

## STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 23/2010

25 February 2010

After today's meeting of the Parliament for questions, Fabian Picardo commented as follows in respect of the Chief Minister's refusal to answer question 440 of 2009 in respect of the killing of barbary macques: ***"I am dismayed that the present Chief Minister has chosen, again, to turn the answer to question 440 of 2009 into a semantic circus in a clear bid to avoid providing the answer. I really think that lowers the overall tone of the debate and is not what Question Time in a serious Parliament should be about. Mr Caruana has told Parliament that he is going to bring a motion to further the semantic argument he wanted to provoke to avoid giving the answer to the question. That will simply further unnecessarily waste the time of all the community, in my view. Nonetheless, if he feels that he has the time to waste on such issues, so be it. I have researched my position and am confident of where I stand. I would much rather see a Chief Minister of Gibraltar deal with the issues and defend the substance of his position in Parliament, where he is accountable, rather than see the display of hubris we have had to endure today. Mr Caruana has clearly been in post for too long and the semblance of power he thinks he enjoys is going rather accutely to his head."***

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