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Circular Letter No.4299/Add.3
14 January 2021

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Kiribati**

The Government of the Republic of Kiribati has sent the attached communication, dated 14 January 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, TRANSPORT AND
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

P.O. Box 487, Betio, Tarawa, Republic of KIRIBATI
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File Ref: 04/01

Date: 14th January 2021

H.E Mr. KITACK LIM

Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4th Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Dear **Secretary General**,

Subject: Extension of Kiribati Border Closure until end of February 2021 & validity of Kiribati Seafarers Certificates to remain until 01st April 2021

In reference to the continuing pandemic that still affects Seafarers and as a result Kiribati still close its borders, the Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development (the "Administrator") is informing the organization in response to continuous restrictions to national and international travels, adopted worldwide that have created difficulties to the shipping operations.

Because the Government of Kiribati only extended its border closure until February 2021, the Administrator wishes to inform the Organisation that the Marine Notice No. 04/2020 extending the validity of Kiribati Seafarers Certificates to 01st April 2021 remains as it is until further information is issued from this Office.

Please find attached, a copy of the new Marine Notice 01/2021 of the border closure and in informing all relevant stakeholders of the above.

I would be most grateful if the Secretariat could circulate this information to all IMO Member States and relevant stakeholders.

Please accept, Mr Secretary General, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Tarataake Teannaki
Secretary
Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development
Republic of Kiribati



**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION,
TRANSPORT AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI**

MARINE DEPARTMENT

MARINE NOTICE

01/2021

Purpose

The purpose of this Marine Notice is to inform all parties of the effectiveness of the full contents of the pre-issued Marine Notice 04/2020 and to update all parties concerned on the new issued Press Release (PR No.06: OB15012020) as attached - Kiribati Extends its Border Closure Amidst the Covid19 Pandemic, issued by the Office of Te Beretitenti.

Marine Notice 04/2020 remain valid with no change until further information is issued from the office of the Maritime Administration.

Concerns

Since the Government of Kiribati has officially declared re-extension of Border Closure until end of February 2021, the Kiribati seafarers and fishers working abroad on international voyage will continue to be affected, particularly concerning compliance to the mandatory provisions of the international conventions as detailed in the pre-issued Marine Notice 04/2020 thereof.

Parties

With the above, all concerned parties including, but not limited to, Port Authorities, Ship Masters, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Owners, Seafarers, Fishers, Recruiting Agents, Maritime Training Institutes, Approved Medical Doctors, Seamen's Union, are hereby requested to take note of the full contents of this Marine Notice and its attachments (MARINE NOTICE 04/2020 and PR No.06: OB15012020).

Further communication(s)

Further information will be communicated through the same channel that may come to effect from government official notes addressing changes in the status of the ongoing Border Closure.

Further information

Should you require any further assistance or information, please contact the Kiribati Marine Department on +686 74026003 during working hours (0800hrs to 1615hrs Local time (UTC+12hrs)) or email to marine.officer@micttd.gov.ki



Press Release

For immediate Release

Kiribati extends its border closure until the end of February

Bairiki, Tarawa, 11th January 2021-----The Government of Kiribati has officially declared a further extension of its border closure in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Government advises that this extension will remain effective until the end of February 2021 where it will be further reviewed. Special approvals is required for humanitarian flights to transport essential equipment, medical supplies and medevac operations.

In addition, Kiribati nationals travelling back on government arranged repatriation flights can enter Kiribati. A Repatriation Taskforce setup by Cabinet has been planning recent repatriation exercises to bring back all I-Kiribati stranded overseas since November last year. The Taskforce is currently working with partners and neighboring countries to repatriate remaining stranded nationals and Seafarers who have been affected by the border closures as a result of the pandemic.

The undertaking is being conducted in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures that seek to safeguard the public from the potential entry and transmission of COVID-19. All repatriated nationals would be required to undergo mandatory quarantine at a Government-designated facility on South Tarawa.

Throughout the repatriation period, Kiribati borders will remain closed to foreign nationals unless specific directions are given to enable critical and lifesaving operations and activities in Kiribati. During the border closure, the provision of medical supplies and cargoes will continue under the established COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols to ensure necessary support to strengthen the national health system and to support the needs of the people.

The Government continues to appeal to the general public and Kiribati's development partners for their continued cooperation, support and understanding to ensure the necessary arrangements are strictly followed so that risks are managed and the health safety of all is not compromised.

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For more info, contact:

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