

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 150/2006
28 November 2006

The Opposition was notified yesterday that there will be no persons or entities invited by the Government to act as observers of the Referendum. It will be the first time that a Referendum is held in Gibraltar without international observers.

This is a serious development and it adds to the concern that the Opposition has expressed about the manner in which the Government has been conducting and organising the Referendum.

It will be recalled that in the recent Referendum motion in the House of Assembly, the House called upon and authorised “the Chief Minister, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, to invite persons and entities to act as observers of the Referendum.” The Chief Minister has therefore not complied with what was proposed by him and supported by us.

The Opposition is in no doubt that any impartial international observer would have had something to say about the nature of the informational period in the months leading up to the Referendum, and about the improper involvement of the Government in a manner which is biased towards one of the options in the ballot paper.

The absence of international observers adds to the problems with the credibility of the Referendum both inside and outside Gibraltar.

ENDS