

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 119/2006**  
**10 October 2006**

The Opposition will be asking the Government, when the next meeting of the House of Assembly is called, to confirm details of the deal that they have struck with the owners of the Rosia Cottages in order to settle the dispute which followed the decision to construct the Nelson's View development on the site of the Rosia Tanks.

It will be recalled that the owners of the Rosia Cottages took the Government to court on the basis that they had a right to light clause in their leases for the properties. The Opposition understand that the case has now been settled.

The Opposition has been told that the owners of the cottages have been compensated with either a cash payment or with an alternative ex-MOD property elsewhere in Gibraltar.

It is alleged that the value of the former MOD properties and the cash payment is over a million pounds. The Government expects to recoup some of this with the sale of the Rosia Cottages, at a devalued price, on the basis that the new occupiers will have the Nelson's View Development towering behind them.

The Opposition considers that this is yet another example of the negative consequences for Gibraltar of the decision of the Government to locate the Nelson's View development on the Rosia Tanks site. It also reflects very poorly on the way in which the Government have handled this issue from the very outset.

Commenting on the matter, Shadow Minister for Trade and Industry with responsibility for heritage and planning Dr Joseph Garcia said:

"The view of the Opposition is that the Nelson's View development, once agreed, should have been built somewhere else and that the Rosia Tanks should have been saved. The fact is that the Government insisted in going ahead with building on the site and with the destruction of the tanks regardless of the serious reservations expressed by the heritage lobby both inside and outside Gibraltar."

Dr Garcia added: "It is now quite incredible that apart from the heritage consequences, there should now also be financial repercussions to Gibraltar as a result of the cost of the litigation and the settlement reached to end the dispute. We intend to raise this issue at the first opportunity in the House of Assembly in order to obtain the full facts."

ENDS