

Friday, June 23, 1989

Darrell family clears the road

A leading English civil rights activist yesterday claimed up to 30 Bermudian families may have been cheated out of millions of dollars of real estate during the past three decades.

London Barrister, Mr. Rudy Narayan, further alleged those responsible for cheating Bermudians held respected positions within the local community.

Mr. Narayan has been hired by Mr. John Darrell — the man involved in a 27 year land dispute with the Bermuda Government.

Mr. Darrell and his family yesterday claimed a major victory in their marathon battle when they "officially" opened Tribe Road No. Four in Warwick.

Mr. Darrell said two generations of his family had argued Government boundaries were incorrect and the road belonged to them.

"It has only been within the last seven days the Government has moved boundary markers back to show we were right all along," he said.

During the ceremony, Mr. Darrell's mother, Mrs. Bernice Darrell, cut a ribbon held across the road by Mr. Darrell's two sons, Nathan and John.

The Darrell family said the road would be open to all.

Mr. Darrell said the ceremony, which was watched by about six other Bermudian families who also claim to be victims of unfair land deals, was to mark the beginning of another phase of his fight.

The road represented just a portion of his battle to regain land he claimed belonged to him, he said.

He will appear in the Civil Court on August 14 to continue the fight, he said.

In the lead-up to the case, Mr. Narayan along with several other international civil libertarians, will meet with other Bermudians who claim unfair treatment at the hands of Government and property developers.

"When Mr. Darrell blocked this road many years ago he was threatened with prosecution. Now, 27 years later, he has been proved to be in the right," Mr. Narayan said.

"How many other land boundaries are wrong? And how many other Bermudians are going to have their land returned to them?"

Mr. Narayan said a meeting of all other families who believed they had a rightful claim to land would take place next Thursday at the Darrell's residence.

He said he would issue a press statement after the meeting detailing what occurred and what further action might be taken.

Mr. Darrell said he was forced to sell a house he had given to his son to finance Mr. Narayan's trip to Bermuda.

He believed the cost and effort were worth it, because so many Bermudians had complained of unfair treatment regarding land deals.

"People have come up to me in the street and asked how I could help them," he said.



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