

# Kidney Transplant First For DR

The country's first successful deceased donor kidney transplant has been carried out at El Hospital Plaza de la Salud. The announcement came from spokesperson Dr. Julio Guzman Amado Brown, chairman of the board at the hospital, during a press conference. Also present were the president of the National Institute of Transplantation, Fernando Morales Billini, the medical team who carried out the surgery and Health Secretary Bautista Rojas Gomez.

There have previously been hundreds of successful kidney transplant operations in the country from living donors, but this is the first time the operation has been performed using organs from a deceased donor.

The chairman announced the surgery as a success about a month after the procedure was carried out, reporting that the patient is in a stable condition.



The chairman of the board of the hospital, Dr. Julio Guzman Amado Brown.

The recipient is Milagra Contreras, a 40 year old schoolteacher living in the Pedro Santana municipality, in the Elias Pina province, who was suffering from chronic renal failure for 18 months leading up to the operation. She commented that she had to leave the school where she taught 2 years ago due to her declining health, but is now happy to resume her normal life and return to the classroom.

It is hoped that this success will now open the door to further development of donor transplant surgery in the country which could help save the lives of the hundreds of people currently on the waiting list for similar operations.

# Jarabacoa Hotel Loses Lease

The reconstruction of Jarabacoa's Hotel Montana has ground to a halt a month after the government cancelled the rental contract with entrepreneur Jose Cabrera Castillo. The refurbishment of the hotel, after 11 years of closure, would be a boost for the local area's tourism and employment.

For almost a month after the contract was cancelled, the tourism website homepage was still featuring the hotel, including advertising for recruitment, as a major achievement in the area.

The Minister for Tourism, Felix Jimenez declined to comment until after he has met with the Council for the Promotion Corporation to the Hotel Industry (Corphotels) and a decision has been made on the hotel's situation. He would only state that the works would resume shortly.

The refurbishment was to



Felix Jimenez - Tourism Minister

include the hotel, along with 200,000 square meter area to include several pools. It is reported that some internal work has been done on the walls, and the plumbing and sewage are already installed. It may take up to RD\$150 million to complete the project.

Eric Hazim, director general of Public Engagements announced that the government cancelled the lease contract with Cabrera and the Hotel Corporation 'for failing to comply with some provisions of the Law on Public Appointments'. He said that the contract did not comply with specifications on concessions made to the lessee, competitive

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bidding and lease guarantees. Hazim added that the cancellation is part of the government's efforts to achieving greater transparency and eliminating corruption in public administration.

# Ambassador Visit Planned - Cricket in Costambar

Ian Worthington, the British Ambassador will be visiting Puerto Plata on 20th December to watch The Dominican North Cricket Association play cricket. The event will take place at the Costambar recreation ground commencing at 4pm. For more information, contact Alan Buckley on 1-809-956-4623

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contest, and the final winner, 27 year old Zhang Cunying who was so tired by the end of the ordeal that she could not stand up unaided. After 24 hours, there were still 28 participants left so the mall introduced new rules requiring them to stand on one foot with their hand behind their back. She said: "I was learning dancing, so the body flexibility helped a lot. But the main winning factor was my faith." Ed. Damn, they are sexy cars!

# Grandmother Has Twins

In the Brazilian city of Recife, twin boys were born to a 51 year old woman - their grandmother.

Rosinete Serrao served as a surrogate mother for her

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