

SLASPA Maritime Affairs Division Launches Crew Certification Training Program

Castries –Wednesday 1st, 2016 – The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA), through the Division of Maritime Affairs, will be commencing the certification of crew onboard commercial vessels, operating within Saint Lucian waters. The program is set to sail from 1st June 2016 and will be targeting an estimated four hundred (400) crew members working on board nationally registered vessels.

The Director of Maritime Affairs, Mr. Christopher Alexander indicated that, “This initiative is another step by the Authority in the holistic approach of increasing overall boating safety on Saint Lucian flagged vessels. The crew invariably needs to interface with other craft or equipment and therefore requires technical skills for the safety of the vessel, crew and passengers alike.”

The manual “Basic Seamanship Crew Training” has been developed by the Division of Maritime Affairs and follows the standards set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). It is expected that by 2017, this certification, will become a mandatory requirement for crew employed on commercial vessels (Plying for Hire).

The objective of the crew training program is to allow crew members to acquire the knowledge and skills required to perform safely and manage emergency situations on vessels. This manual prescribes policy, standards, instructions, procedures, and guidance for the purpose of training, qualifying and certifying crew members working on commercial vessels operating within the waters of Saint Lucia. The course covers theoretical and practical “hands on” training on equipment with classroom and mock up sessions delivered by qualified instructors. The syllabus includes:



- Rules of the Road
- Communications
- Basic navigation
- Marlinspike seamanship
- Anchoring
- Towing
- Man overboard
- Firefighting

It is anticipated that this human resource capacity building, will mitigate against risk and optimize the use of all available resources - equipment, procedures and people - to promote safety and enhance the efficiency of boating operations. The training is expected to take place over a four-week period where in the end participants are expected to receive a certificate of completion as well as a crew identification card.

For further information and collection of forms, contact the Division of Maritime Affairs at 457-6151, email at communications@slaspa.com or go our website at www.slaspa.com and visit the Media Room under Press Releases.

END

About SLASPA

The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA) is the organization responsible for the island's ports of entry. SLASPA handles around 500,000 annual tons of sea and air cargo, facilitates more than 700,000 airline travellers, almost 600,000 cruise passengers, 60,000 ferry passengers, over 30,000 yacht passengers, over 30,000 aircraft movements and berths over 1,000 vessels.