

## Opposition Press Release 127 / 2008 – GOVERNMENT MUST ACT TO MAKE ROADS SAFE

The Opposition notes with a great deal of concern the serious traffic accident which occurred last night in the area of the “black spot” between Eastern Beach and Catalan Bay. This follows another serious accident which occurred in this area very recently. The “black spot” has been notorious for many years for the many accidents that have occurred.

It is about time that the Government addressed seriously the issue of road safety in that area. It would be very simple to place ramps in both directions just before the bend. This would, without a shadow of doubt, virtually eliminate the spate of accidents which continue to occur.

Government should not wait until there are further accidents or that fatalities occur. It must act now.

It took numerous accidents and several years of lobbying and protests before the Government decided to place ramps on Sir Herbert Miles Road. Residents and users of this stretch of road confirm that, as a result, the area is much sufferer for all road users. As a result of the accident last night, access to the east side was closed even to pedestrians. With the continued closure of the Dudley Ward Tunnel this left residents of the area stranded. This again shows the need for Government to move quickly on works to re-open the tunnel. Despite their many promises in this respect over a number of years, those works have still not commenced.

Shadow Minister for Traffic and Transport, Gilbert Licudi, said:

“It is regrettable that Government does not appear to give the issue of road safety the priority it deserves. There is a very simple solution to the problem at the “black spot”. Sleeping policemen or ramps would, to a very large extent, cure the problem as they did on Sir Herbert Miles Road.

There is no excuse for Government’s failure to act. They must recognise that the safety of pedestrians and road users is paramount”.

ends