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## CIRCULAR

**A: TODAS LAS EMPRESAS DE ZONAS FRANCAS, OPERADORAS DE ZONAS FRANCAS, ZONAS FRANCAS ESPECIALES, ADOZONA y ASOCIACIONES DE EMPRESAS DE ZONAS FRANCAS.**

Como es de su conocimiento, a raíz de la culminación del plazo otorgado por las autoridades competentes, para la legalización del status migratorio de todo aquel extranjero que se encuentre en nuestro país, a través del Plan de Regularización de Extranjeros, nuestro país ha sido objeto de una campaña de descredito y mala imagen a nivel internacional, la cual ha sido llevada a cabo por instituciones y representantes de organismos internacionales.

En este sentido, tomando en consideración las relaciones comerciales, que actualmente lleva acabo esa empresa, con su casa matriz, clientes o contratistas, y con el objetivo de contrarrestar los efectos de dicha campaña negativa, anexo estamos haciendo remisión de un documento elaborado por nuestro Embajador en Washington, Estados Unidos, a través del cual se explica con gran detalle la situación real de los resultados del Plan de Regularización de Extranjeros, el cual, sugerimos que sea difundido y/o se haga de conocimiento de sus casas matrices, clientes, contratistas y relacionados.

Atentamente,

Licda. Luisa Fernández Durán

Directora Ejecutiva



LFD/



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA  
Washington, D.C.

EDW-0488-15

June 30th, 2015

Dear Friend:

Due to your interest on the topic, we share with you a Background on the Dominican Republic's National Regularization Plan and Special Law 169-14.

The Dominican Republic, under President Danilo Medina, has launched the most ambitious initiative in the history of the country with respect to the documentation and normalization of the entire population living in the country.

To achieve this, **two mechanisms** have been established: Special Law 169-14, for both people born in Dominican Republic and children of foreign parents with an irregular status, and the National Regularization Plan for Foreigners.

The result of these two initiatives has been that **over 350,000 people** on the margins of the law are now living within a legal framework and have their legal rights guaranteed.

If we consider the National Immigrant Survey ONE conducted by the European Union in 2012, we have gone from a country with 20% of migrants with a regularized status to **75% of migrants with a regularized status**.

The National Regularization Plan is a special initiative, promoted by the Ministry of Interior and Police, designed to **correct the immigration status of people who are in the country illegally**, i.e. without proper documentation.

The plan was executed over the course of 18 months, which once completed, conferred to applicants a migratory status that corresponds to their condition.

Since the beginning of the plan, a total of **288,466** people applied for regularization. This process has allowed us to register thousands of people living outside the legal system and make decisions based on the facts of their individual situation. We now have reliable data on each registered individual, as well as their status. This is a great step for the administrative system and the rigorous identification of the entire population.

Special Law 169-14 is a policy that orders a census of the country and provides proper documentation to populations that were vulnerable. This law establishes two groups of beneficiaries who are called A and B, according to its documentary status.

**Group A** consists of people born in the Dominican Republic and children of undocumented foreign parents. These individuals possess some kind of document issued by the Dominican Republic certifying them as nationals.

**Group B** is made up of children of foreign parents born in irregular immigration status in the Dominican Republic who do not have any documentation.

The Central Electoral Board (JCE) has identified about **55,000** persons belonging to Group A. **All of them are being given a solution**, through the recognition of these documents and their subsequent status of Dominican citizenship. More than 12,000 people have already come to the offices of the JCE to collect their documentation.

Also, **more than 8,755 requests** from people belonging to **Group B**, which are being processed for registration in the Book of Aliens, with the possibility of access to the naturalization process within two years, were received.

To ensure the integrity of the process and the rights of all populations, the initiative has banned, by presidential decree, the deportation of foreigners who have registered their status provided that their applications being processed are ascertainable to the record that was delivered to the plan's offices.

June 17 was the deadline for registration in the National Regularization Plan and therefore new records will not be admitted.

From that day, simply, they have again applied normally through mechanisms established by the Migration Act.

Those records are now being processed, following completion according to the deadlines established by law.

Also, the Dominican government guarantees that **at no time will indiscriminate and collective deportations be made**. This has not happened in the decades of the nation's democratic life and, of course, will not happen in the future.

Since last Monday, the government has provided illegal immigrants facilities for **voluntary return**, through the Directorate General of Immigration. As part of this program, facilities are available for anyone who wishes to leave the territory voluntarily and in doing so will not incur administrative sanctions that would hinder their reentry, provided that they possess proper documentation.

So far, **17,416 people have left the country voluntarily**.

The return process strictly adheres to the law and is led by a competent authority, the Directorate General of Immigration. Each case will take an **individualized approach** with guarantees of the right to defense and respect for fundamental rights.

The process also adopts relevant safeguards for children, adolescents and pregnant unaccompanied women.

No, this is not true. So far we have not been able to identify any cases of statelessness in the country as is evidenced by the absence of records in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

It is recalled that in cases where people do not have the proper registration of identity, the Dominican legislation establishes procedures such as the late declaration or naturalization that provides them with documentation.

The Dominican State recognizes that proper identification and regularization of all people is a fundamental right and contributes to legal certainty. We are firmly committed to the protection of human rights and work daily to guarantee them.

**IMPACT OF POLICIES OF DOCUMENTATION AND ADJUSTMENT MADE BY THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT FROM 2013 TO DATE**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>People Benefited</b>
National Regularization Plan Decree 327-13	288,486
Group A Law 169-14	55,000
Group B Law 169-14	8,755
Permanent Students	10,000+
Sugar Industry Pensioners	2,724
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>364,965</b>

We hope this information can be useful as general knowledge on the immigration issue in the Dominican Republic.

Sincerely,

  
José Tomás Pérez  
Ambassador

