

# GLOBALPANDI

## *Circular for P&I Clubs*

*DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019*

***Correspondents for:***

***Britannia, British Marine, Carina, Charterers P&I Club, China P&I Club, GARD, ITIC, Korea P&I Club, Navigators, Nordisk Defence Club (Through Sabatino Pizzolante), Lodestar Marine, North of England P&I Club, MS Amlin, Shipowners P&I Club, Skuld, The Standard P&I Club, Steamship Mutual, The American Club, The London P&I Club, West of England and Through Transport Club (TTC)***

### *National blackout at Venezuela*

The vast majority of Venezuelan States have been affected by a massive power outage that started on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March afternoon and that continues after its fourth day, closing schools and workplaces. The Executive declared Friday 8<sup>th</sup> as well as Monday 11<sup>th</sup> as a non-working days, while the electricity power is restored nationwide; nevertheless, it is not clear when this may happen.

Though government authorities have not been consistent about the cause of the blackout, the problem seems to have originated in a failure of the country's main hydroelectric plant, the Guri hydroelectric, located in the Southern State of Bolivar and which supplies energy to 70% of the country, presumably due to lack of maintenance in the last years, although the government claims to be the result of a sabotage.

Lack of gasoline, water, inaccessibility to the Internet, poor or inexistence cell phone reception are just some of the consequences of the massive blackout, which President Nicolas Maduro called "an act of U.S. backed sabotage".

In spite of the critical situation, Venezuelan ports seem to continue carrying operations. However, it is not difficult to foresee that while electricity supply is back to normal, lack or failure of electricity power in some areas, preventing proper communications, availability of gasoline/gasoil, working of port equipment and land transportation, will affect port operations.

Therefore, Members calling at Venezuelan ports are advised to take the necessary precautions, seeking advice from agents and Correspondents. Note that telephone and internet services are intermittent, and so we are reading messages with some difficulties.

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

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