



OPEN WINDOW – PM: East Coast development will never mirror West Coast

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Tourism Development will be welcome on the island's pristine and picturesque East Coast.

But it will never mirror the West Coast, and windows to the sea will remain open, Prime Minister David Thompson promised yesterday.

And where development was allowed, it would be designated to Barbadian ownership, the Prime Minister also promised.

Thompson made the comments with the beautiful Atlantic Ocean to his back, at the relaunch of the once popular Edgewater Hotel complex at Bathsheba, St. Joseph.

"Government believes that this is the best way of ensuring that Barbadians – and their guests – will forever have access to the traditional retreats of work-related environments and activities. We shall not replicate West Coast type development on the East Coast of Barbados," Thompson said.

Edgewater, once one of the country's most popular getaways and favourite spots for the tourist looking for an area of reclusiveness until 2003, was officially reopened yesterday when the Prime Minister turned the sod for a new complex on a 7.3 acre area that will include 16 condos, 14 duplex villas and a family villa.

The complex, expected to be of four-star standard, will also be listed on Sotheby's of London, England.

When fully operational, it will employ more than 50 people from Bathsheba and its environs.

"This is an excellent promotion for Barbados and things made in Barbados," Thompson told those gathered on the cliff's edge looking over the rolling swells of one of Barbados' most visited tourist spots.

For more information about Edgewater Villas please contact our exclusive estate agents:
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The Prime Minister said he was pleased that the new development was highly compatible with the 2003 Physical Development Plan, and would have minimum environmental impact on the special development area.

Calling it a classic example of sensitive development, Thompson noted that the new Edgewater complex would ensure diversification of the island's tourism product, yet still preserve the natural environment.

Thompson said the country's recently adopted physical development plan proposed the creation of a national park that would stretch from Consett Bay, St. John, to Archer's Bay, St. Lucy.

The three largest communities in park, Belleplaine, Boscobel, and Bathsheba, will be designated as National Park Villages.

"Over and above this commitment to preserving the natural environment in the park, this Government will do all that is humanly possible to ensure that land within the designated area remains in Barbadian ownership," Thompson said.

Co-owner of the project Anthony Maughn, noted that such a complex was needed in Barbados, and would rival anything built on the West Coast. And they don't just want visitors to the island. "Edgewater has a history of catering to Barbadians, and we want that to continue," Maughn told the DAILY NATION. "We will make sure we do not shut out Barbadians with our prices," he added.

The project is being funded by the National Bank of Dominica, that country's first development in Barbados. (BA)

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