

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION**

24 February 2010

21/2010

The Opposition has been approached by concerned citizens of Catalan Bay in respect of the recent major cliff collapse in the area opposite the site where St Peter's School was located.

The collapse (which residents have informed the Opposition occurred on 17<sup>th</sup> February this year) has resulted in a large number of rocks and related debris accumulating in the area just behind the short buttress wall erected opposite what used to be St Peter's School. There is now an almost completed new housing development on the site of St Peter's School.

In the circumstances the Opposition is concerned that action needs to be taken to ensure that appropriate cliff stabilisation works are carried out and that the buttress wall opposite the site should be much higher to prevent further rock falls affecting the new development and the residents of the Catalan Bay area. There are also workers in the area whose welfare needs to be taken into consideration.

Commenting on this matter, Shadow Minister for the Environment, Fabian Picardo, said as follows:

"I have visited the area of Catalan Bay and seen this for myself. There is no question of anybody being to blame in respect of these latest events other than nature itself. Nonetheless it is now important that Government act as soon as possible to ensure that future rock falls or cliff collapses in this area are as contained as possible. In the area at the top of the cliff overhang opposite where St Peter's School used to be there remain metal shacks and a disused railway (dating from the time of the original works at the water catchments). These man

made structures should be removed as soon as possible to ensure that if there is a further rock fall or collapse they do not also fall onto the area of the Catalan Bay Village and the adjoining works area. Something needs to be done quickly to ensure that, insofar as possible, the risk of injury is as contained as possible.”

ENDS