

Saipan casino investor will face construction, operation challenges, says consultant

20 Jul 2014 By Alexie Villegas Zotomayor - avz@mvariety.com - Variety News Staff



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SCARCITY of labor will be the Saipan casino’s stumbling block, according to Strategic Gaming Solutions CEO Ben Lee.

“The challenge will be to find labor to build the project and then to run it,” said Lee, a casino consultant in the Asia Pacific region.

He told Variety that it is extremely difficult to find labor on island, adding that the construction of a 2,000-room casino-hotel will require 2,000 to 3,000 workers.

“So where are they going to get the labor from,” he asked.

“You also need at least 1,000 to 1,500 people to run that kind of resort.”

Lee said besides workforce availability, water and power will be other key challenges for Best Sunshine, which has been awarded a conditional license to run a casino on Saipan.

“These are all critical issues. I wonder if they actually looked into that,” he said.

As to whether Best Sunshine could finance such a mammoth undertaking, Lee declined to comment.

“I think I’ll leave that to the regulators to determine,” he added.

Variety learned that Imperial Pacific, Best Sunshine’s mother company, has been trading well on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since it announced its intention to construct a casino on Saipan.

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Mr. Diego Garcia, Where have you been? The locals will not work and are untrainable! Got it?

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come on Mr. Lee were you not told that there are enough locals to do the job. that's whv we