maduro
2. What message did the bird have for Maduro?
  - a. That Maduro would win the presidency
  - b. That Chavez's spirit would remain with Maduro
  - c. That Maduro would be victorious and that he had Chavez's blessing
  - d. That Chavez would return

## 'La Isla Presidencial' Keeps Venezuelans Laughing, Despite Contentious Politics

03/04/2013 03:31 pm ET // Venezuela may well have the hemisphere's most contentious politics, but this show keeps them laughing.

The Miami Herald [published a report on "La Isla Presidencial" Monday](#), a welcome profile of one of the most hilarious satirical shows in the Americas.

Developed by Juan Andrés Ravell and Oswaldo Graziani, “La Isla Presidencial” pokes fun at Latin American heads of state. The premise of the show is that the hemisphere’s presidents, plus the king of Spain, were on a ship that capsized, leaving the leaders stranded on a desert island. Egos collide as they try to figure their way off the island.

Venezuelan comedian Emilio Lovera does all the voices for the characters, including a pitch-perfect Hugo Chávez, a skillfully phrased portuñol for Lula da Silva, and an extremely whiney rendition of ex-President of Colombia Álvaro Uribe.

The show began in 2010, becoming an instant web sensation. The [first episode has clocked up over 4.7 million views](#) on YouTube. The creators also run a popular [satirical blog called El Chigüire Bipolar](#), comparable to The Onion.

Of course, now that Hugo Chávez is ill with cancer and hasn’t been heard from since Dec. 11, the show is improving ways to deal with the loss of its main character.

## **Video: Isla Presidencial - "El Pajarito de Maduro"**

### **Comprehension and cultural knowledge questions:**

3. In the video, who are four presidents first shown?
  - a. Lula da Silva (Brazil), Evo Morales (Bolivia), Sebastián Piñera (Chile), Ollanta Humala (Perú)
  - b. Lula da Silva (Brazil), Rafael Correa (Ecuador), Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia), Rafael Correa (Ecuador)
  - c. Cristina Fernandez (Argentina), Mariano Rajoy (España), Evo Morales (Bolivia), Ollanta Humala (Perú)
  - d. Cristina Fernandez (Argentina), Evo Morales (Bolivia), Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia), Enrique Peña Nieto (México)
4. Who dumped Maduro on the island?
  - a. Comisión Nacional de Energía
  - b. Corte Nacional Electoral
  - c. Club Náutico Ensenada
  - d. Consejo Nacional Electoral
5. What do the four presidents call the new guy who shows up? (select all that apply)
  - a. Freddy Mercury
  - b. Fat Borat
  - c. The fat biker of “Village People”
  - d. The chosen one
  - e. Chavez’s fat son
  - f. Nicolas Maduro
6. What is the point of the video?
  - a. To poke fun at the presidents, primarily Maduro
  - b. To expose the hypocrisy of the presidents’ administrations and policies
  - c. To show how Latin American presidents don’t trust each other
  - d. To differentiate between regional dialects