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Circular for P & I Clubs

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Heavy rains in Venezuela

On 30th November the Venezuelan government declared the state of emergency in coastal Vargas state, north central Miranda state and the Capital District as a consequence of heavy rains in the last hours, declaration already made for Falcon state, the most serious affected of all regions. The declaration of emergency allows the government to take extraordinary actions to address the situation of rain and temporarily occupy all the spaces needed to provide adequate care to people. According to the Vice President of the Republic Elias Jaua at least twenty one people have died since heavy rains started last week, while 56,000 people are said to be affected of which 5,600 are homeless people forced to leave their homes and taken to permanent shelters.

Falcon state has suffered throughout its entire territory, some areas are isolated because roads are flooded, and air aid operations have been virtually impossible due to heavy rains in the past hours. Puerto Cabello has been also hit by the heavy rains, causing the main rivers across the city to exceed its limits resulting in serious floodings, for which reason it was declared yesterday in state of emergency too by the Mayor of the city. The highway between Puerto Cabello and Valencia was closed on 29th November due to important mudslides blocking the road and preventing the traffic of trucks and automobiles. Even the old road between the cities used as an alternative way was closed after landslides which trapped no less than 25 vehicles. Some flights at the international airport of Maiquetia have been cancelled and re-scheduled, whereas Valencia airport has been designated to serve diverted flights.

The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMEH) reports persistent and heavy rains for the next 48 hours, and electrical storm in Bolivar state.

The situation is affecting the operations of some ports, especially the terminals located in Falcon state (Amuay and Cardon) as well as Puerto Cabello, mainly due to delays in discharge, lack of trucking and personnel unable to show up for working. Nevertheless, this situation is not serious for the navigation of seagoing ships, to the extent that the maritime authority (INEA) has only restricted the sailing of small boats, mainly of fishermen.

Even so, it is advisable for vessels calling at Venezuelan ports to keep in close contact with ship agents to get updated reports about the situation and to co-ordinate berthing operations, instructing crews to remain on board going ashore only where strictly necessary.

Should you need any assistance or further information regarding the topic stated above, please feel free to contact:

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