

Press Statement

Re: Cruise Ship Pier Nears Completion without Final Planning Permission

January 9, 2009

The Bermuda National Trust has been concerned for some time that this massive development has continued to near completion without Planning Permission. At this point there remains one issue of critical national importance which remains unanswered; will our channels be dredged and our reefs degraded to allow passage of the ships into this port? The importance of our reefs, both locally and internationally, and their vulnerability means that any decision to alter them cannot be undertaken as an afterthought and requires extensive and comprehensive assessment.

Following the completion of the Cruise and Ports Master Plan 2005, it was acknowledged by Government that of all Bermuda's ports, Dockyard was best suited to accommodate larger vessels. In 2006, the Bermuda National Trust was provided by Ministry of Tourism consultant, Larry Jacobs, the Final Draft schematics of the development at Dockyard. Given that it is now 2009 it is difficult to comprehend that three years later vital questions remain unanswered after all this time.

Adhering to the planning process ensures the integrity of a system which is fundamental to our island's cultural and environmental health. Government must take the lead in championing and following its dictates, thereby leading others to do so as well.

The Bermuda National Trust, in addition, still has outstanding concerns regarding the impact of this development on the surrounding marine environment, the historic environment and the ability of Dockyards infrastructure to accommodate such large numbers of cruise ship passengers and staff from the mega-ships and the resultant quality of the experience in the area for both locals and visitors alike.

Bermuda National Trust