SLASPA
SAINT LUCIA AIR AND SEA PORTS AUTHORITY



SLASPA STRENGTHENS AVIATION SECURITY READINESS THROUGH CONTINGENCY SIMULATION AT HEWANORRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA) successfully conducted a full-scale aviation security contingency simulation exercise at the Hewanorra International Airport (HIA) on June 17, 2026, reaffirming its commitment to upholding the highest standards of aviation security and emergency preparedness.

The exercise, which simulated a security incident at the country's primary aviation gateway, forms part of SLASPA's ongoing efforts to ensure airport personnel and national emergency response agencies remain prepared to respond effectively to security threats.

The simulation is a requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and Saint Lucia's National Civil Aviation Security Programme. It is designed to test, evaluate, and strengthen established contingency plans through a coordinated multi-agency response in a realistic operating environment while ensuring minimal disruption to normal airport operations.

The exercise brought together a broad cross-section of national stakeholders, including the Ports Police, the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), the Ministry of Health, the Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Services (ARFF), the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force (RSLPF), St. Jude Hospital, the Saint Lucia Red Cross, and airport staff.

Acting Chief of Ports Police, Michael Placide, underscored the importance of regularly testing airport security plans.

"It's an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) security standard for us to develop, implement and test an airport contingency plan. The exercise is to validate the plan through a multi-agency response to a simulated security incident and other associated threats that help test our response capabilities and prepare us should an actual incident occur at the facility."

Supporting the exercise was aviation security facilitator and instructor Saiful Islam of Green Light Limited, United Kingdom, who explained that the scenario was carefully designed to maximize learning opportunities while maintaining airport operations.

"Today's simulation has been designed to cover as many diverse security scenarios as possible within a limited timeframe without disturbing airport operations."

Officials emphasized that exercises of this nature should be conducted regularly to ensure ongoing compliance with international aviation security standards while enhancing the country's overall emergency preparedness.

The successful completion of the exercise reinforces Saint Lucia's unwavering commitment to aviation security and its readiness to manage unexpected incidents swiftly, effectively and in a coordinated manner.

As passenger traffic continues to grow and the aviation security landscape evolves, SLASPA remains steadfast in its investment in training, collaboration and preparedness to safeguard all who travel through all ports of entry.

The Authority extends its deepest appreciation to all volunteers, evaluators, external agencies, and the staff of Hewanorra International Airport (HIA) for their commitment and contributions to the exercise's success. Gratitude is also extended to the public for its understanding and support throughout this critical operation.