



Maduro Decrees Mandatory Use of "Petro" Cryptocurrency for Airline Fuel Payments

By Holland & Knight

President Nicolás Maduro, leader of the Venezuelan official government, decreed on Jan. 14, 2020, the mandatory use of the "petro," Venezuelan official cryptocurrency, for the payment of certain goods and services in the country.

The announcement was made in the accountability of the official government, in which Maduro ordered that the national oil and gas company Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA) bill in "petros" for all of the fuel sold to airplanes that cover international routes. However, the president did not clarify what would be the mechanisms for the commercialization of said fuel with the cryptocurrency.

Maduro also decreed the mandatory use of cryptocurrency for services such as issuance of identity documents (including passports) and records of sale of real estate and vehicles. The decree also includes the sale in petros of 4.5 million barrels of PDVSA's "physical reserves" of oil and 150,000 barrels per day of Venezuelan production.

In this regard, it is important to note that the Venezuelan local cryptocurrency has been vetoed by the United States and even qualified as a "scam" by the exchange platforms on the internet, which is why it is not available in virtual exchange houses next to bitcoins and other cryptocurrencies. Currently, the government quotes each petro in an approximate value of US \$60.

Learn more about our [Venezuela Focus Team](#).

Information contained in this alert is for the general education and knowledge of our readers. It is not designed to be, and should not be used as, the sole source of information when analyzing and resolving a legal problem. Moreover, the laws of each jurisdiction are different and are constantly changing. If you have specific questions regarding a particular fact situation, we urge you to consult competent legal counsel.
