

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 124/2005
8 December 2005

The Opposition has tabled a total of 389 questions for the Government to answer at the meeting of the House of Assembly which opens tomorrow Friday. This is the third question-time of the year.

The Leader of the Opposition Joe Bossano has tabled nearly 80 questions for the Government to answer on a wide range of subjects. As usual, Mr Bossano has tabled a series of questions on Government revenue which are designed to monitor the state of Government finances and the performance of the economy.

On other matters, Mr Bossano will ask Government what costs, if any, were incurred by GRPI Co Ltd in connection with the Waterport Housing Scheme in the financial years 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005. The Opposition Leader will also want to know whether there are any additional costs other than the price of the tender award to the construction company and the design team fees reflected in the overall cost of the housing project, and if so what is the total cost of the project. He will also ask the Government to confirm whether the fee of £3.1 million payable to the design team appointed for the housing development at the Waterport Terraces is reflected in the cost at which properties have been put on sale.

In relation to the Eastside development, Mr Bossano will ask the Government when they expect the surveys currently being carried out in connection with the project to be completed, so that it will be possible to establish what will be the marine depth and the maximum distance from the present shoreline that will be reclaimed when the area of land is extended. Also on the same issue, Mr Bossano will ask Government to clarify whether the 6 year time limit on the granting of a lease for the Eastside development will apply to the completion of the whole scheme or the completion of the land reclamation part of the scheme.

Mr Bossano has also tabled questions in relation to the Island reclamation at Queensway Quay. He wants the Government to confirm that once the reclamation is complete, it will become Crown Land subject to a lease for the proposed development and if so has the premium for the granting of this lease already been agreed and what is the sum involved.

The Leader of the Opposition has also tabled a series of questions on health, employment and residency issues.

ENDS