



Office of  
the Prime Minister

REMARKS BY

PRIME MINISTER PHILIP DAVIS, QC, MP

ON THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CARNIVAL

THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022

First of all, I'd like to congratulate Carnival for 50 years of excellence as a giant in the cruise industry. It often feels like Carnival has been around forever; the company has defined what it means to cruise the open seas in style for half a century.

What's even more interesting is that Carnival as a company is older than an independent Bahamas by one year. In a sense, we have both grown up together. I'd like to believe that both The Bahamas and Carnival have

accomplished a great deal in those 50 years.

And we've shared quite a number of those years actively working together – we have literally grown in size, prosperity, and age together.

The years have flown by. I guess time flies by when you're having fun – and very few companies can lay claim to the mantle of fun the way that Carnival can - very few experiences have come to define "fun" the way a Carnival Cruise through The Bahamas has for a generation of travelers.

Whether stopping in Nassau, Grand Bahama, Bimini, Half Moon Cay, or the Princess Cays, Carnival has made investments throughout the country. We often talk about the need to not be so Nassau-centric in our approach to national development, especially when it comes to tourism, and Carnival is a stellar example of what successful, geographically diverse investments can look like. This is especially critical on islands like Grand Bahama, where investments are needed to stimulate the local economy.

I am personally looking forward to the Carnival Cruise Line Port in Grand Bahama, as well as the new multi-cruise line partnership for a shipyard that will provide opportunities for local residents. As my administration seeks to expand the blue economy, and increase local opportunities within the sector, investments like these operate at the intersection of tourism and the blue economy, allowing us to leverage our coasts and waters for the mutual benefit of our people and investors alike. These kinds of investments are what will allow us to take our

first steps confidently into robust and sustainable development of our blue resources.

The Bahamas' tourism model is quite unique, in that we have strategically pursued increased cruise arrivals for decades – cruises make up a surprisingly robust segment of our tourism market compared to other countries in the region. Cruise lines make major contributions to our economy and Carnival has been with us every step of the way. We have survived major hurricanes and economic downturns together. We are both currently rebounding from a global

pandemic that has impacted the global cruise industry in many of the same ways that it has impacted tourism-dependent economies like ours. And here we are, once again fighting through these circumstances together.

I look forward to continued successes as we move forward into a better, brighter future. It is my hope that 50 years from now, as Carnival celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> year of existence and The Bahamas prepares to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> year, that it will be a story that is every bit as

successful as the past 50 years have been for both of us.

Once again, congratulations and may our next 50 be even greater than our first 50 together.