AUTORIDADE NACIONAL
DE EMERGÊNCIA E PROTEÇÃO CIVIL

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NOTICE TO THE POPULATION

RAIN, WIND AND ROUGH SEAS – PREVENTIVE MEASURES

1. SITUATION

The Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) predicts an aggravated weather in mainland Portugal, due to the influence of the ORIANA depression, with rainfall, strong wind and strong maritime turmoil, highlighting:

- **Periods of rain**, sometimes heavy and persistent, starting this afternoon, February 12, especially on the coast of the North and Central regions and Lisbon and the Tagus Valley;
- **Strong wind**, with gusts of up to 80 km/h and up to 100 km/h in the highlands;
- **Very Rough Seas** on the west coast, with waves from the west/northwest up to 6 meters, being able to reach the maximum height of 11 meters.

Follow weather information at www.ipma.pt

Hydrological Information

According According to the information from the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA), In the coming days, there is a significant risk of flooding in the following basins/municipalities:
- **River Mondego:** Cantanhede, Coimbra, Condeixa-a-Nova, Figueira da Foz, Miranda do Crow, Montemor-o-Velho, Soure;
- **River Tejo:** Abrantes, Almeirim, Alpiarça, Azambuja, Benavente, Cartaxo, Chamusca, Constancia, Coruche, Junction, Hawk, Golegã, Mação, Salvaterra de Magos, Santarém, Vila Franca de Xira, Vila Nova da Barquinha;
- **Sorraia River:** Coruche, Benavente;
- **River Vouga:** Old Hostel, Aveiro, Estarreja, Ílhavo, Mira, Murtosa, Ovar, Vagos and Cantanhede;
- **Agueda River:** Agueda;
- **River Sado:** Alcácer do Sal; Santiago do Cacém; Grândola; Alvito; Ourique; Ferreira do Alentejo.

Risk of flooding in the following basins/municipalities:
- **Minho River:** Monção, Valença;
- **Coura River:** Caminha;
- **Lima River:** Arches of Valdevez, Barca Bridge, Lima Bridge;
- **River Cávado:** Braga; Barcelos; Vila Verde; Esposende;
- **River Ave:** Santo Tirso, Trophy; New Town of Famalicão;

- **River Douro:** Gondomar, Port; Vila Nova de Gaia; Lamego; Weight of the Ruler;
- **Tamega River:** Keys, Amarante;
- **Sousa River:** Lousada, Paredes;
- **Lis River:** Leiria;
- **Nabão River:** Tomar;
- **Guadiana River:** Alcoutim; Castro Marim and Royal Village of Santo António.

Hydrological information at www.apambiente.pt

2. EXPECTABLE EFFECTS

This weather situation is expected to be most severe between this afternoon, February 12, and tomorrow, February 13, in the Lisbon and Tagus Valley region.
The intense and persistent rainfall recorded in recent days, combined with its cumulative effect, has led to soil saturation, the weakening of riverbank structures, and rising water levels, which are expected to remain high in the coming days.
Continued rainfall increases the risk of flooding, and the following is expected:

- The occurrence of floods, enhanced by the overflow of some courses of water, rivers and creeks;
- The occurrence of flooding in urban areas, caused by accumulation of rainwater due to obstruction of drainage systems;
- Saturated soils, which will result in a slow drop of water, which, at this time, affects the highways;
- The instability of slopes, leading to mass movements (slips, spills and others) motivated by water infiltration, a phenomenon that can be enhanced by the removal of vegetable cover;
- Slippery road floor due to possible formation of water sheets;
- Closure/Prohibition of some of the road lanes due to flooding;
- Dragging onto the roadways of loose objects, or to the removal of movable or disabledly fixed structures, due to episodes of hail and floods, which can cause accidents with moving vehicles or pedestrians on public roads;
- Possible accidents on the coast, due to rough seas;
- The dragging of loose objects onto roads, or the detachment of mobile or poorly fixed structures, due to episodes of strong wind, which can cause accidents with circulating vehicles or passers-by on public roads;
- Thermal discomfort in the population due to the combination of low minimum temperature and wind.

3. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC) recalls that the possible impact of these effects can be minimized, especially through the adoption of appropriate behaviours, therefore, and particularly in historically more vulnerable areas, it is recommended:

- **Ensure the unobstruction of rainwater drainage systems** and the removal of inerts and other objects that may be dragged away or create obstacles to the free flow of water;
- **Avoid any activity near water lines, especially in areas with history of flooding;**
- **Avoid parking vehicles in historically flooded areas;**
- **Do not cross flooded areas to prevent dragging people or vehicles into holes in the pavement or open sewage boxes;**
- **Remove animals, equipment, vehicles and/or other goods from normally flooded areas to safe locations;**
- Restrict as much as possible the movement of vehicles and people stuck in areas potentially affected by floods;
- Take special care when moving and staying near wooded areas close to water lines, due to the risk of falling branches and/or trees being swept away by the water;
- **Ensure the fixing of loose structures, namely scaffolding, placards and other suspended structures;**
- **Take special care in movement and staying near wooded areas, being aware of the possibility of falling branches and trees due to stronger winds;**
- **Avoid parking vehicles in wooded areas;**
- **Close and reinforce blinds and windows, especially those facing the wind;**
- **Collect outdoor structures to prevent them from being dragged away;**
- **Attach objects outdoors and on balconies and window sills, such as vases, garden furniture or others;**
- Take special care when traveling along the coast and riverside areas that are historically more vulnerable to flooding, avoiding to go there and park there;
- Do not practice activities related to the sea, namely sport fishing, nautical sports and seaside walks, still avoiding vehicle parking very close to the seashore;
- Adopt defensive driving, reducing speed and paying special attention to possible formation of water sheets on roadways;

Pay attention to meteorological information, the Portuguese Environment Agency and the indications of Civil Protection and Security Forces.

ANEPC | Communication and Awareness Division