

VOTE FOR THE TEN



**L-R: Steven Linares, Lucio Randall, Paul Balban, Neil Costa,
Dr Joseph Garcia, Joe Bossano, Maribell Chellaram, Charles
Bruzon, Fabian Picardo, Gilbert Licudi**



Election Agents: Dino Chincotta Suite 16 Block 3 Watergardens Gibraltar and Troy
Jeffries 95 Irish Town Gibraltar Printed by Easiprint, New Harbours Gibraltar
email: gslplib2007@voteforchange.gi



GSLP/LIBERAL

General Election Manifesto 2007

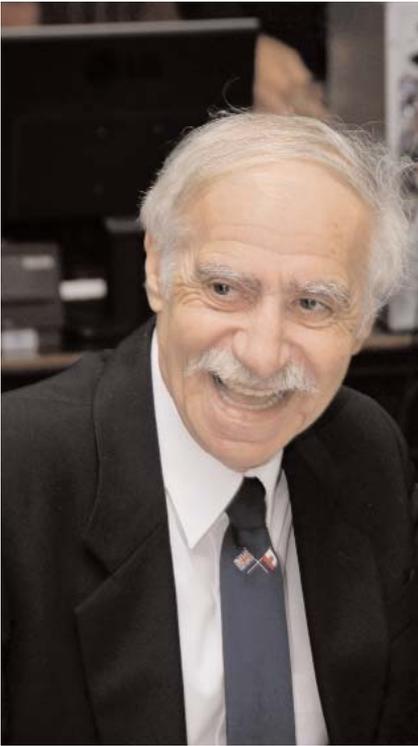


Looking after all our..

PEOPLE!



Liberal Party of
Gibraltar



Joe Bossano

Give us a clear mandate...

In choosing the new Parliament, you have 10 votes to elect the new Government that takes office on October 12th.

I am asking you to give us your unconditional support by voting for me, and the other 9 candidates in our team. I

ask this of you not on the basis of the personal qualities of the candidates, but because our electoral programme is the best set of policies for Gibraltar, and what is needed to give our people economic and political security for the future.

This has been the hallmark of my commitment to our country in the 35 years I have served you as your elected representative. In addition, this year there is an issue which we are giving greater prominence to. This is the threat our planet faces from the irresponsible use of its resources.

...Empowerment in the delivery of services...

Having become totally convinced that global warming is a threat to the survival of life, it is clear to me that there can be no half-measure commitment to this cause. Our objective in Government will be to adapt our policies to make our country an example of what sustainable development and the protection of natural resources should be all about, however small the global impact may be of what we can do here.

In this programme we have also emphasised empowerment in the delivery of services, in the participation of citizens and in the decision-making process especially when it affects political fundamentals.

Two prime examples of this will be the consultative referendum we will hold on all the UN options for decolonisation and the binding referendum on the way ahead on dialogue with Spain, should this prove necessary.

The manifesto again contains clear commitments on housing, pensions, employment and other issues, which can and will be completed in one term of office. The economic growth which we project of 50% in four years is, in my estimation, easily attainable

The tax structure for the business community will be one of the most competitive in the European Union, creating the necessary fiscal climate for inward business relocation. And in parallel we are ensuring that wage and salary earners enjoy the same range of tax cuts over the same time frame, so that the ratio between business tax and personal tax is not distorted.

The range and breadth of our programme, designed to put right the many issues that we have criticised from the opposition, show the commitment and integrity of our politics. We do not tell you one thing and do another.

We are committed to protect, and provide for, ALL our people. This means irrespective of their political views or who they vote for, as well as any other aspect. We know the manipulation that goes on to make people believe that their jobs, contracts or businesses would be put at risk from us. I give you a clear commitment that this will not happen. Anyone supplying the people of Gibraltar through their Government with a service will simply be expected to do the job that is required from them and for which they are getting paid.

...Participation of citizens in decision making...

No one in Government employment is going to be interfered with in their freedom to hold and express whatever political views they have. Empowering the people means involving and listening to everyone, which includes those who have different views or are critical of our policies.

The choice you have is not just to elect a Parliament, but to choose a Government. We are the only alternative Government now as we were the last time in 2003. Give us your 10 votes and the mandate to deliver for you and your family everything in this manifesto.

- Joe Bossano

Empowering the people



To deal with this issue, and ensure that the will of the people has to be implemented, and not just taken into account, we will introduce an Act of Parliament in our first year in office. This will provide the legal basis for holding referendums and the procedure to be followed, using the UK Act of 2002 as a guideline.

It will provide that the 2002 referendum, which rejected sovereignty discussions with Spain and the 2006 referendum, which approved the new constitution, are binding legally as if they had been held under the new Act.

The best practice in the decolonisation process, reflected in the literature of the UN, is that the people should have all the options explained to them to be able to choose freely which they prefer. In this context, a referendum will be organised in Gibraltar in 2008, as a consultation exercise, on the options provided by the UN for decolonization. In this referendum, people will be asked to select what would be their preferred option, if all the options were available to us. It will include the option of Devolved Integration and will serve to show how support for the different options, is distributed amongst our people.

The concept of Empowerment is one of our key policies in this manifesto. This concept is increasingly recognised as an essential element in progressive societies. It is about putting power in the hands of people, be it as citizens, students, patients, carers or any other role.

In the case of Gibraltar, there could not be a clearer or more apt example of empowerment than the act of self-determination as the expression of the will of a people.

The legal base for consulting citizens through a referendum does not exist in Gibraltar, as was confirmed by the Attorney General during the 2006 constitutional referendum.

This does not mean that the referendum was illegal, as Spain likes to argue, distorting this point as she does everything else. But it does mean that the results are not legally binding on anyone, even though they are respected as a matter of political philosophy.

The use of the referendum, with proper guidelines and equal opportunities for all different points of view to be fully explained on any given issue, is the best and most democratic instrument that exists. This will ensure that the democratic process truly reflects what the people want on important issues.



