

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 149/2006
27 November 2006

The Opposition reject that we have in any way “misinterpreted the meaning and effect” of the letter written by the Attorney General to the Leader of the Opposition on the legal basis for the Referendum.

We have never accused anyone of doing anything which is illegal. What we have said is that the Referendum must be legally binding as well as politically binding and the Attorney General has confirmed that it will not be legally binding.

The statement issued by the Attorney General in any case confirms what he told the Opposition in writing. This is that the Referendum is “non-binding”, has “no legal consequences” and is “a testing of public opinion”.

This means that in his statement the Attorney General has gone on to confirm only that the holding of an opinion poll is lawful!

Given that the Referendum is not legally binding, there is no legal impediment to the new Constitution from being implemented even if a majority votes “NO”, even though nobody is suggesting that this is what is going to happen.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Opposition has decided to publish the letter from the Attorney General in full.

ENDS