

DR. MICHAEL DARVILLE  
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EDITORIAL  
**An awakening for FNMs in GB**  
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"THIS TIME  
**McALPINE**"  
VOTE  FREDERICK A. McALPINE



# West Sunrise Hwy to reopen

## DARVILLE: GOVT INTENDS TO REOPEN WEST SUNRISE HIGHWAY, AFTER ACQUIRING FOUR ACRES OF THE FORMER ROYAL OASIS RESORT AND CROWNE PLAZA

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Minister for Grand Bahama Dr. Michael Darville recently revealed that Central Government intends to reopen West Sunrise Highway, after acquiring four acres of the former Royal Oasis Resort and Crowne Plaza, which has been defunct since its abrupt closure in 2004 following the passage of Hurricane Frances.

The Royal Oasis resort property spans 427 acres and was once considered the jewel of Grand Bahama; as it had been equipped with a grand casino, 500-room resort tower, 965-room country club and 98 timeshare units in the epicenter of the island.

The once renowned resort, situated next door was the once globally-celebrated International Bazaar, was a premier tourist attraction as it had hundreds of souvenir shops, restaurants, jewelry and retail stores, bars and lounges as well as bustling entertainment center.

The resort had been bought in 2000 by Driftwood Properties, which closed the West Sunrise Highway, the main thoroughfare between Ruby Swiss Restaurant and

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FLASHBACK – A Freeport News' file photo of the West Sunrise Highway prior to the closing of the thoroughfare.

## ISLAND WIDE DAY OF PRAYER SET FOR HOLY THURSDAY

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Officials and members of the Grand Bahama Christian Council (GBCC) announced yesterday that while, for a number of years, the Annual 'March to Calvary' would take place on Good Friday in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice, this year the council decided to host an island-wide day of prayer.

The day of prayer is set to take place today, Holy Thursday, often referred to as Maundy Thursday.

"For many years, the Grand Bahama Christian Council has involved churches and believers throughout the island in an island-wide 'March to Calvary.' This year, we have opted for an island-wide prayer gathering. We believe that the times in which we are living, demands that we spend time together, urgently, in prayer for our nation, and for our people. I am very delighted that we have a hard working committee, led by pastor Nelson Bain, who is coordinating our prayer gatherings," said Rev. Peter Pinder, GBCC president.

Bain, pastor of New Beginning Life Ministries Interna- (Continued on Page 6)



WELCOME – Ministry of Tourism officials along with Freeport Harbor executives took part in a plaque exchange ceremony on board the *Amedea* Cruise Ship on Wednesday, April 12. Pictured from left are Sanique Culmer, Manager, *Amedea* Events, Bahamas Ministry of Tourism; Captain Jens Thorn and Brooke Grant Sr. Executive Communications, Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. (PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

## AMADEA DOCKS AT FREEPORT HARBOUR WITH 542 PASSENGERS

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The cruise ship *Amedea* docked at the Freeport Harbour yesterday, Wednesday, April 12, with 542 passengers, all German, hoping to enjoy a day on the beautiful Bahamian beaches.

Despite this being the *Amedea's* second trip to the island, the traditional plaque exchange cere-

mony usually designated for inaugural visits took place on this occasion, as Ministry of Tourism officials and Freeport Harbour Company executives welcomed the vessel's captain, crew and passengers.

In an interview onboard the ship, Captain Jens Thorn explained that the ship is currently on a 138-day world tour.

Captain Thorn stated that in (Continued on Page 5)

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