L-R Back row : Paul Balban, Charles Bruzon, Fabian Picardo, Lucio Randall, Neil Costa, Steven Linares,
L-R Front row : Maribell Chellaram, Dr Joseph Garcia, Joe Bossano, Gilbert Licudi
"A Winning Team"



...making it possible for all of our people to have a decent home....

RIGHT TO A HOME

We are committed to a policy of making it possible for all of our people to have a decent home in Gibraltar at affordable prices and for rental for those who cannot afford to do so or who do not want to buy, so that the waiting lists disappear.

HONOURING HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

In a last minute, desperate attempt at damage limitation, the GSD Government sent letters to pensioners allocating homes in a block which is just a skeleton structure and is scheduled to be completed some time next year. Also some 700 applicants on the waiting list have been allocated new homes in an estate that does not exist and indeed is not even under construction. Our commitment is clear. **all those who have received letters allocating them a flat will have the allocation honoured by us and will be re-housed.** Everyone else on the housing waiting list and on the pre-list **on the 11th October who have not received a letter allocating them a flat will also be re-housed in the next four years, eliminating the existing waiting list and pre-list.** The two-year pre-waiting list will be eliminated. The supply of new homes will be kept under review in the light of applications received from 12 October onwards.

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS SCHEME

We will alter the Housing Allocation Scheme to make it possible for all applicants to join the list on reaching the age of 18 and not 21 as is now the case, enabling them to gain access to their own home earlier.

LIST FOR RETURNING GIBRALTARIANS

We will provide a separate, additional housing list for applicants who are currently living in Spain and who wish to return home, and who would otherwise have been eligible to be on the housing list had they stayed in Gibraltar and not been forced across the border.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT FLATS

We will honour the offer made to sitting tenants who wish to purchase either pre-war or post-war property.

REFURBISHMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION

We will complete the programme of refurbishment, beautification and lift installation where possible on existing Government estates.

CO-OWNERSHIP HOMES

The element in new housing which is available for co-ownership will be for 50/50 sales for applicants based on their housing needs. The GSD government policy of giving priority to applicants who pay 100% and thereby enjoy the freedom to buy any size of accommodation beyond their family needs will be ended. This GSD policy defeats the very concept and purpose of the co-ownership scheme, which is making home ownership accessible to those who otherwise would not be able to buy.

MORTGAGE SAFETY NET

The GSD housing shortage has pushed some citizens to commit themselves to very large mortgages. The increase in interest rates in other EU countries is creating negative equity problems for homeowners, which could also affect homeowners in Gibraltar. **The ability of homeowners to repay their mortgages matters to us.** We will therefore monitor this closely and, if necessary, put in place a mortgage safety net to protect the homes of owner occupiers from the problem of rising interest rates and negative equity.

NO RENT INCREASES

We will not put up the rent of Government flats in the next four years and will fix the rent of new homes at the same frozen level as the rest.

RE-SITE THE WORKER'S HOSTEL

We will not proceed with the construction of a worker's hostel in Devil's Tower Road. An alternative site will be found for this project.

NELSON'S VIEW DEVELOPMENT

We have serious doubts that this project will be completed or delivered at the price it was sold given the delays and the complications. We will give an opportunity to people who have bought there to buy equivalent accommodation elsewhere.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



CHARLES BRUZON

Charles has been an elected member of the GSLP since 2003 and has been very active within his two portfolios of Housing and Social Affairs. He successfully completed a 6 year course in Theology and Philosophy at the Theological College, Ushaw, Durham. Happily married for the last 35 years to Marilou, he is the proud father of two sons, Louis and Philip and grandfather of Charles and James.

... emphasise preventing illnesses not just curing them...

The problems being experienced by many hundreds of users of the health service have continued throughout the last four years and have not been properly addressed or rectified. The only response of the GSD government has been to accuse us of inventing these problems and to bring in outsiders instead of listening to our own experienced professionals.

NO MORE OUTSIDE EXPERTS

We believe that the GHA needs to stop using outsiders who are so-called experts. The local staff are best placed to tell us where the shortcomings are and how to put things right.

NO MORE TOP JOBS FOR OUTSIDERS

All the top management posts in the Gibraltar Health Authority will be filled by local promotion.

REGISTER OF ASBESTOS

A GSLP/Liberal Government would be more open on the issue of asbestos. There have been incidents when asbestos has been found in public buildings and where not even the staff were aware of what was happening. We are committed to have the proper procedures in place and to produce a Register of Asbestos which would be a public document that people can refer to at any time.

SPONSORED PATIENTS: NO MEANS TEST

To alleviate the financial hardship undergone by sponsored patients and their families, which affects the most vulnerable in our society, we re-affirm our commitment that everyone will receive the full allowance and mean-testing will be abolished from the day after the election.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL NOTES

We will immediately introduce legislation so that it is clear that your medical notes belong to you. You will be entitled to copies of them. This will reverse the existing unfair practice which prevents you from having access to information about you.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

The facilities at KGV are seriously lacking. As we committed ourselves to do in 2003 we again commit ourselves to re-housing the KGV at a purpose built facility which will also



include: extra buildings to serve as sheltered accommodation for patients with long term mental illness who are in a position to look after themselves. They will obviously be supervised by wardens, community nurses, mental welfare officers and community occupational therapists. Day Centre facilities will be provided for patients where they can receive advice and treatment from community nurses. They will have a place to go, rather than stay at home. The failure to address the needs of persons suffering from Dementia and Alzheimers which we identified at the last elections has continued and worsened since nothing has been done in the past four years. The group at risk are predominantly persons over retirement age. As in most other countries in Europe, this is now an increasing proportion of the population. It is anticipated, that in Gibraltar as elsewhere, the numbers of persons affected by Dementia and Alzheimers will continue increasing every year. The matter is now urgent and requires immediate attention. As a matter of priority in the current financial years funds will be allocated to provide a respite home for those in need of it and resources to give support for home care for Dementia and Alzheimers patients and to provide for family carers the necessary back up from the health services. In addition an exercise will be conducted to evaluate the future needs and introduce mechanisms for early diagnosis so that the provision of resources of the next four year period grow in line with the anticipated demand for the service.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Complaints will be dealt with directly by the Ombudsman, without having to go through an internal complaints procedure.

