



Bahamas Maritime Authority (HK) Ltd

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Top-Level Delegation of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas Government Visits Hong Kong

Hong Kong SAR, China – 16th November 2018

A top-level delegation of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas Government led by The Hon. Kevin Peter Turnquest, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, is visiting Hong Kong today. The Delegation will meet with the Hong Kong Ship Owners Association, and with distinguished local ship owning groups whose vessels are flying The Bahamas flag. The main objective of their visit is to promote the business of The Bahamas Maritime Authority in Hong Kong and the wider Far East region, and to let the public have a deeper understanding of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and The Bahamas Maritime Authority. The Bahamas hopes to play a steadily growing role in serving maritime interests in the Far East region.

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas Government Delegation

The Hon. Kevin Peter TURNQUEST – Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance
The Hon. Renward Ricardo WELLS – Minister of Transport and Local Government
Ms. Juanita Denise LEWIS-JOHNSON – Chairman, The Bahamas Maritime Authority
Mr. Peter John GOULANDRIS – Deputy Chairman, The Bahamas Maritime Authority
Mrs. Cora BAIN-COLEBROOKE – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport & Local Government
Mr. Cardie Glen COX – Director, The Bahamas Maritime Authority
Mr. Corey Terrez DAMIANOS – Aide to Deputy Prime Minister
Capt. Dwain HUTCHINSON – Managing Director & CEO (Acting), The Bahamas Maritime Authority
Capt. Jahangir HUSSAIN – Regional Director, The Bahamas Maritime Authority

About The Bahamas Maritime Authority

The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) is the Bahamas' Government-owned body that administers the Ship Registry of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

- The Bahamas Registry is one of the largest in the world – currently number Six. The Bahamas Registry has the largest cruise vessel fleet and fast-ferry fleet in the world, and is also very strong in the offshore industry, in bulk carriers and tankers, including LNG and other specialised vessels. Many distinguished ship owning groups have placed their vessels under The Bahamas Flag.

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- The Bahamas is active in setting international maritime policy at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Bahamas has served for many years on the IMO Council, where the Bahamas Delegation regularly and constructively interacts with other foreign delegations. The Bahamas has sponsored several key initiatives, such as “Goal-Based Standards” for hull design that have become strong international standards.
- The Bahamas is widely known as a quality registry, as the Bahamas flagged vessels are regularly at the highest levels of acceptance of the US Coast Guard, The Paris MOUS and the Tokyo MOU.
- The Bahamas Registry is well known for its high level of service to its shipowners. In realisation of the importance and cost of “time” to all concerned parties, the Registry responds to all enquiries immediately and brings all necessary resources to provide rapid assistance. The Bahamas Registry has an Emergency Response Hotline which is available on a 24-hour, 7-day, 365-day basis. Furthermore, the Registry also incorporates an Online Information System which provides a user-friendly platform to shipowners to access a broad range of direct online services, and has offices covering worldwide needs with experienced inspectors in all major ports.
- The Bahamas Registry offers flexibility to its shipowners within the normal guidelines of international regulation. The Bahamas, subject only to any widely recognized international restrictions, accepts registration irrespective of nationality or place of incorporation of the shipowner. The Bahamas also accepts all members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) as Recognized Organizations (ROs). The Registry also imposes no restrictions on nationality requirements of the seafarers.
- The Bahamas Registry is very competitive in terms of cost with all other major open registries, Cost-competitiveness is a key consideration for the Bahamas Maritime Authority. The Bahamas Registry has *zero* Registration fees, no income tax or capital gain tax and no hidden costs.
- The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is a stable Parliamentary democracy. In fact, it is the oldest Parliamentary democracy in the Western Hemisphere. Successive Bahamian Governments over many years have given steady, consistent and strong support to the Ship Registry and the Bahamas Maritime Authority. In an increasingly turbulent world, this stability and continuity is very important to shipowners, to seafarers, and to all those with a financial interest in ships. The Bahamas has a sound, long-established legal system, and a highly developed, internationally respected financial services system.
- The Bahamas Maritime Authority has a uniquely close relationship with The Bahamas Shipowners Association, holding regular joint meetings and working to address issues that are important to Bahamas Flag shipowners. In this way, Bahamas Flag shipowners have regular input into maritime policy at the highest level, and also receive excellent service, whether for operating issues or technical issues, or port-state issues.
- The Bahamas Registry is a genuine national administration, run by, answerable to, and with the full direct support of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. It is a major Registry. The Bahamas

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Maritime Authority is a respected, responsible, quality government regulator that goes out of its way to respond to, serve the needs of and support its shipowners as a highest priority.

To learn more about The Bahamas Maritime Authority, please contact:

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