

# Salt Cay residents still undecided on proposed resort

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The smallest inhabited island in the Turks and Caicos Islands has a development issue of its own which has left residents divided on what is best for Salt Cay.

The SUN spoke with developer Stefan Kral about the planned 40 room hotel and 18 hole golf course which will stretch out to over 80 percent of the island which is only three miles in length.

The resort Kral stated will more than likely be named the 'Salt Cay Resort' out of respect for the island will enhance the quality of life for residents on the island.

"Our intention to integrate Salt Cay and the people with what we are

planning to do. There are several infrastructural projects for them such as a larger runway, a waste management system, better roads and lighting for the community.

"We plan to cater to mostly arrivals by air and provide them with a total natural and green environment, nothing artificial is planned and we will be working with the residents.

"I have a love for Salt Cay and would never harm it. There are several crazy rumours out there like plans to move part of the Salt Cay community to Middle Caicos which is totally untrue," said Kral.

District Commissioner, Carolyn Dickenson, said that she is welcoming the proposed project: "I can say that I am for the development. Salt Cay

needs it for its development and to create business opportunities and homes for our residents, this to me is a chance for upward mobility and there so much potential out of this project."

However other residents are not so impressed and say that the project will impact and eliminate the culture and laid back life style of Salt Cay.

"Salt Cay is Salt Cay because we are an easy going people with respect for each other and a strong sense of family. Big development has in some ways taken away the beauty of the other islands and we don't want that here," said one resident.

Developer Kral has said publicly that his company has no intentions of destroying the allure and peacefulness of Salt Cay with a strong sense of the

environment in mind.

He assured the public that many of the known structures will be left intact and the development would not encompass all of the land at their disposal.

What has added to the situation is the political wrestling that has been engaged by both parties as the PDM have openly said that they are against the project while the ruling PNP administration welcomes the development, which is part of their desire to make Salt Cay the only green island in the world.

"Right now the mood is mixed, one minute they are agreeing that they don't want the developer to have 80% of the island and the next they are ok with it. Everyone has their own opinion and political view.

"However nothing has been signed off as yet and no one has said for absolute certainty that the project has been given the go ahead, said the resident.