



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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PRESS RELEASE

No: 223/2009

Date: 5th November 2009

The Government rejects Mr Bossano's criticism of the Chief Minister's speech on the occasion of the New Governor's Swearing-in in relation to the ex-Deputy Governor post. Given his record on the subject when he was Chief Minister, Mr Bossano does not make a credible or persuasive defence advocate for the now abolished office of Deputy Governor.

Mr Bossano is mistaken. The Chief Minister's statement that the office of Deputy Governor was abolished by the New Constitution and thus no longer exists, is not, as Mr Bossano wrongly says "a personal judgement or a personal interpretation" by the Chief Minister. The New Constitution specifically removed the sections in the old Constitution relating to the Office of Deputy Governor which was therefore abolished. Mr Bossano knows this because he participated in its specific negotiation and agreement as part of the Constitutional Delegation.

The Government does not share Mr Bossano's apparent view that this is an obsession, or unimportant, even though there are of course more important things.

Perhaps Mr Bossano's uncharacteristic enthusiasm to stand up for the ex-deputy Governor post is motivated by his obsession to minimise the effects and value of the very significant Constitutional Advancement achieved by Gibraltar under this Government, in order to oxygenate his obsession, which he shares with Spain, to tell everyone as often as possible that Gibraltar is still a colony.

Her Majesty the Queen's ability to suspend Overseas Territory Constitutions for corruption, as recently occurred in Turks & Caicos, or as nearly occurred in Gibraltar over the issue of fast launch smuggling when Mr Bossano was Chief Minister, does not indicate, as Mr Bossano says, that we are still a colony. It indicates that we are not a sovereign independent state, which is a fact. If Mr Bossano hankers for independence from Britain he should say so. If he does not, he should say what further Constitutional advancement he thinks we should try to make. Instead, all he does, as he did with his "Yes one minute, no the next" stance at the Referendum on the Constitution, and as he does at the United Nations, is to constantly undermine the Government, and with it, Gibraltar's position.