

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

102/2008

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The Opposition considers that the decision by Minister Ernest Britto not to provide the information on the number of apes killed under licences granted by him is a shameful indictment of the GSD Government.

This is an issue on which there is a clear partisan division, with the GSD insisting on killing apes because they have not been successful in managing the problem of the growing ape population and the Opposition being firmly on the side of better management of the ape population.

The Minister's answers to the Parliament belie the fact that clearly the GSD government has authorised the killing of a number of apes since the matter was last debated in the Parliament.

Commenting on the matter, Shadow Environment Minister Fabian Picardo said:

"Given that the GSD have gone ahead with the killing of apes in the face of both national and international protest, it is really quite unacceptable for Minister Britto not to confirm the number of licences he has signed for the killing of apes.

This is a very serious issue affecting the killing of sentient mammals simply because the GSD have not known how to deal with this issue more effectively. The minister should not be seeking to hide behind 'secrecy' and purported 'national interest' (which is actually just his own interest) to avoid providing the public with the information on the number of apes he has licenced the killing of."

ENDS