PARKING

We will expand the facilities for visitor parking at the Europort Hospital.

HEALTHY LIVING

We intend to place the emphasis on preventing illnesses and not only curing them. One of the initiatives we will introduce will be to put into effect a permanent health education programme. This will start targeting both children and adults encouraging healthy eating, a healthy lifestyle, the prevention of illness and screening for diseases. This will be met by additional funds over and above the health service budget. The effect of these initiatives will be monitored and the incidence of different illnesses in each age group will be recorded to assess the success of the programme over a number of years.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



PAUL BALBAN

Paul is a well known State Registered Dietitian currently practising at the Central Clinic at Horse Barrack Lane. He read Nutrition & Food Science at Oxford Brookes University completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Dietetics at King's College, London. He was trained at a number of British Hospitals. Paul is also the proud driver of a Taxi. He met his partner, Gina 10 years ago and they are the parents of 2 beautiful daughters aged 6 & 3.

Equal treatment for our pensioners



'We will set up a scheme which will facilitate the creation of a new additional financial support measures for pensioners'

No discrimination against our senior citizens.

A GSLP/Liberal Government will take immediate steps to correct the discrimination against local pensioners that was agreed in Cordoba. We will set up a new fund for our own pensioners who will be given the same option as Spanish pensioners have had, on similar terms and with similar so-called inducement payments.

The compensation payments already made to Spanish pensioners reflect the level of pension of each individual at 1988 rates and the number of years the person has received this frozen rate. If the same criteria were applied to our pensioners who exercise the option, then the following

examples indicate the approximate amounts payable as full retrospection based on the age of the pensioner and on the full rates of weekly frozen pensions payable up to 31st March 2007 of £47.80 for a single pensioner and £71.70 for a

AGE	Single	Married Couple	Years of Arrears
84+	£18,650	£27,980	18
80	£17,760	£26,650	15
75	£13,270	£19,910	10
70	£ 7,450	£11,180	05
69	£ 6,160	£ 9,250	04
68	£ 4,770	£ 7,160	03
67	£ 3,300	£ 4,950	02
66	£ 1,700	£ 2,550	01

married couple, i.e. the 1988 rates.

Those eligible will be those local pensioners who have had a frozen old age or widow's pension between 1 January 1989 and 31 March 2007. The offer will also apply to the relatives that inherited the estate of any pensioner that has passed away since 1 January 2007.

The offer will be linked to the monthly pension being paid out of the new fund as has happened with the Spanish pensioners. As in their case, our pensioners will be given a choice. It will be the first priority of your new Government to set up this scheme to ensure that those who take up the offer will receive their money before the end of the year.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We will set up a scheme which will facilitate the creation of a new additional financial support measures for pensioners and which will be linked to average earnings. The effect will be to ensure that the standard of living of pensioners keeps up with the growth in the economy and shares in its benefits. It will not just be kept in line with inflation.

SOCIAL INSURANCE REFORM

A GSLP/Liberal Government will reform the entire structure of the Social Insurance Fund which is now insolvent. We will place the Fund on a viable footing. EU Law now requires equal pensionable age for men and women in all new schemes. In government we will pay pensions to men and women at age 60.

Why should Gibraltar pensioners not have received the same amount as Spanish pensioners?

DIVORCED WOMEN'S PENSIONS

In that restructure the issue raised by divorced women in relation to their pensions can be addressed and will be put right.

COMMUNITY CARE FUNDING

The reserves of Community Care have dropped from over 60m ten years ago to an estimated less than 30m now. With the present level of payments we estimate that these sums will be exhausted before the next general election. We undertake to refinance Community Care to enable Household Cost Allowance and other Community Care benefits to continue indefinitely.

INCOMPLETE SOCIAL INSURANCE RECORD

We will allow those pensioners who have an incomplete social insurance record the opportunity to complete their record and in this way receive a full pension.

WAPS

The Widows & Orphan scheme will be re-activated on a voluntary basis

TRANSPORT

Arrangements will be put in place to ensure that there is unlimited free travel on our buses for our senior citizens from the age of 60.

SHELTERED HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

We will provide flats for sheltered living by elderly citizens in our housing estates. We will develop a purpose built facility for elderly citizens who require constant geriatric care. In the first instance, we will house such a facility at the buildings of the Old St Bernard's Hospital.



We will allow pensioners the opportunity to complete their record and receive a full pension.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



FABIAN PICARDO

Fabian is a barrister. He took his law degree from Oxford University and is called to the Bar in Gibraltar and the British Virgin Islands. Fabian is a partner of a leading Gibraltar law firm. Although his early career involved human rights and litigation work (up to the European Court of Human Rights and the Privy Council), he now practices as a commercial lawyer and this year has been involved in one of the largest real property transactions in the EU.



..the lack of resources for persons with disabilities will be addressed...



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Earlier this year the UN agreed a draft Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons and a draft Optional Protocol to the Convention. The Convention was signed in March this year. However, the signature means little more than a promise to be kept until the UK ratifies the Convention and its Optional Protocol. At this stage the UK like many other states does not plan to sign the Protocol which gives person with a disability the right to bring an individual petition to the treaty monitoring body if they consider that their rights under **the Convention are not being respected. Without waiting for the UK to proceed with full implementation, we will introduce legislation in parliament to give effect to the terms of the Convention and the Protocol in Gibraltar.**

THE BLIND

We are committed to ensuring that blind people in Gibraltar are not ignored. We will therefore provide a mobility officer to help with walking issues, free bus passes, a low vision clinic and education for the visually impaired.

