



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Historic Ship to Make a Permanent Port-call at Bintan Resorts**

The vessel now called Doulos Phos (Servant-Light in Greek) is a 100-year old ship, built in America in 1914, two years after the Titanic. Since her launch, she has undergone several name changes. As SS Medina, she was a freighter transporting onions; as SS Roma, she was a pilgrim vessel, as MS Franca C, the world's first all-first-class passenger liner; as MV Doulos, a mission ship and the world's largest floating book exhibition. She is also in the Guinness Book of Records as the "oldest active ocean going passenger ship in the world".

Since taking over the stewardship of this Grand Old Lady of the High Seas, BizNaz Resources International Pte Ltd of Singapore has decommissioned her and is in the process of converting her into a land-berthed heritage hotel complete with resort-style facilities and an on-board maritime museum. She will have approximately 100 cabins as well as an all-day diner, meeting rooms, etc on board. On land there will be a swimming pool, banquet hall, piano lounge, restaurant, and alfresco dining.

"Very importantly, we are giving much attention to the preservation of her heritage. In that regard, she will not be wholly made 'all-new', but rather, many aspects will be 'the old made new', said Mr. Eric Saw, CEO of BizNaz Resources International, the ship's owner and leader of the project.

Come 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2015, she will find a place of pride at the reclaimed land off Bandar Bentan Telani Ferry Terminal in Bintan Resorts. Mr. Saw added, "We are very excited about the ship's new home in Bintan. We are certain that with this unique concept of a ship-hotel, the Doulos Phos will add a new dimension to holidaying at the beautiful island of Bintan. Being so close to Singapore, and amongst world class resorts, she will greatly enhance Bintan Resorts appeal to the international traveler".

The ship was purchased by Mr. Eric Saw in 2010 and was planned to be berthed in Singapore. However after three years of searching unsuccessfully for a suitable location there for her, the

owners and operators of Bintan Resorts invited the ship with 'open arms' to be permanently based in Bintan. Given Bintan Resorts' international tourism standing and appeal, this was an offer that the owners could not refuse.

For More information contact:

Mr Eric Saw  
Chief Executive  
BizNaz Resources International Pte Ltd  
[eric@riverboat.com.sg](mailto:eric@riverboat.com.sg)

Ms Iris Kok  
Manager, Marcom  
Bintan Resorts International Pte Ltd  
Tel: +65 63893276  
[Iriskok@bintan-resorts.com](mailto:Iriskok@bintan-resorts.com)

