Gov't pleased with progress of Kempinski Hotel

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Officials tour the construction site on Wednesday

Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, has said the government is pleased with the progress of the Kempinski Cabrits Hotel now under construction at Douglas Bay in Portsmouth.

The Prime Minister and members of the cabinet toured the facility, which is being constructed under the Citizenship by Investment Program, on Wednesday.

"We are very, very pleased with the quality of construction, the efficiency of construction and the progress made thus far," he stated.

He said he was told that 125 workers are employed on the site, with 85 percent of them being Dominicans.

"The government remains fully committed to the project to its successful completion," Skerrit said.

He also spoke of the benefits of the island's Citizenship by Investment Program.

"We believe that the citizenship by Investment Program is an important medium one can use to generate sustainable economic activities," he stated. "The IMF just released a report, for example, which shows that Dominica will have the second highest growth in the OECS and they have also indicated that the resources from the Citizenship by Investment Program are a major source of non-tax revenue which is assisting our economies to get to a more sustained growth back."

The Prime Minister revealed that 25 Dominicans will be trained at a Kempinski hotel in anticipation of the opening of the one here in Dominica.

"Range has indicated to me also that they have gotten approval from Kempinski to have 25 Dominicans to be attached for one year at one of their hotels to get on-the-job training and to procure Dominicans to take up critical positions within the management of the hotel once completed," he said. "Not only are we focusing on building of the hotel, but we are also focusing on taking our people to a five-star level of service because that is what the hotel is, a five-star, and therefore if it is a five-star, we cannot get be at a two-star, three-star level of service and we are working very closely with Range and Kempinski to ensure that our people are properly trained and not wait until it is completed and say where are the trained people. We are preparing way in advance for the eventuality."

The contract for the construction of the hotel was signed in November 2014 between the government of Dominica, Range Capital Partners LTD and the Kempinski Group.

In 2015, parliament enacted a piece of legislation to amend the National Parks and Protected Areas Act, Chapter 42:0, extracting 15 acres of land from the Cabrits National Park for the construction of the hotel.

Construction ongoing on the site

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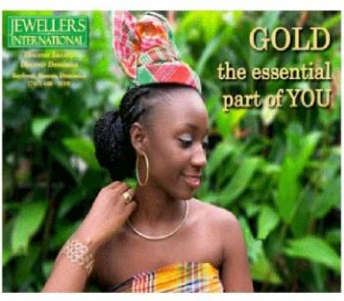

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