MICHIGAN – ECHOES OF VENEZUELA?

By Jeff O'Donnell

November 4, 2024 R1

In mid-2023, I was asked to travel out of the country to meet with individuals claiming to be knowledgeable about Smartmatic Corporation and its election software (hereafter referred to as "source"). Smartmatic, whose software is owned by the Venezuelan government, has been involved in numerous sketchy elections around the world, and still is the vendor for Los Angeles County, California.

On this trip, I met with several gentlemen. Most were quite technical, and I came away with no sense that these men were telling anything but the truth. Over several days, we compared and contrasted election fraud in the United States and other countries, and in fact much of what they told me has recently made public by others. However, one issue has not to my knowledge, and, given recent events in Michigan, it is critical.

The history of Smartmatic is well known by now, a startup funded by the Venezuelan government under Chavez that is quite literally the genetic father or grandfather of most of the election systems currently used in our country. This story is relayed to you as they told it to me. Whether you believe the details or not, the fact that the plot they described exists should be alarming enough to take heed.

Smartmatic was first used in the recall election of Chavez in 2004, which was Venezuela's last chance to stop their mad rush to socialist hellhole. (Much as November 5th is for us). According to these men, there was no way that Chavez was going to lose the recall with Smartmatic running it. And here is how they did it, according to the source.

Venezuela had tens of thousands of polling places, and tabulators not dissimilar to those we use today were placed in all of them. Because of the remote nature of much of the country, a special satellite network was used to report the results back to Caracas, but the programming of the tabulators had to be done via memory sticks. Smartmatic produced the myriad memory sticks for all the tabulators, which defined the ballot styles, candidates, etc. With the opposition party watching closely, multiple layers of agencies verified the information on these sticks, and they were then sent out – to be received only about a week before the election.

When the sticks were placed in the tabulators, they did not work. Somehow, an errant date field had been programmed onto the sticks, and it caused the tabulators to not function. With days to go before the election, panic ensued.

Smartmatic, magnanimously volunteered to reproduce all the memory sticks with the correct date and hurry them out to the polling places. And they did – skipping all of the carefully crafted levels of validation the original sticks had gone through.

And this, according to the source, is how Chavez won his recall. The tabulators had been programmed to make sure of it.

Now, Michigan has a "glitch" discovered in their election systems, and they want to fix it by patching the software. The parallels between the Venezuelan election and this are striking, and while I am

not saying that the plan in Michigan is the same as the one I related above, the chances are too high that it *is* to allow the patch. And since the systems were accepting and recording illegally cast votes (many different ballots from the same voter), they cannot be trusted for use – all ballots must be recounted and verified by hand, and so do all the rest of the ballots. It is the only way to be sure that Michigan's elections are uncorrupted this time.

Going back to the Chavez recall, there are several other eerie parallels to our current election issues. An exit poll commissioned by the opposition party and performed by the American firm the Penn, Schoen & Berland predicted Chavez *losing* the recall 60%-40%, while the "official" results had Chavez win the recall by 59%-41% - nearly a mirror image. I have indicated in the past that my analysis of some elections seemed to show the results "flipped'.

Constitutional lawyer Tulio Álvarez, representative of the Coordinadora Democrática (opposition party), published a preliminary report entitled "Fraud to Democracy", the result of the work of 40 professionals diversified in 14 thematic areas, concluding that "**qualitative, continued, selective, massive fraud**" occurred in the manual and automated procedures, for which the coalition decided to challenge the process. The report explains that it was detected that in Venezuela the scheme of **the electoral population averages was broken** and in two months it went from 48 points to 53 points of proportion in the electoral population, meaning that **close to 1.8 million people who never voted were accounted** for, **a mobilization of a non-existent population was made to commit fraud in the manual voting** according to the report. The study states that most new registrants were oriented to rural centers or urban areas of manual voting, in an attempt to disguise the electronic fraud with a voting trend in favor of the "No" option. In the automated process, a collective manipulation of 28% of the vote was detected, which "compromises officials of the National Electoral Council and of the company in charge of the automation". Likewise, evidence of "**bidirectionality of communication**" was found, since according to the data obtained from CANTV there was **traffic to and from the machines before printing the ballots**, and it is indicated that there was "a **pattern of communications intervention**. At certain hours, traffic was concentrated to receive information, send and manipulate it", transmissions "**outside the allowed hours**, since 7:00 a.m.", when it was established that "the machine would not be connected until the closing of the process"[1]

In this one breathtaking paragraph we see registration fraud through padding of nonexistent people and external communications to the election equipment when none was permitted. (Nevertheless, The Carter Center found the election completely fair. Jimmy Carter never met a socialist he didn't like).

One more parallel – the opposition leader in 2004 was Manuel Rosales, governor of the state of Zulia. Chavez caused spurious charges to be brought against him, and Rosales had to flee the country in 2009 to Peru. He returned in 2015 and was sentenced to 13 years in prison. Luckily, Chavez was gone by then, and Rosales ended up serving a bit more than a year. He is currently once again the governor of Zulia.

[1] http://www.venelogia.com/archivos/239/ translated to English, emphasis added

It is now a trite saying that one who ignores history is doomed to repeat it, but this does not make it any less correct. We must not allow our elections to continue to be the playthings of those who think themselves superior to us.