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

In government we will adopt the proposal for a Disability Action Plan, which we will develop in close consultation with the Gibraltar Local Disability Movement. This will include action to increase the number of disabled parking bays and to control abuse of such parking spaces.

The lack of resources for people with disabilities will be addressed to put right the insufficient support currently being provided to many carers in looking after people with disabilities.

DISABLED PERSONS

Among the first things we will do:

★ Provision will be made in our housing programme for adequate and affordable housing for disabled persons and their families.

★ As part of our commitment to the disabled, the eligibility for quarterly household cost allowance payments through Community Care Ltd will be extended to persons in receipt of social assistance and unable to work, including disabled persons.

★ A GSLP/Liberal Government will also extend the Minimum Income Guarantee to disabled persons.

HIGH DOSE OXYGEN THERAPY CENTRE

We will provide funds in support of a High Dose Oxygen Therapy Centre for the treatment of individuals who require pure oxygen within a chamber pressurised with medical air.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



GILBERT LICUDI

Gilbert is a Barrister and is called to the Bar in Gibraltar. He is a partner of one of Gibraltar's leading law firms where he advises on all types of commercial transactions and regularly advises banks, trustees and private clients on Gibraltar Company and trust law. Gilbert has been a member of the GSLP for over 20 years, having served as its Chairman in the run up to the party's first election win in 1988. He is the father of 2 sons.

...we will put an end to unfair competition...

UNFAIR COMPETITION

We will put an end to the unfair competition being faced by many traders in Gibraltar from across the border. This has been a particular problem for our diving schools.

SMALL BUSINESS BOARD

A small business development board will be set up chaired by the relevant Minister and include the business organisations in Gibraltar. This will facilitate the concerns of the business community on issues like streamlining business procedure.

TENDER SYSTEM

A system of competitive tendering will be maintained with priority, where possible, given to local firms.

BUSINESS START UP SCHEMES

Investments will be made in small workshops and business units to help and encourage the setting up of new businesses.

NEW BANK FOR GIBRALTAR

As we committed ourselves to do at the last election, the role of the Gibraltar Savings Bank will be expanded to take on board the needs of Gibraltar businesses and personal users. The provision of loan facilities for small businesses to help them expand and tide them through periods of difficulty will be one of the bank's objectives. The bank will pay interest on current accounts and there will be no bank charges for either business or personal accounts, as well as not charging for the handling of cash.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The GSLP / Liberals are totally committed to the finance centre as a source of economic growth and employment for our people. As a result we will embark on an overhaul of our corporate and personal tax structures in a manner that will be attractive to international businesses. The details of this can be found in the centre pages. In order to further enhance the reputation of Gibraltar in this area – and as we committed ourselves to do at the time of the TEPs problems – we will establish the office of a Financial Services Ombudsman within our first term of office.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



LUCIO RANDALL

Lucio is best known for his professional role as General Manager of Gibtel. He is a trustee of the pension funds of both Gibtel and the Gibraltar Chronicle. He was first elected in 2003 and has served as Opposition spokesperson on Telecommunications, Transport and Utilities. He is the proud father of Sean and Maite and grandfather to Julian.



MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

To ensure implementation of these policies and effective communication with businesses there will be a Minister with special responsibility for small business.

BUSINESS RELOCATION UNIT

We will set up a Business Relocation Unit under the Gibraltar Development Corporation to assist with inward investment.

LAND RECLAMATION

The land reclamation on the East side has already generated £30m for the government. At the time of the last election in 2003 the developers were due to embark on an environmental impact assessment. Again at this election it has again been announced that this will happen shortly. Therefore, nothing has been done with this site in the past 4 years. We will enter into discussions with the developer to ensure that a GSLP / Liberal Government's plans for further reclamation in this area are not inhibited by the proposed use for this site.

ADEQUATE OFFICE SPACE

The availability of office space needs to be reviewed in order to be able to cope with the increase in business that we hope to attract.



LOWER TAXES FOR BOTH...

Some years ago the European Union ruled that the Gibraltar Companies that enjoyed tax free status (Exempt) or low tax (qualifying) were in breach of EU rules and had to be phased out.



The low tax companies went first and the tax free ones will lose their status by December 2010.

The GSD first produced a complex structure which cost some £300,000+ to devise and submitted it to the EU for approval five years ago, with copies of the planned new tax laws. None of this has been available to us, in Parliament, except to the extent that the European Commission have made some of it public.

In the meantime, many of Gibraltar's competitors have been changing their tax structures to make themselves more attractive to international companies.

In this year's budget, the GSD announced a complete change of policy, apparently abandoning the original proposals, which are still awaiting a decision from the European Court.

The GSD response at this late stage has been to bring the rate of company tax down to 33% this year and aim for a rate of 10-12% by 2011.

Our analysis is that the structure that Gibraltar needs has to be as good as, or better than, what is on offer in other territories if, we are to succeed in bringing in new business, and retain those that are here already.

The tax structure has to be the same for all companies under EU rules.

It is clear that one aspect of globalisation and the removal of trading barriers is that businesses search for locations which provide the most favourable tax regime, all other things being equal

The company tax structure that we have prepared is one that we have market tested outside Gibraltar on a confidential basis and which has been very favourably received by potential investors. An inward flow of new investment will bring in work for our local business sector.

The proposed structure compares favourably with what is currently on offer from our competitors in the rest of the EU.

COMPANY TAX DOWN TO 8% BY 2011/12



BUSINESS & INDIVIDUALS

Our structure will permit existing tax free companies to move on 1 January 2011 to a 10% rate which will come down to 8% on 1 July. After that date we shall be facing another general election, and the future policy will have to be decided then in the light of what other jurisdictions are doing, to ensure that we continue to be competitive.

