

## STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION

**75/2010**

**9 June 2010**

The Opposition is concerned at reports that the roofs of Waterport Terraces have been the subject of an inspection by a UK expert in order to determine the remedial action that needs to be taken to avoid problems in the future. This is the last thing that the long-suffering purchasers of flats in Waterport Terraces want to have on their minds.

The Opposition understand that the problem does not lie with the material supplied by the UK roofing company but rather with the way in which the installation has been carried out by the Spanish contractor. It is not known whether the entire roofs need to be replaced or whether there will be a patching-up operation in order to cover-up the alleged deficiencies.

The owners of flats at Waterport Terraces have every right to know exactly what is going on. There have been complaints in the past in relation to the lack of information which has been made available to purchasers over the years concerning the project. The developer of the housing project is a fully-owned Government company and as such there must be an element of political responsibility for whatever happens in the estate.

It will be recalled that Waterport Terraces was supposed to have been completed in three phases from January to July 2007. The project was subject to delay after delay. There are purchasers who had to pay out for bridging loans month after month without any of this money counting towards the final mortgage. Other purchasers had to pay to rent in accommodation elsewhere while their flat was finished and many more had to place their lives on hold.

On the eve of the 2007 general election, the Government, in order to win votes, announced unrealistic completion dates and gave the impression that there would be widespread compensation for the delays. Once the election was over, the completion dates were not met and it was clarified that not all purchasers would be entitled to compensation. Moreover, to make matters worse Mr Caruana is on record as having told Parliament that he “has never made any promise, nor even a commitment, to any purchaser about any completion date.”

The record of the Government in giving information, taking political responsibility and keeping to their word in relation to Waterport Terraces is not a good one. Indeed, the very opposite is true with the Government misleading the purchasers time and again. It is perfectly logical against this background of broken promises and inadequate information that there should now be concern about the question mark surrounding the roofs.