



FROM RIGHT:
Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Senator Darcy Boyce; Minister of Education Ronald Jones and business executive Sir Geoffrey Cave.
 (Picture by Reco Moore.)

American University moving to new site

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY of Barbados School of Medicine is to have a new home to accommodate its growing number of students.

Yesterday during a press conference at the Ministry of Education, Constitution Road, St Michael, president of the university, Meesam Ali Khan, said that the school will be expanded to the landmark Barbados External Telephone Company (BET) building in Wildey, St Michael. It has a roll of more than 200 and is presently located at Silver Sands, Christ Church. The new location will provide schooling for at least 500 within the next three to four years.

"The speed is a little slow because of the space we have and all those things but within the next three years or four years we will be moving a little faster to target 500," he said.

Though not confirming the exact date of the complete move Khan explained that the move will be done in stages.

"We will move to an independent small building, we will start the basic classes and then we will touch the bigger building with our specialists," he said.

As for the estimated influx of students in January 2017, Khan added that they would be adequately prepared to accommodate them.

"Be sure that in three or four months, it will be painted and in good [condition]. I want to show though that we are moving on – things are not stagnant at all," he emphasized.

Minister in the Prime Minister's office with responsible for telecommunications, Senator Darcy Boyce, counted the move as a significant one which will aid in the dynamics between a major country such as India and a small island developing state such as Barbados.

"This sends a signal to other potential large universities that Barbados is a place to come and do business. I was able to work with these authorities that we can get this transaction done in a timely fashion," he said.

Chairman of the BET venture, Sir Geoffrey Cave explained that the property is jointly owned the National Insurance of Barbados, Sagicor and Fortress Caribbean Property Fund but was once rented by Cable & Wireless.

He explained that the property was really developed for the telecommunications company but upon getting the request from Khan they looked into the viability of remodelling the building for such.

While mentioning the economic success of St Georges University in Grenada, Sir Geoffrey deemed the expansion of the institution a major move.

"I really want to thank the Government of Barbados for being able to do so . . . to change such a property in the business world in six months is not a long time but they got it done and I really wish to thank the Minister of Education and Senator Boyce," he said.
 (MR)

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