



Ministry of Tourism

Tourism Minister hails arrival of first ship to new Falmouth Cruise Ship Pier

Kingston, Jamaica: February 17, 2011- “Today is a red letter day for the town of Falmouth in particular and the parish of Trelawny in general” was how Tourism Minister, the Hon. Edmund Bartlett termed the arrival of the Voyager of the Seas cruise ship which docked for the first time at the newly constructed Falmouth Cruise Ship Pier.

The vessel, which took over 4000 passengers and crew members into Falmouth, marked the soft opening of the multi-million dollar pier which was constructed jointly by the Government of Jamaica through the Port Authority of Jamaica, PAJ, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

Minister Bartlett said “the soft opening of the port will play a key role in boosting cruise arrivals into Jamaica. In fact, we are looking towards the arrival of 1.3 million cruise visitors to the island for this calendar year which when added to the anticipated 2 million land base arrivals, should push total arrivals to the country to 3.3 million.”

The Tourism Minister added that “today’s test run, through the arrival of the Voyager of the Seas at this new port, is a statement regarding the readiness of Falmouth for prime time cruise tourism. This port and its facilities as well as the developments around the port will be the finest of its kind, not only in the Caribbean, but across the world. This view has been echoed by the developers as well as the passengers who disembarked from the vessel.”

Minister Bartlett expressed that the development of the port will bring wealth to Falmouth. “A port in a town is a catalyst. The arrival of the vessel brings wealth to Falmouth. The town must however receive the wealth and embrace it and to enable that wealth to make the residents wealthy. Falmouth also needs to be creative and innovative in its investment...giving every cruise passenger an experience which they will speak of years after they would have visited the historic town.”

Describing the Jamaican people, including the residents of Falmouth, as the iconic attraction which will play a major role in attracting and retaining visitors, Minister Bartlett said “the country’s most important asset is its people and Jamaicans overall and residents of Falmouth are among the finest anywhere in the world. Falmouth has a rich history and the people have nurtured and enriched that

history and the time has come for them to share with the rest of the world by way of the cruise shipping industry.”

The arrival of the Voyager of the Seas is the prelude to the March 22 arrival of one of the world’s largest cruise ships, the Oasis of the Seas. That vessel is expected to make weekly calls at the Falmouth Pier, taking in over 6000 passengers each time.

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