

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 77/2006**  
**16 June 2006**

The Government has denied that it has in place a policy of granting 60 naturalisation applications a year from the Moroccan community or that it has any intention of introducing such a policy.

This information was provided in answer to a question put by the Leader of the Opposition to establish the accuracy or otherwise of recent statements made by Mr Sastri of the Moroccan Workers Association.

At the time Mr Sastri was quoted as having said in April of this year that there were between 300 – 400 applications for naturalization by Moroccans with a quote of around 60 a year obtaining approval. The Government has now denied that this quota exists.

It will be recalled that the Opposition expressed surprise at this quota statement and made it clear that we had never heard of the operation of a quota system for applicants for a British passport based on their current nationality. We added that we had serious doubts whether the British Nationality Act was intended to operate in this fashion and stated that this raised serious questions as to how the selection of the 60 for any particular year takes place.

The Opposition believes that making statements which are inaccurate and raise false expectations are not in anybody's interests and therefore it is for this reason that it has felt the need to clarify the matter.

ENDS