

Philipsburg bustles with thousands of cruise visitors

PHILIPSBURG--Eight ships, thousands of passengers and organised controls resulted in a busy Wednesday, with cruise passengers utilising the best of what St. Maarten has to offer in Philipsburg.

Water sports, Boardwalk Boulevard, restaurants, organised tours, taxi tours and more were used by the thousands of visitors who converged in Philipsburg. Taxi drivers at the Harbour facilities reported that all had gone well during the day, restaurants along Boardwalk Boulevard ap-

parently did good business and Front Street was bustling with activity.

There were also a few merchandising stalls set up along the lower end of Front Street as extensions of businesses, to offer more convenience to shoppers. The second tender jetty also was used heavily during the course of the day by tenders that went back and forth from the ships all day.

Also effective were the temporary measures put in place by the authorities to accommodate the

thousands of visitors in Philipsburg. Both Front Street and Back Street were closed off, with the exception of a few side alleys. Heavy traffic congestion was expectedly present, but, by all accounts, motorists showed patience with the temporary restrictions.

Various government departments' controllers and the St. Maarten Police Force also kept in check the few "barkers" who were present on Boardwalk Boulevard and at the entrance of the Harbour facilities.



The Harbour facility was just as busy as downtown Philipsburg.



Front Street was walking space only on Wednesday.



Restaurants along Boardwalk Boulevard saw good business from cruise visitors on Wednesday.



The St. Maarten Police Force and other control units were out in force in Philipsburg keeping order.



The Walter Plantz tender jetty was heavily used on Wednesday.



Many passengers chose the scenic route and walked to Philipsburg.



Boardwalk Boulevard and Great Bay beach were popular attractions.



Michael Kors is pleased to announce the opening of its first freestanding Michael Kors Lifestyle store in Philipsburg. The 1,683-square-foot store, located in the Old Street mall, will carry a mix of accessories from the Michael Kors Collection and MICHAEL Michael Kors labels, including handbags, small leather goods, footwear, eyewear and watches. The store will also carry ready-to-wear from the MICHAEL Michael Kors line, as well as a selection of the brand's fragrances.



Dutch St. Maarten Taxi Association President Ottis Hughes (left) was busy guiding passengers to waiting taxis.