

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

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The tone of the Government's latest response to the statement made by Shadow Housing Minister Charles Bruzon on the question of medical categories and their housing policy in general has taken politics in Gibraltar to the gutter. The Government continue to reply to legitimate criticism of their policies with a torrent of insults and personal abuse.

In their response, they resort to words like "misleading", "exaggerated", "false", "childish", "holier-than-thou", "total lie", "hoodwink", "dishonest", "opportunistic" and "disregards the truth" to describe the statement issued by our Housing Spokesman Charles Bruzon. Since anyone who knows Mr Bruzon will be aware that he is not the kind of monster that the GSD Government have made him out to be, the Opposition is not going to waste any time responding to the colourful collection of derogatory terms contained in the Government's press release. The use of this language says more about Mr Caruana and the Government that he leads than they will ever say about an honest and principled man like Charles Bruzon.

The Opposition stands by its view on the creation of medical categories and insists that the fact that there are so many people waiting for houses is a result of the failed policy of the GSD Government to make adequate provision for houses over so many years in office. We maintain that the creation of the new category in 2005 did not in itself solve anything. All that has happened was that a number of the more urgent category A cases were moved up to A+ at the time. The point is that unless more houses are constructed and the housing stock is increased over time no amount of medical categories is going to solve the problem.

Commenting on the matter, Shadow Housing Minister Charles Bruzon said:

"In the context of the 700 flats for rental promised by Government before the 2007 elections, it emerged after the elections that only 490 were going to be constructed. When I pressed Mr Caruana in Parliament, all that he could say was that if he was guilty of anything he was only guilty of being a politician. I leave it to the public to decide who is being truthful and who is not.

I use as my starting premise the fact that Ministers are acting in good faith but I will not hesitate to speak my mind whenever I consider that GSD policies on any issue, in this case housing, are wrong or misguided. Despite this attack on my personal integrity, nothing will weaken my resolve and I will continue to work for my constituents and for the people who come to see me on a daily basis."

ENDS

