

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 122/2005
8 December 2005

Shadow Minister for Trade and Industry Dr Joseph Garcia will raise the issue of the Rosia Tanks at the meeting of the House of Assembly which starts tomorrow. For his part Shadow Minister for Employment, Financial Services and the Environment Fabian Picardo will ask Government why the Chief Minister has not agreed to meet the Committee of the Pensioner's Association.

In a series of questions on development projects, Dr Garcia will ask the Government to say whether an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required for the projects by OEM at North Gorge, Buena Vista, Cumberland Road and Rosia Tanks. He will also ask Government to say how the sites at Rosia Tanks and Cumberland Road came to be included in a tender for North Gorge and Buena Vista in the first place. Dr Garcia will also ask Government to give the total area in square metres, with a breakdown, for each component part of the different project sites for which OEM (International) Ltd will pay the Government £15 million.

In relation to the Mid-Town project, Dr Garcia will ask the Government to list all the grounds contained in the Screening Opinion submitted by the Town Planner which led him to recommend that there should be an Environmental Impact Assessment into the Mid-Town project. He will also want to know the conclusions of the aeronautical study carried out into the height of the project at the request of the RAF. In relation to the Eastside development, Dr Garcia wants to know whether the Environmental Impact Assessment into the Eastside project has now been completed. He will also ask Government to confirm whether the tender documents in respect of Grand Magazine stipulated that buildings erected on that site should not exceed ground plus three storeys.

On heritage issues, Dr Garcia will ask Government to say what the duration of the unexpired portion of the lease for the Victualling Yard is, which the Heritage Trust has been asked to surrender. He will also ask Government what plans they have for the yard once this is surrendered by the Trust.

For his part, Shadow Minister for the Environment Fabian Picardo will ask the Government a series of questions on Cammell Laird. He will ask Government to confirm what progress has been made in respect of the removal of the grit mountain at Cammell Laird, where it has been removed to, how much remains, what procedures are being followed in respect of the removal, what environmental damage has been done by the failure to remove the grit earlier, and what the cost of the removal to date has been. On a separate issue, he will want to know when the envisaged action to tackle the problem of unsightly and unhygienic rubbish dumps in the area of Calpe will commence. Mr Picardo will also want to know the estimated cost of the noise insulation works at OESCO power station.

In his capacity as Shadow Minister for Financial Services, Mr Picardo will ask whether Government has now entered into any agreement with the UK in relation to the Savings Tax Directive in particular and exchange of information generally.

Mr Picardo will also raise a number of issues relating to the courts. He will ask Government to state how many probation, pre-sentence and child welfare reports have been prepared in the year to date by Social Services for hearings involving access to children in both the Magistrates and Supreme Courts. In addition to this, he will also want to know what is the period that the courts have had to wait for the preparation of welfare reports delivered in October and November from the date that the preparation of such a report had been ordered by a court. Mr Picardo also wants to know the number of such reports with a breakdown between the Magistrates and Supreme Court matters.

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