This new 8% rate will be applicable to all companies doing business locally and currently paying 33%. The move from 33% this tax year to 8% in 2011/2012 will take place in stages as follows:

2007/08 - 33%
2008/09 - 20%
2009/10 - 15%
2010/11 - 10%
2011/12 - 8%

LOWER TAX ON PERSONAL INCOMES

In order to ensure that the balance between tax on company profits and tax on personal earnings is not dramatically altered by our new proposed corporate tax reductions explained opposite, reductions in personal taxation will come into effect in the same timeframe.

The current 40% rate of tax payable in 2007/08 will be abolished and the standard rate of 30% will apply in 2008/09.

The standard rate will be progressively reduced to 18% in July 2011 as follows:

07/08 - 40%
08/09 - 30%
09/10 - 25%
10/11 - 20%
11/12 - 18%

PERSONAL TAX DOWN TO 18% BY 2011/12

The 17% reduced rate of personal tax will be brought down to 15% on 1 July 2011, when the standard rate falls to 18%.

We are convinced that it is essential to move in this direction, and within this timeframe, if we are to compete effectively in the international markets. We are also convinced that it is not acceptable to bring down company tax so dramatically without comparable equivalent reductions for personal income tax. **All the existing allowances (home-owners, mortgage interest, life insurance etc...) will remain in place as deductions before arriving at the taxable income of individuals.**



USE OF THE ANNUAL SURPLUS

It is intended to establish a Fiscal Incentive Fund which will receive each year the transfer of half of the preceeding years annual surplus. This fund will be used to provide one-off incentives to encourage measures to stimulate economic growth or promote environmentally friendly practices thus assisting in the achievement of the economic or environmental protection targets.

No doubt we shall get the same reaction to the benefits contained in this manifesto as we have had in past elections from others seeking your votes: they will tell you it is impossible and will ruin Gibraltar. We expect that after implementation of the policies in this manifesto the financial position in 2011/12, when the next election is due will be as follows:

	March 2008		March 2012
Govt Reserves	£71m	↑	£81
National Income	£800m	↑	£1,200m
Govt Revenue	£273m	↑	£400m
Govt			
Expenditure	£257m	↑	£360m
Surplus	£16m	↑	£40m
Company Tax	33%	↓	8%
Personal Tax	40%	↓	18%

...to give priority of employment in the public service to local workers...



PORT DEPARTMENT

We remain opposed to move the staff of the Port Department into the Port Authority.

ILLEGAL LABOUR

In Opposition we have condemned the Government for having encouraged the influx of frontier workers and allowed them to take over jobs traditionally done by Gibraltarians. It will be our policy in Government to give priority of employment in the public service to local workers and to eliminate illegal labour. Our aim will be to ensure that Gibraltarians are afforded the opportunity to work and live in their own homeland so that they do not have to emigrate or become frontier workers.

THE CIVIL SERVICE

The GSLP/Liberals remain committed to conduct the public administration of Gibraltar through an efficient, well trained and adequately manned civil service. We will invest in the service. The existing system of training and promotions will be reviewed in consultation with the civil service union. Vacant posts will be filled and the service will be run by the Heads of Department. A review of general orders will be conducted.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

In Government we would act in consultation and partnership with the trade union movement. Industrial relations would be the designated responsibility of a Minister at a political level, although dealings would be through the Personnel Department.

EMPLOYEES IN GOVERNMENT COMPANIES
The harmonisation of conditions in the government service, including pension rights with years of service since 1996 taken into account, will be extended to all employees of Government companies, agencies and the Gibraltar Development Corporation.

NO CONTRACTORISATION
Government work and services will be carried out by direct labour which includes employees in related entities on government pay and conditions. There will be no privatisation or contractarisation of work.

INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL REFORM
The GSD government has spent thousands of pounds trying to stop an unfair dismissal claim against it being heard by the Industrial Tribunal by challenging its jurisdiction. It has lost the argument all the way up to the Court of Appeal. This and other cases have exposed the problems being faced by persons without substantial funds. A reform of the system will be introduced so that an appeal of a decision of the Tribunal goes to an appeal tribunal made up of 3 Industrial Tribunal chairman. The conciliation machinery before a tribunal hearing takes place will be provided by government even if not requested by either party to try to achieve a settlement of the disputed claim. The effect of the reforms are intended to speed up the process and reduce the cost to the parties in dispute.



MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



JOSEPH GARCIA

Joseph is a Historian, having taken a Doctorate from the University of Hull. He has been the Leader of the Liberal Party since 1992 and was elected to the House of Assembly in 1999. He is the author of "Gibraltar, The Making of a People" which is recognised as the most authoritative modern history of Gibraltar. He was a member of the delegation that negotiated the Constitution. He is the proud father of Joseph and Lauren.

...we will draw up a comprehensive traffic plan Gibraltar...

VALUE FOR MONEY

In Opposition we have argued that expenditure on tourism marketing must be driven by a value for money criteria. We would ensure that the marketing initiatives that we take in Government are more effectively targeted and linked directly to results. All posts currently employed in tourism would be retained by a GSLP/Liberal Government.

WORK WITH INDUSTRY OPERATORS

We are committed to work closely with the private operators in the tourist industry and to listen closely to their concerns.

FERRY LINKS

We reiterate our commitment to back in Government any reputable properly licensed and equipped operator wishing to start a service between Gibraltar and Algeciras. We will also give priority to any similar entity interested in maritime links between Gibraltar and Morocco.

AIR TERMINAL

We have serious reservations about the plans for a new air terminal and the associated infrastructure that have been made public. In Government, we will reconsider the design, the infrastructure requirements and all ancillary projects in the context of our own policies and of a realistic reappraisal of the commercial demand that exists for the civilian use of the airport.

If we decide not to proceed with the existing plans, we will, nonetheless, extend the existing air terminal to the frontier fence so that it can be used on the same terms as the existing bus service.

