

## **GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS**

### ***OFFICIAL OPENING OF RUPERT'S JETTY***

I extend my sincere welcome to everyone attending today this formal opening of the jetty and related facilities in Rupert's Bay. This is without doubt an extremely important, purpose-built facility for St Helena. In the same way the new Airport represents our air transport lifeline, this new seaport represents our marine lifeline for our economy and almost all of our daily needs.

It gives me great pleasure on this day to welcome Mr Eric Baume from the European Union's Directorate-General responsible for international development (DEVCO). Without the long-standing and dedicated support from DEVCO and funding from the European Union's development funds where we are standing today would not have become a reality. It is therefore fitting that he should be here today to participate in this formal opening ceremony.

I also welcome Councillors, those who work at this new facility, SHG officials and members of the public.

It cannot be over-stated how vital this new port is to St Helena. This facility completed in 2016, and the investment in it from the EU under the EDF10 funding round, have been the catalyst that spurred on the wider development of Rupert's Valley to become the industrial and mercantile heart of our Island. It is now our collective responsibility on St Helena to finish the job in the next year or so.

Without this jetty the MV Helena would not have access to easier off-loading of cargo. Without this jetty the wider development of cargo handling would not be possible in the near future, that is once the rock face has been protected. Without this jetty the potential for Jamestown to develop its local businesses and tourism offerings along the foreshore would remain just ideas in a written report.

We all know the development of a modern economy for St Helena is still a work-in-progress but today, with the formal opening of this port facility, that work is given new impetus and encouragement.

I wish to thank all in the EU, in SHG, the UK and the wider community of St Helena who worked on getting this facility built and commissioned. Looking around at what has been achieved is a credit to all who were involved in the project. This is an example of money well spent on a vital piece of infrastructure for our future.

Thank you.

**HE Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook**  
**18 February 2020**