

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

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Mr Caruana must understand that he does not have a monopoly of the truth and that in a democracy people are perfectly entitled to question his decisions and his judgment. This follows the latest statement issued by the Government on Waterport Terraces.

The Government says in its statement that the public rightly expects the Opposition to question and monitor what the Government does, and to criticise the Government accordingly. What the Government does not say is that if Mr Caruana does not like that criticism it then results in a diatribe of personal insults directed at the person responsible for the criticism.

It is deeply regrettable that he should continue to accuse the Opposition of distorting the truth. Everyone knows that it is the Government that has distorted the truth by promising completion dates to the purchasers of Waterport Terraces and then breaking their promises again and again.

That Mr Caruana should not even have had the common decency to answer the letter handed to him by the purchasers who protested outside Parliament in October says much about the high-handed attitude

of the GSD Government which so many people see as a sign of arrogance.

The central issue is the high rate of service charges which purchasers have been invoiced for, not forgetting that many of them have had to pay bridging loans given the delay in completion. The Government hinted at universal compensation before the general election and then narrowed down those who would be entitled to receive it once the election was over.

Commenting on the matter, Shadow Minister for Housing Charles Bruzon said:

“The Government have done nothing to alleviate the financial and emotional hardship that they are responsible for creating. Instead of offering words of comfort and apology to the purchasers, they just ignore their grievances. In the final analysis the fault lies squarely on Mr Caruana for having taken ten years before taking action on much needed housing projects of this kind. I have never distorted the truth. All I have done is try to help people through these trying times. I pray that Mr Caruana will one day learn the error of his ways and realise he is dealing with people and not with objects.”

ENDS