CIVIL AVIATION

We will pursue as a matter of urgency that we have our own civil aviation authority in Gibraltar to license Gibraltar-based airlines to fly from our airport to other destinations.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



JOE BOSSANO

Joe is an Economist. He was first elected to the House of Assembly in 1972 with the Integration with Britain Party. He has served as Chief Minister from 1988 to 1996 and as Leader of the Opposition from 1984 to 88 and from 1996 to date. Joe was Branch Officer of the TGWU until he became Chief Minister and his roots in the trade union movement go back to when he first left Gibraltar in the Merchant Navy. Joe is also fluent in Italian.



TRAFFIC, PARKING AND TRANSPORT

The traffic and parking situation in Gibraltar has deteriorated even further during the last four years of GSD government. As a matter of priority your new government will draw up a comprehensive traffic plan encompassing the whole of Gibraltar which will be the result of a major review of existing traffic arrangements in which all interested parties will be consulted. The plan will contain set targets and objectives in the building of new roads and the creation of more parking spaces for motor cars and motor cycles, especially for residents in the town area. Some existing tunnels presently in need of repair will form part of the plan. The attainment of these targets and objectives will be realised on a gradual basis and will form part of the annual planned works on roads which itself needs to be re-activated and accelerated.

FRONTIER ACCESS ROAD

Your new government will immediately freeze the plans for a new frontier access road by Devil's Tower Road and the proximities of Eastern Beach Road whilst it is reviewed and integrated into the overall traffic plan. This part of the plan will be given priority and will not disrupt either existing commercial activity in the area or the use of Eastern Beach in the summer months.

PARKING BAYS FOR THE DISABLED

There is a great need to extend and regulate the provision of parking bays for disabled persons in all areas. Your new government will consult the relevant associations to identify specific areas where this is most needed in order to make an immediate start in redressing the problems affecting users of these bays.

...a carbon neutral gibraltar!

If we are serious about the threat to life that global warming represents then we cannot simply pay lip service to this issue. Our policy objective is clear: we will set out to achieve a carbon neutral foot print for Gibraltar. This means more than just limiting the level of emissions or gradually reducing them. It means ZERO net emissions. We have to develop measures that remove carbon as well as ones reducing emissions, producing a Gibraltar, as a result, which can be proud not to be contributing to the problem our planet faces and serving as an example to others. To achieve this we will involve the local environmental NGOs and the international movement and will ensure that our Traffic Management Plan takes into consideration the need to reduce journeys that produce harmful emissions.

In terms of financial commitment: we shall start by providing £1m in the Improvement and Development Fund in the April 08 budget; and we will apply part of this year's surplus to provide financial inducements in support of promoting environmentally beneficial changes. In addition the following specific policies will be adopted:

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

We do not believe that the development plan that has been published by the GSD is adequate for the needs of Gibraltar. We shall review the plan in the context of our own policies and the public representations that have been made. In particular, we will take the opportunity specifically including greater provision for green areas and protection of environmentally sensitive areas together with cycle racks to other schemes to encourage cycling in town.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Development and Planning Commission shall meet in public once in every calendar month. At such public meetings of the DPC, any person who has filed an objection to any development will be ENTITLED to be heard by the Commission.

GENERATION / ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

We will not proceed with new power station until a full study has been undertaken of its environmental effects, including its potential carbon emissions. Our target is to make Gibraltar's carbon emissions neutral and we are therefore committed to investigate all alternative sources of energy.

GOVERNMENT LEAD

In all of these areas, a GSLP/Liberal Government will lead by example. We will seek to ensure that by the end of our first term of office the Gibraltar Government uses only renewable re-sources where available (eg recycled paper and other stationery) and that the whole of the Government's transport fleet is powered by non-polluting engines.



TREE PLANTING

A full tree planting programme is a way to make Gibraltar a more pleasant place to live and work as well as a way to neutralise carbon emissions. We are committed to the implementation of such a programme immediately; especially in new developments which we will require to have public green and tree planted areas as a pre-condition for planning permission to be granted.

HERITAGE

A GSLP / Liberal Government will give priority and importance to heritage considerations, and will act in close consultation with the experts in the field. As a result we will not permit the destruction of important heritage sites like the Rosia Tanks or the colonial style houses which have been sold to and demolished by private developers.

UPPER ROCK

The GSD have allowed the Upper Rock to deteriorate into a state of filth and neglect. Notwithstanding the fact that when they put up entrance fees they promised the money raised has not been spent on Upper Rock improvements. In Government, we would spend the funds raised from entrance fees to the Upper Rock in improving conditions for visitors, residents and staff.

APES

We will introduce measures to control the ape population without resorting to killing them. We will also devote resources to ensuring that the apes remain in the Upper Rock area.

RECYCLING

We will promote recycling of waste in Gibraltar and set up recycling bins with no more delay; coupled with a programme for education to ensure that these are used properly and that our people appreciate the need to recycle.

...we will legislate to protect people who are discriminated against

REVIEW OF SOCIAL SERVICES

There will be a complete and independent review of the workings of the Social Services Agency, to ensure the provision of proper and adequate care for those who need it. We will put right whatever is identified as needing corrective action. In selecting who will conduct this review of the Agency, we will approach the UK Disability Rights Commission so that they can recommend who should carry out the review.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL

We will legislate to protect people who are discriminated against in any shape or form because of their sexual orientation.

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

A GSLP/Liberal Government would legislate for the recognition of civil partnerships between two people, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, ratified by a binding contract through the signing of an official register. This would automatically entitle them to benefits related to tax, pension and property rights.

SEXUAL OFFENDERS REGISTER

It is desirable to extend to Gibraltar the UK practice in relation to a Sex Offender's Register. This would allow the authorities in Gibraltar to keep track of sexual offenders from the UK who leave there to settle here.

