

Cabrits Resort Kempinski to be completed in 2018

Dominica News Online - Monday, October 19th, 2015 at 8:28 AM



Officials break ground for the new resort

The 160-room Cabrits Resort Kempinski, which will be located at Douglas Bay between the Cabrits National Park and the community of Tan Tan, is expected to be completed in 2018.

Vice President of Range Developments, Mohammed Asaria made that announcement while addressing the ground breaking ceremony held at Portsmouth on October 16.

The Government of Dominica signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Range Developments for the construction of the resort Back on November 7, 2014 and in May of 2015, the Range Developments announced that thus far schematic construction designs have been approved by Kempinski and necessary legal and administrative requirements have been honored.



Asaria said the hotel has a 30-month construction period

"We are even more focused on ensuring an expeditious completion. We have a 30-month construction programme quarter to 2018," he said. "All our preconstruction studies, whether it is financial, feasibility, environmental and geotechnical, have been completed."

He added, "We are single-minded and focused in our aim, to build a resort on this site that will be the envy of your neighboring islands."

According to him, the Resort which is expected to be a major economic driver for the north and the rest of Dominica will employ close to 500 people during the construction phase.

"This resort will employ close to 500 people at the peak of construction and a similar number during operations. Twice this number will be employed indirectly servicing the hotel," he indicated.

Asaria welcomed local vendors and entrepreneurs with open arms and called upon them to introduce themselves to the company to work together.

"This is not just a hollow statement for the media who is gathered here today and your benefit. Give me a chance and you will see this promise come to light. Indeed, hold me accountable to this promise," he remarked.

He pointed out that after the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Erika the project shows the world that Dominica is fighting back.

"Dominica is not just relying on the international community for aid, it is encouraging investment and ensuring foreign investment materializes," he stated. "This project has already generated millions in government taxes through the Citizen by Investment Project and will continue to generate tens of millions in government taxes over the next 30 months. This project is a testament to our combined vision and hard work, a journey which started a few years back with my meeting in Dubai."

Asaria revealed that middle and senior management of the hotel/resort must comprise of Dominicans.

"We cannot wake up and 2018 and start this process, this process must start now," he explained. "This cooperation will continue and enhance as we focus on training individuals from Dominica, both at the state college and through scholarships and internships to other Kempinski Hotels over the coming months and years."



Douglas described the resort as a game changer for Dominica

Meantime, Minister for Trade, Energy, and Employment, Dominica and MP for Portsmouth Ian Douglas said the northern part of Dominica has always been established as best suited for hotel and tourism development.

Furthermore he noted that the resort which will be a major game changer for the north and Dominica in general.

"We have always believed that this area is one of Dominica's prime locations for tourism development," Douglas explained. "This hotel will certainly establish, disclaim and bring to reality the dreams and aspirations of many leaders of the north and more specifically."

Douglas also highlighted the economic impact of the hotel both during and after the construction phase.

"Much needed employment for many of our people, a major consumer of our agricultural crops, vegetables, meats and fish and other services. Stimulation of interest in pursuing careers in tourism and tourism management...increase sales and revenues to businessmen and merchants, a general improvement in the sense of pride and well-being of our people, not only those who will work at this establishment, but all of those who will be associated with this development," he indicated.

Kempinski is a European hotel company established in 1897, with at least 73 hotels around the world and the construction of the Luxury Resort at Cabrits will be the first hotel Kempinski will construct in the Caribbean.

The resort is being constructed under the Citizenship by Investment Program.



Artist's impression of the resort