



Seychelles Ports Authority
Public Relations and Communications: Content for Publication

Event: Cargo Vessel Grounding Incident
Date of Incident: Saturday 19th October 2024

SPA conducts successful operation to remove a grounded cargo vessel

On Saturday, 19th October, at 9:09 PM, the MV Spil Ningsih, a fully loaded container vessel with a draft of 10.4m, contacted Port Control to report that it had grounded near Ste Anne Island. The Harbour Master, Chief Executive Officer, and Deputy Executive Officer were immediately informed. The Harbour Master activated the emergency response team of approximately 30 members of the operations team and all available marine assets were mobilized to assist in the operation.

The Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority (SMSA), Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG), and National Information Sharing and Coordination Centre (NISCC) were also alerted. By the time these authorities were notified, SPA pilots, tugs, and mooring personnel were already on-site, initiating efforts to free the vessel.

Given that the grounding occurred within the Ste Anne Marine Park, a protected area, it was imperative that all resources be mobilized swiftly. Due to the vessel's size and location, time was of the essence to prevent the ship from turning parallel to the land, which could have increased the risk of pollution and complicated recovery efforts. SPA deployed all available marine assets and resources to manage the situation.

A preliminary risk assessment of the vessel and its surroundings showed no visible signs of pollution or leakage. The vessel remained stable, which helped mitigate the risk of an oil spill during recovery operations.

After several attempts, the vessel was successfully refloated at 1:10 AM on Sunday, 20th October, during the early stages of the rising tide. MV Spil Ningsih was then towed to a safe anchorage for further inspections before being cleared to dock at Mahé Quay.

SPA personnel continued to monitor the vessel's draft for an hour after the operation to ensure there was no water ingress. MV Spil Ningsih was safely docked at Mahé Quay at 5:47 PM.