

### **Stamping out Illegal Labour is Government's Responsibility**

The Opposition rejects the attempt by the Government to place the burden on the Transport and General Workers Union to police the construction industry and identify any company breaking the law by not registering its workers.

In an interview with the Gibraltar Chronicle, the Minister for Employment Luis Montiel calls on the Union to “provide evidence of where the illegal workers can be found”. That is a responsibility which falls fairly and squarely on Government's shoulders.

It is for the Government to ensure that sufficient labour inspectors are employed so that the constructions industry and other employers in Gibraltar comply with all employment legislation.

Opposition spokesman for employment, Gilbert Licudi said:

The Opposition notes that a Spanish contractor has been fined for not registering 30 workers and that Mr Montiel has conceded that illegal labour does exist.

However, Mr Montiel refers in his interview to the Union “passing the buck” but it seems to us that it is the Government that is attempting to pass the buck.

The employment of illegal labour creates unfair competition and deprives the Government of important revenue in the form of registration fees and taxes. Gibraltar is a small place and the practice of employing illegal labour should be easily stamped out.

The Government should dedicate sufficient resources to this instead of shirking their responsibilities and attempting to place the burden of identifying culprits on the Union.

ends.