



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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The press statement by the GSLP/Liberal Opposition in respect of the berthing of small boats at Watergardens, is yet another example of the Opposition's political hypocrisy.

It is rich for Dr Garcia to state that the Government is ignoring the needs and concerns of ordinary Gibraltarians, when referring to the boat owners at Watergardens, when it was the GSLP whilst in Government that moved small boats from the Camber to Western Beach on a "temporary" basis, to make room for a luxury development at Queensway Quay. This move condemned boat owners to the misery of having to suffer the consequences of having many of their boats sunk or damaged during adverse weather conditions, for many years.

It was the GSD when elected to Government in 1996, that undertook the project which currently exists at the Coaling Island basin, costing in excess of £1 million, with excellent facilities and protection from the elements for small boats.

It is shameful for the GSLP/Liberal Opposition to jump on the bandwagon of a few disgruntled individual boat owners and effectively encourage them, on an issue, about which they clearly do not know the facts or simply do not understand.

The Government wishes to make clear that the Watergardens small boat owners berthing facilities area has not been assigned to any private entity and therefore this is and will remain as a berthing facilities for small boats under Government control and managed by the Gibraltar Port Authority for the benefit of the community at large.

Moreover all those boat owners who have suffered the demise of the Western Beach berthing and whose boats are on the hard, or elsewhere, awaiting relocation will be reprovided with berthing facilities whenever this is possible.

The Government's policy continues to be to afford safe and proper berthing facilities to local boat owners.