

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 106/2006**  
**13 September 2006**

The Opposition does not agree that just because we will have exercised our right to self-determination when voting for or against the new Constitution this means that this year's political rally at Casemates could be the last one.

The Opposition does not even accept that the National Day rally should be abandoned when Gibraltar is decolonised or even if Spain were to drop her claim.

The aim of the rally is to celebrate our national identity which is our sense of nationhood as a people. The nearest comparison with this are the national day celebrations in former colonies, where they continue to celebrate their identity politically even after emergence from colonial rule.

The national identity of the Gibraltarians will not disappear when we exercise our right to self-determination.

While it is true to say that the new Constitution recognises the right to self-determination, it should be noted that this recognition on the part of the United Kingdom was already there when it signed up to the International Covenant on Social and Political Rights more than 30 years ago. Therefore under the law of the United Nations, every single colony has the legal right to self-determination in order to select their method of decolonisation. Indeed, self-determination is the only applicable principle.

Moreover, it does not mean that after we exercise the right to self-determination that this right is extinguished forever. People may very well choose to vote "no" for a combination of different reasons and reject the Constitution in which case Gibraltar would continue to be a colony.

The Opposition therefore is fully committed to ensuring that National Day and the political rally should and will remain a permanent fixture on the Gibraltar calendar.

**ENDS**