



Seychelles Ports Authority
Public Relations and Communications: Content for Publication

Event: IMO's Visit
Component held from Monday 04th to Friday 08th July 2022

PRESS RELEASE

IMO is satisfied with port security measures at Port Victoria

A delegation comprising of two International Maritime Organisation (IMO) consultants were in the country from 4th to 8th July 2022 on an official mission to conduct a security risk assessment at the Seychelles port facilities.

The mission forms part of the Port Security Project which is a project financed by the European Union (EU) and being implemented by the IMO. Through the project, the IMO is engaging with a number of countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa, including the Seychelles, in an effort to support them in enhancing their maritime security measures in port.

The consultants' task for this mission was to conduct the port facilities' security assessment. Part of the process was to first assess the risks at the Port Victoria's facilities in order to draw up a plan to mitigate those risks. To note, the IMO's consultants were supporting both the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) and the Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority (SMSA) during the risk assessment process.

The IMO's consultants, Captain. Ali Haidar and Mr Andrew Mallia, pointed out that they had started looking at the port area and understanding what the potential security risks to the port area were. In order to execute this they have engaged with professionals on the national security's side such as the Seychelles Coast Guard. They have also visited the National Information Sharing and Coordination Centre (NISCC), which is the maritime awareness centre, where they have evaluated the potential vulnerabilities in the port area.

Capt. Haidar and Mr Mallia say that there are always certain level of risks in ports, even in the best ports. On their mission, they have also looked at the general mode of operation in Port Victoria in terms of what comes in and what goes out, how cargos are handled, how things are stored amongst others. All of these aspects have been analysed to see where potential risks and vulnerabilities lie.

The consultants assert that they are very satisfied with how things are running in the Seychelles which shows that we are moving in the right direction. They added that Seychelles has a plan to which they are committed to tackle the current situation and further enhance it towards becoming fully compliant with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. "It has been a positive week and we are heading in the right direction," pointed out Mr Mallia.

Upon their return, the consultants will compile all the information and data gathered to conduct a risks assessment report. The assessment done will then be submitted to the two authorities through the IMO.