



MINISTRY OF TOURISM, TRANSPORT & MUNICIPALITIES

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**SUBJECT: Newport Bermuda Yacht
Race 2016**

27th May 2016

Mr. Speaker, as Junior Minister of Tourism, I stand before this Honorable House today to confirm that a large, varied fleet is expected for the 50th Newport to Bermuda Yacht Race in June 2016.

Mr. Speaker, it has been confirmed that, as of May 25th, there are 196 entries for the Newport Bermuda Race this year. This means that the 2016 Race has one of the largest and most diverse fleets of monohull oceangoing boats since the event was founded in 1906.

Mr. Speaker, only two other Newport Bermuda Races have been larger: the Centennial Race in 2006 with 263 boats, and the 2008 race with 197 boats. This will be the 50th Bermuda Race, and it will start on June 17th.

Mr. Speaker, the Bermuda Race Organizing Committee, which runs the race for the Cruising Club of America and the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club, expects that this large fleet will bring nearly TWO THOUSAND sailors from 26 countries to Bermuda.

Mr. Speaker, please note also that although TWO THOUSAND sailors will participate in the Race, there are many other family members and friends who will

travel to Bermuda by air to participate in the post-Race festivities in Bermuda.

Mr. Speaker, all of the hotels in Bermuda are usually full during this time, and it is anticipated that there will once again be high occupancy levels this year. Therefore both the economic impact of the Newport Bermuda Race and, most importantly, the long-standing friendships built over the years remain invaluable and greatly appreciated in Bermuda.

Mr. Speaker, this year also marks another significant milestone: the two organizing clubs celebrate 90 years of collaborating, to run the Bermuda Race.

Mr. Speaker, this Government congratulates everyone involved on this major achievement for the Newport Bermuda Race 2016.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.