



*Government of Bermuda*  
Ministry of Economic Development

**Ministerial Statement**  
To the House of Assembly  
by  
**Dr. the Hon. E Grant Gibbons, JP, MP**  
Minister of Economic Development

**Shops Open on Sunday March 17th 2013**  
Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2013

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**Mr. Speaker,** I wish to inform the house of an exemption order made under the Public Holidays Act 1947 and gazetted on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The order makes provision for retail shops to be open on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2013 between the hours of 9:00am and 9:00pm.

The House is aware that the Public Holidays Act was amended in 2012 to allow the Minister responsible for the Registrar of Companies, where he considers it to be necessary in the interest of Bermuda, to provide full or partial exemptions to the prohibitions against shops opening during public holidays other than Christmas. Furthermore, the Minister may, by order, specify the exemptions by way of the negative procedure resolution.

**Mr. Speaker,** the Chamber of Commerce requested that retail shops be exempted from the Act on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2013. This specific date was requested because the cruise ship Azamara Quest, which carries 688 passengers, is scheduled to arrive in Hamilton on that day.

**Mr. Speaker,** while it is anticipated that the ship will be at dock between the hours of 10:00am and 5:00pm, under the exemption order, the shops will have the

leeway to open both before and afterwards. This way the shops can vary their opening hours as their business needs dictate.

**Mr. Speaker,** Honourable members will be aware that in 2012, on two occasions, all retail shops were allowed to be open on a public holiday: Initially on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in St. George's (to accommodate a visiting cruise ship), and on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012, as a stimulus to accommodate the last weekend shopping day before Christmas.

**Mr. Speaker,** we wish our local retailers a fruitful 2013 and trust that this day of Sunday shopping will be helpful to them, as well as a benefit for our visiting cruise ship passengers on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.