



PRESS RELEASE

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AVIANCA FLIGHT LANDS IN CURAÇAO AFTER ENCOUNTERING SEVERE TURBULENCE

Willemstad – The Minister of Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning Mrs. Camelia-Römer and the Curaçao Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA) informs that an Avianca Flight landed early this morning in Curaçao due to severe turbulence with some injured passengers.

Some time after 01:00 AM this morning Avianca Flight 018 flying from Bogota to Barcelona encountered severe turbulence in flight. A number of passengers were injured and emergency assistance had to be provided onboard. The Pilot in Command Cockpit elected to make an emergency landing at Curaçao International Airport and Landed at 01:51 am.

Officials of the CCAA were informed by Curaçao Airport Partners (CAP) Operations staff and responded to the scene. A preliminary investigation has been conducted and inspection of the aircraft has been completed. The aircraft, an Airbus A330 jetliner remains on the ground at Hato Airport. Initial reports are that of the 250 passengers and 11 crewmembers, 6 passengers have been hospitalized with various injuries. The remaining passengers and crew members have been accommodated at various hotels in Curaçao, as hotels have been advised of the situation by the Minister of Economic Development.

While it is not a catastrophe, the support of the Directorate of Disaster and Risk Management was requested. All airport and hospital emergency services acted promptly on response to this unexpected event. Other relevant services such as the Red Cross, Victim Assistance foundation are also in assistance, including the respective Consulates, all in close coordination with the office of the Minister President of Curaçao, Ivar Asjes.

Medical emergencies of this nature are not uncommon. With its long runway and geographic situation, Hato Airport is favored within the region for its ability to accommodate large heavy aircrafts. The aircraft will depart this afternoon to Barcelona, Spain.

All communication is being directed from the office of the Minister of Traffic, Transport & Urban Planning, Mrs. Camelia-Römer. The Minister congratulates the CCAA, CAP, Ambulance Service, Firefighter Department and all who provided their assistance for handling the situation efficiently.