The Council of State is the executive body of the Cuban legislature, the National Assembly of the People’s Government (ANPP), and acts on its behalf when it is not in session. The ANPP elects the members of the Council of State from among its delegates at the beginning of each new five-year legislative period; the last election was held on 24 February 2008, when Raúl Castro formally became president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers is the state’s top executive and administrative body. Its members are appointed by the ANPP at the proposal of the president of the Council of State. The Council of Ministers is directed by an executive committee including its president, first vice president, vice presidents, and additional members and advisors chosen by the president.

The Communist Party is Cuba’s only legal party. Fidel Castro retained the post of party first secretary when he stepped down as president of the Council of State and Party leadership.

The Cuban Government’s website (www.cubagob.cu) and the websites of the Communist Party of Cuba (www.pcc.cu) and the National Assembly of the People’s Government (www.asenac.gov.cu) served as the primary sources for this chart.