

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Belize City, Belize 6 December 2024- The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) reaffirms its dedication to upholding regulatory compliance to national legislation, international sanctions and the highest standards of enhanced due diligence.

IMMARBE has a comprehensive framework which is utilized to make sure our fleet adheres to international standards, proactively addressing vessels associated with sanctions or substandard operations. Over the past six months, IMMARBE has intensified its monitoring system and expanded its due diligence processes. This effort ensures that vessels falling below compliance standards or linked to sanctioned entities are promptly de-registered. Through collaboration with Registry Information Sharing Compact (RISC) and International Maritime Organization (IMO) platforms these vessels are documented. This crucial intelligence is shared with other ship registries, emphasizing IMMARBE's commitment to preventing these vessels from being re-flagged, based on verified evidence. Leveraging advanced technologies, real-time tracking, flagging and increased assessment of vessels which may potentially be linked to sanctions has strengthened our compliance framework, reinforcing our dedication to safeguarding global maritime security.

In addition, established within our Merchant Ships (Registration) Act, 2020, is a clear and efficient process for addressing any sanctioned vessels identified through internal monitoring system or external notification. IMMARBE immediately reports relevant findings, conducts detailed risk assessments and evaluations in compliance with applicable regulations or review information received through platforms like RISC. Furthermore, if a Belize-flagged vessel is listed on any sanction database, this information is decisively actioned, and, if warranted the vessel is de-registered without delay.

Recent press release from the US Treasury (2024, December 3). *Treasury Intensifies Pressure on Iranian Shadow Fleet*. US Department of the Treasury. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2734> highlights the tactics employed by fleets known as “shadow fleets” and entities such as falsifying documentation, manipulating vessel tracking systems, and frequently changing vessel names and flag hopping to evade sanctions. IMMARBE, in alignment with these findings, has enhanced its oversight to ensure due diligence extends to shadow fleets linked to countries like Iran, Russia, and the DPRK. For example, previously Belize-flagged vessel, VESNA, was de-registered in strict accordance with our compliance protocols.

IMMARBE remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard global compliance by preventing substandard vessels or sanction related vessels from continuing their illicit activities. Through robust processes and active collaboration with international and national bodies, we play a vital role in ensuring a secure and transparent maritime industry.

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