SLASPA
SAINT LUCIA AIR AND SEA PORTS AUTHORITY

SLASPA STRENGTHENS JET SKI SAFETY THROUGH REFRESHER TRAINING AND PRACTICAL LICENSING SESSION

Castries, Saint Lucia — September 23, 2026 – The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA), through its Division of Maritime Affairs (DMA), is reinforcing the importance of safety and responsible conduct on the water following a refresher training and practical licensing exercise for personal watercraft (jet ski) operators on September 10.

The session brought operators together to revisit key safety practices, navigation rules and regulatory requirements, while providing an opportunity for the DMA to address common mistakes and unsafe behaviours that can contribute to incidents at sea.

The training was followed by a practical session on the water for prospective operators seeking their licence, allowing participants to put their knowledge and skills into practice.

The initiative comes as SLASPA continues to emphasise that safety on the water begins before an operator even starts the engine.

Wilbur Etienne, Ship Surveyor in the Division of Maritime Affairs and one of the facilitators, said the exercise is part of the DMA's ongoing efforts to improve both technical knowledge and safety awareness among personal watercraft operators.

"The aim of the session is to enhance and strengthen the skills, knowledge and safety awareness of persons operating personal watercraft. We are hoping that this training helps to mitigate the risk of jet ski accidents."

Etienne noted that operating in shared spaces requires heightened awareness from all.

"We are aware of the inherent risk where maritime users jostle for the same space," he said. "As a result, Reduit Beach was recently demarcated and corridors built to allow the safe passage of jet skis and safe usage of the swimming area."

The refresher placed particular emphasis on understanding and applying navigation rules, observing right-of-way requirements, and complying with local zoning laws. Safety equipment and accident reporting were also key areas of focus, with operators reminded of the equipment required onboard, its proper use, and the safety measures to take before entering the water. The training also reinforced post-incident reporting procedures and key provisions of the Power-Craft Act and the Shipping Act.

For the DMA, the objective of this session extends beyond successfully completing training or obtaining a licence. Operators are expected to carry these lessons with them every time they take to the water.

The Division hopes the initiative will contribute to safer, more responsible jet ski operations and help reduce preventable incidents. Through continued training and enforcement, SLASPA's DMA remains committed to strengthening awareness, accountability and compliance among operators.