

**STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION
69/2008**

16 July 2008

The Opposition considers that the Government is mistaken in allowing the development of six luxury villas in Sir Herbert Miles Road on the slopes of the eastern side of the Rock. This sets a very dangerous precedent for the continued development of the slopes in that area and it makes the point that no green area can now be considered safe.

The eastern side of Gibraltar has traditionally been less developed and of a lower density than everywhere else. It is not acceptable that such a tradition should be broken particularly for the construction of six luxury villas.

People should ask themselves what benefit to Gibraltar as a whole this development is going to bring. All that will happen is that six families will benefit, probably from outside Gibraltar, and live in a level of luxury which most for us can only dream about. It is the height of irony that while Gibraltarians are being pushed to live in Spain if they want a garden and a swimming pool, these facilities will now be provided in Gibraltar at prices which most people cannot afford.

The Opposition note that both the GONHS and the Environmental Safety Group have come out in public voicing their concern at this development.

The Opposition have been monitoring this development ever since the application was made through questions in Parliament asked by the Shadow Minister for Planning Dr Joseph Garcia. The Government confirmed in April of this year that the Development and Planning Commission had approved the application but that the Planning Permit had not been issued at that time.

Commenting on the matter, Dr Garcia said:

“We cannot continue to destroy the face of Gibraltar. It is worth recalling that the Eastside development is also earmarked for nearby

and that this is expected to include a large number of luxury flats as well. In our view, it is far more serious to develop on a green site than it is to develop on reclaimed land. Once again the Government has put the interests of developers before the public interest of Gibraltar.”

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