MATERNITY GRANT EXTENDED

The Maternity Grant will be extended to children born of common law partnerships.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There is increasing and widespread concern at scenes of violence, vandalism and anti-social behaviour that have been growing in recent years. Taking action to stop such behaviour is important, but even more important is to address the root causes which may be associated with the problem. These include the problems being experienced by many families living across the border with children at a loose end outside school hours and with the pressure on families meeting

household costs. A sense of family and support have been a characteristic of Gibraltar and we need to go back to that.



Candidates who care will be Ministers who care.

MOD

Although the details of the agreement done with the MOD by the GSD government (which allows SERCO to take over contracted out services) is not yet public, we will honour any arrangement that has been properly explained to the work force and enjoys their support. Any area that the workforce does not support we will review in close consultation with the affected group.

RGR

The Royal Gibraltar Regiment can count on the full support of GSLP/Liberal Government. We will provide the same provisions on tax free pensions at 55 for RGR pensioners as already exist for the other uniformed bodies which by the nature of their work are forced to retire at age 55. We will take up with UK the fact that RGR pensioners are being taxed at source on their army pension even though they have never lived in UK and have completed their entire career in Gibraltar in order to ensure that they are liable under our laws which provide that occupation pensions are not taxable. We will lobby the UK government for RGR pensions to be on the same basis as those paid to their UK counterparts.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



MARIBEL DEVI CHELLARAM

Maribel is a Financial Accountant and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Management. She is the single parent of twins aged nine. During 35 years of service in the MOD she has served in various departments. Since 1993 she has been an active member of the Trade Union (ACTS) and today she is the Senior Shop Steward for the Administration Grades. She has been a member of the GSLP since its inception. Committee Member of the Social Services Adoption Panel.



...education, our best investment!



POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Everyone who has been denied a discretionary grant for postgraduate studies in the UK by the GSD Government, who has nonetheless continued with the course at their own expense, will be given the grant from the beginning of the course.

Anyone who has been denied a discretionary grant and who is scheduled to start a course in this academic year will immediately qualify for a postgraduate scholarship.

JOBS FOR GRADUATES

Anyone not wishing to continue with postgraduate studies or a higher degree will be able to apply for a 3 year contract as a research assistant with the Gibraltar Development Corporation (GDC). Their salary will be based on the rate payable for such positions in UK universities. These new jobs will be available as from 2 January 2008.

APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES

All school-leavers who have left school this year and have not gone on to further study, will be provided with 3 year vocational training apprenticeships. They will receive the appropriate salary as apprentices in relation to the adult rate for the job. This will be put into effect from 1 November 2007. We will intergrate existing vocational cadets into this scheme

LONG DISTANCE LEARNING

All long distance learning courses will be provided at no cost to the student.

FREE NURSERY EDUCATION

A GSLP/Liberal Government will provide free optional nursery education for all children. Private nurseries will be fully consulted.

MAINTENANCE FOR SCHOOLS

In consultation with the teaching profession and with head teachers, we will provide maintenance staff for each school. The maintenance staff will be answerable to the head teacher in each school and will be responsible for minor works.

UNIVERSITY OF GIBRALTAR

We remain committed to the expansion of the College of Further Education. Our objective will be to upgrade it to an institute of higher education capable of degree level work as a step towards achieving full university status.



MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



NEIL COSTA

Neil is a Barrister. He has been a member of the Liberal Party since 1999 as a member of the youth wing. Since that time he has attended various conferences of the Liberal International and delivered presentations on Gibraltar's political. Neil read law at the University of Wales in Cardiff. He presently practices law in the litigation department of one of Gibraltar's major law firms.

...we will ensure that existing children's parks are properly maintained and refurbished...

SUPPORT GFA UEFA BID

A GSLP/Liberal Government will support the bid by the Gibraltar Football Association to become a member of UEFA. This is good for the sport in Gibraltar. We will expose the unsporting behaviour of the Spanish Football authorities and the Spanish Foreign Ministry who are determined to exclude Gibraltar for political and not for sporting reasons.

A NEW FOOTBALL GROUND

There is a clear need for a further football ground to accommodate the numbers of footballers in Gibraltar. We will therefore provide a new football pitch. This new pitch will be a FIFA recognised full size, third generation pitch.



MORE SPORTS FACILITIES

We will also monitor the demand for additional facilities for all other sports to ensure that existing facilities are developed further in line with our communities demands. This will include the installation and upgrading of lighting of existing facilities, in particular the Hockey Pitch and Pitch No 2.

SPORTS INJURY CLINIC

We accept that a sports injury clinic is now required by a large number of our sports men and women. We will therefore make provision in the budget of the GHA for the establishment of such a clinic.

INTERNATIONAL BACKING

In Government we will back the international membership of all our sporting associations and Gibraltar's bid to join the Olympic movement.

BERTHS FOR SMALL BOATS

It will be a condition of any new reclamation leading to the provision of a marina that sufficient space is allocated to small boat owners to enable them to berth their boats.

MEGA CONCERT

A GSLP/Liberal Government will sponsor an annual "Mega-Concert" for our youth. The concert will be promoted internationally.

PARKS

We will ensure that existing children's parks are refurbished and properly and regularly maintained. We will develop further such areas and will require that all new residential developments cater for children's recreational facilities.

...we will sponsor an annual "Mega-Concert" for our youth...

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE...



STEVEN LINARES

Steven was a teacher from 1987 until he was first elected to the House of Assembly in 2000. He is now also finished a law degree. He held various posts in the Gibraltar Teacher Association, becoming President in 1995. He became President of the Gibraltar Trades Council also. He has been Opposition spokesperson on Education, Culture, Youth & Sport since 2000. He is the proud father of Lauren, Christina and Stevie.



GSLP / Libs: a second FIFA recognised full size, third generation pitch

Dialogue with Spain: ...consultation before any agreement is reached...

We will seek an early meeting of the Trilateral Forum to raise issues on the understandings reached at Cordoba with which we are in disagreement. These are well known and we made our position clear once the content of these understandings were made public and explained.

