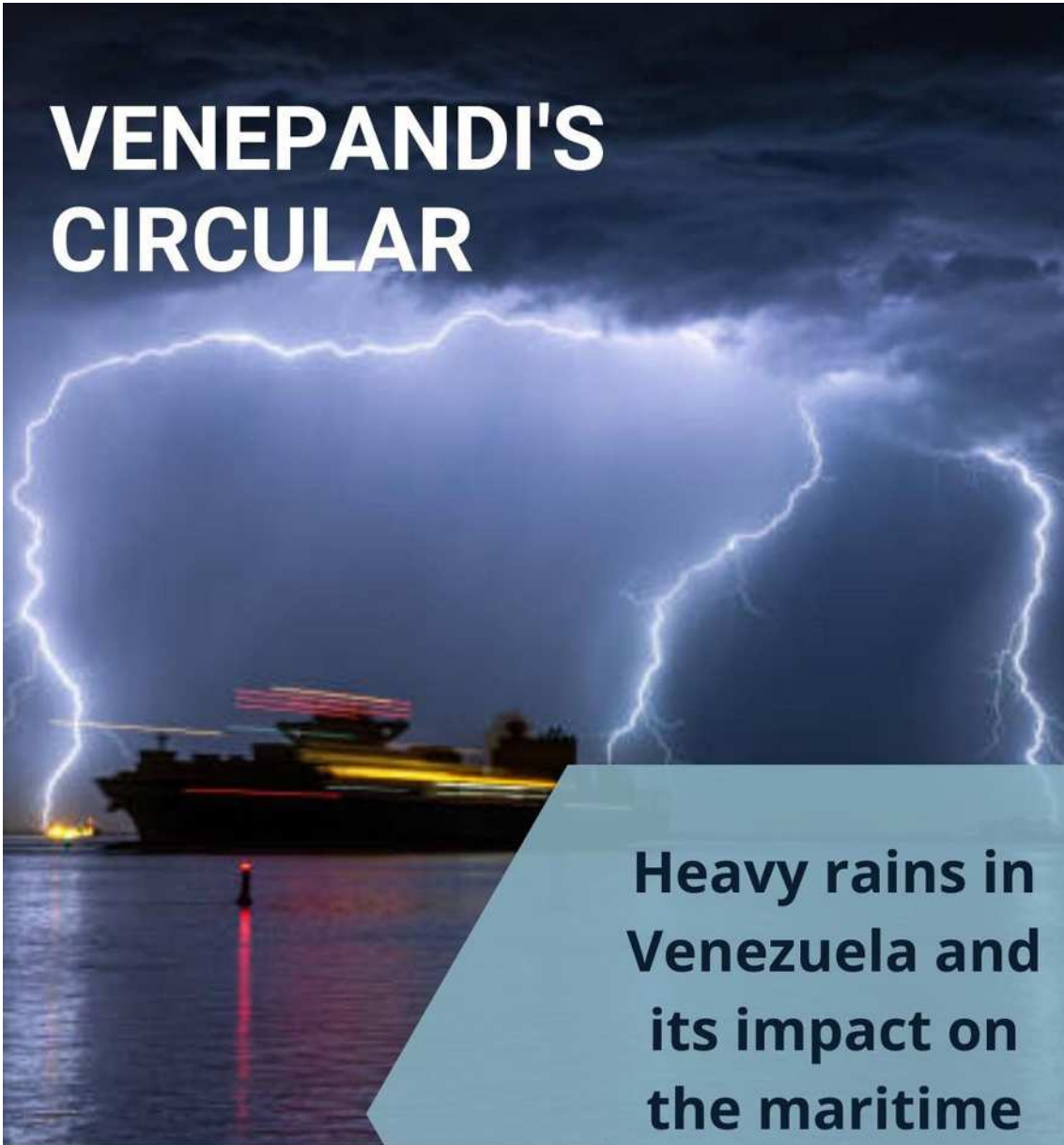


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**Heavy rains in
Venezuela and
its impact on
the maritime
sector**

May 29, 2023

According to information provided by the INAMEH (National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology), the Venezuelan maritime sector could face some important impacts due to draft restrictions and other related implications as a result of the arrival of the tropical cyclone season and above-average precipitation associated with the "La Niña" phenomenon.

José Pereira, President of INAMEH, warns about the arrival of the first tropical wave and the beginning of the tropical cyclone season starting from June 1st. These weather phenomena can have a significant impact on maritime navigation, as adverse conditions such as strong winds and swells can limit the draft and hinder the safe operation of vessels in Venezuelan ports.

The President of INAMEH also highlighted that the "La Niña" phenomenon is already causing above-average rainfall in the country. Intense rains can cause an increase in the flow of rivers and the sedimentation of navigation channels, which will significantly reduce the draft, particularly in the ports along the Orinoco River in the Bolívar state. This may even disrupt loading operations, ultimately impacting the capacity of Venezuelan ports to admit and facilitate the transit of large vessels. Consequently, this would have significant repercussions on foreign trade and port activities.

In response to this situation, the president Nicolás Maduro emphasizes the need to take preventive measures, and actions are already being taken in this regard. The President of INAMEH highlights the establishment of weather stations, Civil Protection units, and fire departments at the country's major ports and maritime terminals to oversee and forecast unfavorable weather conditions.

In support of these actions, the Minister for Interior, Justice, and Peace, announces the activation of the National Risk Management Plan to address the rainfall-related situations. This involves close coordination among the specialized fire brigade in ports and airports, Civil Protection, governors, and mayors to address potential impacts and provide an efficient response in case of emergencies related to heavy rainfall.

In summary, the arrival of the tropical cyclone season and the "La Niña" phenomenon in Venezuela may result in draft restrictions and other negative impacts on the maritime sector. Adverse weather conditions such as tropical waves and heavy rains can limit port operations, affect foreign trade, damage bulk cargo that is not well stored or is still in the production yards of the factories and necessitate preventive measures and risk management by the authorities. Coordination among different organizations and the implementation of proactive actions are crucial to mitigate the negative effects on the Venezuelan maritime sector. From Venepandi loss prevention team we recommend taking the necessary measures to avoid setbacks.

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