

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 68/2007**

**3 July 2007**

The Opposition consider that potable water consumers in the north of Gibraltar should be compensated for the inconvenience they have had to suffer and the costs they have had to incur. The Opposition has received representations from citizens in the area who are not happy with the present state of affairs.

Potable water to a large part of the north of Gibraltar was cut off completely last week after works by a contractor stabilising the cliff face behind Boyd House in Laguna Estate resulted in damage to the potable water trunk main caused by a rock fall. The affected area includes the Victoria Stadium, Four Corners, Devil's Tower Road, Industrial areas, Eastern Beach Road, Laguna Estate, Glacis Estate, Glacis Road, Marina Bay, Catalan Bay, Sir Herbert Miles Road and Sandy Bay.

On Tuesday 26 June and Wednesday 27 June the supply of potable water was cut off completely during the day while the problem was corrected. In all this time, which the Opposition has been advised was more than ten hours on each day, water consumers had to use mineral water for everything.

A letter was delivered by hand to households in the area on 27 June advising them that although the supply would be restored later that day, the quality of the water would be below the standard required. The public were advised not to drink the water, and to boil any water used for cooking, drinking and food preparation.

This led to a run on mineral water bottles from shops in the area, as people stocked up with bottled water.

On Friday 29 in a statement to the media, Aquagib again advised that the same arrangements should continue and that every effort was being made to normalise supplies in the shortest possible time. The water company stated that the present situation was not of their making.

The tenants who have approached the Opposition would agree that the present position is not of Aquagib's making, however, it was not of the making of the residents of the north of Gibraltar either. It is not acceptable that in this day and age alternative arrangements have not been made to supply water by cistern lorry, on the two days when it was cut off completely, or indeed since the water supply was restored with a drinking ban.

The Opposition consider that the households which have been affected by this situation should be given compensation, which Aquagib can then claim reimbursement of from whoever was responsible.

**ENDS**