The areas concerned are as follows:

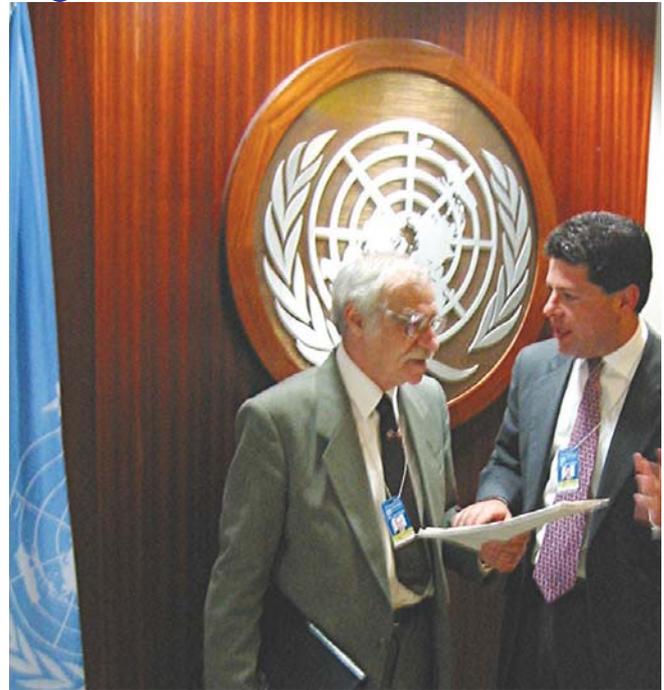
- (1) The Government building for the Cervantes Institute;
- (2) Air terminal passport controls at the La Linea frontier;
- (3) The management of the Terminal;
- (4) The Joint Liaison Committee on the running of the airport.

We will enter into dialogue with Spain in good faith and on the premise that a Government that wishes to persuade us of its democratic credentials would not seek to threaten reprisals against our country because our policy has received legitimate democratic backing from our people.

All the indications that we have are that this is a reasonable assessment of the position. We can understand that it suits the GSD to try and scare people into voting for them by suggesting that a new Government with different policies would produce confrontation and hostility from Spain.

If that were true, which we do not believe to be the case, then it must raise doubts as to whether the concessions on the airport's operation are as innocent as people have been led to believe. If Spain is willing to abandon its alleged 'good will initiative' because we choose not to avail ourselves of the so called 'advance Schengen clearance'. If that unlikely scenario were to materialise then at least it would have served to remove the smokescreen and expose the true state of affairs.

In that event, we would come back to you, the people, explain the position, and hold a referendum on whether we should accept the terms dictated by Spain or not, with the consequences that this would carry with it.



Indeed in terms of the future relations with the Spanish Government, it needs to be recalled that Spain itself will have a general election early next year and that a change of Government in Madrid might well bring about a change in the policy on dialogue or on the details of the Cordoba understandings, for example, whether a new Government in Spain would still want the Cervantes Institute here.

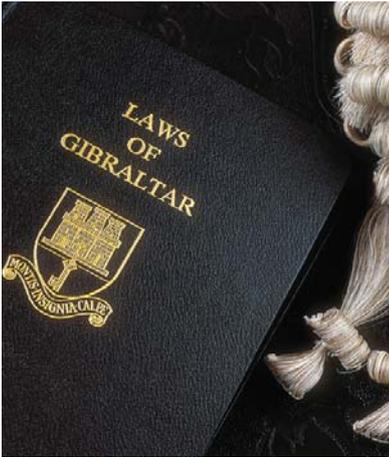
Our position on participation in the Forum is on the basis that its terms of reference are that it is a process of dialogue, **NOT NEGOTIATION**. We will therefore not finalise any tentative understandings without first explaining it fully in Gibraltar and holding a wide consultation process with other political parties and organisations.

...dialogue not negotiation.

Since nothing can be agreed without all three participants accepting the proposal, we would not proceed on any issue unless there was a clear consensus and a clear majority of support in Gibraltar in the consultation process.

The process was set up on the basis that it would consist of non-committal exploration, therefore participation in the Forum implies no binding prior agreement to any given agenda item.

We shall therefore proceed in consonance with the policy of empowering our people and giving everyone the opportunity to have a say before any decision is taken.



...concerned about law & order

A GSLP/Liberal Government will support our law enforcement agencies to ensure that Gibraltar remains a safe, peaceful place to live in. We repeat our pledge that there will be no return to the fast launch activity.

We are committed to repeal the Judicial Services Act and review the appointment of the Judicial Services Commission. Our view is that the head of the judiciary in Gibraltar should be the Chief Justice, as has always been the case, irrespective of who the post-holder may be. In order to ensure that the Judicial Services Commission is independent of the political Government, we are prepared to consider reviewing the nominations to it in full consultation with the judiciary, and take up the matter with the United Kingdom if necessary.

...so let us empower YOU!

says Liberal Leader Joseph Garcia

You will by now have looked through the policies that we set out in our manifesto. A central theme which runs through our programme is the concept of empowering people.

We want you to put us in Government so that we can return power back to you. Over the last decade the GSD have taken important decisions over which you have not been consulted and where you have had no say. This is wrong.

Government must be about involving people in the decisions that affect them.

We are committed to a series of policies which will give you, the people, the final say. For example, we spelt out in our approach to dialogue with Spain that the widest consultation will take place before anything is agreed. We are also committed to hold a referendum in the event that Spain should make any demands when we seek to engage them in constructive dialogue. We will also hold a consultative referendum in 2008 on the UN decolonisation options.

You, the people, will have the final say. If you make us your Government, you will be in control over important issues like these. Our programme for Government is inclusive and its appeal extends across the whole community.

So give us your ten votes and let us empower you!



Joe Bossano & Joseph Garcia: working together

DIRECT DEMOCRACY

There will be a system of direct democracy, whereby the Chief Minister will appear on television once a quarter to answer questions from the electorate.

The first session will be in February 2008.