

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

87/2008

18 August 2008

The Opposition condemns Government's National Day reaction.

The Opposition condemns and regrets the Government's reaction to its criticisms of the National Day changes removing the traditional political rally which has not been a partisan event in party political terms in the past, on the contrary it has been the demonstration of the political will of the people rejecting any sovereignty concessions to Spain. This is what the people have rejected in the 1967 and the 2002 Referendums, and the message that has come from the rally every year since 1992. There is no reason for changing it this year and converting the event into a municipal function.

The GSD as the party in government may hold whatever views they want, if they no longer believe in proclaiming our political right never to share our sovereignty with Spain, that is a matter for them. We disagree as we are entitled to do. In the General Election we pledged ourselves to restore the National Day rally to ensure it remained the keynote of the celebrations of our Nationhood as it had been in the past.

Those who think that there is no need for such a rally any longer are free not to attend. We believe that it should continue for who still believe, as we do, that is what national day is all about. It should be an SDGG event open to all citizens of all political persuasions as it was always intended it should be since 1992.

It is clear that to disagree or have a different judgement from the GSD means that one is exposed to a diatribe of name calling which is all they are capable of doing, to create the disunity they complain of, and then blame others for it.

END