



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR  
PRESS OFFICE  
No.6 Convent Place  
Gibraltar  
Tel: 20070071; Fax: 20074524**

**PRESS RELEASE**

No. 249/2008

Date. 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008

**Government repeats its statement of Political Involvement in Waterport Terraces Demonstration**

Last week the Government issued a press release in which it said that there was party political involvement in the Waterport Terraces demonstration planned for tomorrow at the Parliament. This has been denied. The Opposition chooses to distort the Government's statement by pretending that the Government said that the demonstration was "politically orchestrated" and accused the Government of paranoia.

The Government repeats its statement that there is political involvement by the GSLP and the PDP in the planned demonstration.

On 13 September Mr Louis Bruzon (GSLP activist, son of GSLP Shadow Housing Minister Charles Bruzon, and not a purchaser at Waterport Terraces) posted the following entry in facebook:

"Not that I should be putting my oar in here but I'll offer this anyway... It's a pity you never thought about protesting outside Parliament while it was in session... As Linda has said they are meeting next week. It could have been a good time to protest, especially considering the question that will be asked."  
(By Mr Bruzon's father in Parliament).

On the 8<sup>th</sup> October Mr Bruzon posted the following entry on facebook: "Just to let you know that the GSLP are supporting you and Party members will be attending on the day. Have you given thought to the idea of starting by the GRP officers and then moving to the House of Parliament?"

On 9<sup>th</sup> October the GSLP posted the following entry on facebook:

"GSLP will be supporting the Waterport Terraces demonstration and Party members will be attending on the day

Denials of political involvement are therefore simply untrue.

The Government, while regretting the delays in the construction, does not accept that the criticisms of the Government are fair or justified. The Government has, throughout done everything in its power to ensure the expeditious but sound progress of the construction. But the Government has no means of preventing delays by the contractor. This is true of all construction projects, and indeed has been true of almost all private sector residential projects as well. Yet the GSLP has not considered it necessary to speak out in support of purchasers delayed in those other projects.

Nor is it true, as some have falsely asserted, that GRP Investments has not communicated with buyers. There have been newsletters, numerous exchanges of emails and meetings with the Purchasers' Association. Statements to the contrary are thus manipulative and untrue. It is true that the Government has not been able to communicate an authoritative final completion date. But this is not because of a failure to communicate but rather because the information is simply outside the Government's control.

The Government will continue to ensure that Waterport Terraces is completed as soon as possible, but soundly and properly. The Government will continue to reject faulty works, even if this causes delay. The Government will not compromise quality for the sake of time. This will protect purchases from the fate suffered by purchasers in the first wave of home-ownership schemes under the GSLP Government.