



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel:20070071; Fax: 20043057**

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Opposition and Sisarello statements on Workers Day are Untrue and Ridiculous

It is untrue for Jaime Netto, Luis Montiel, Daniel Feetham and Charles Sisarello to pretend that the Government's sponsorship of the 1st May Workers Day events is in anyway designed to exclude anyone.

The GSLP/Liberal Government, quite unlike the GSD Government, does not seek to control any union. It says a lot however, that simply by agreeing to the Trades Council's request (ie NOT Unite but also with the GGCA and the GTA/NASUWT) to co-sponsor the event, Messrs Netto, Feetham, Montiel and Sisarello believe that all other political parties are excluded from the event. That only evidences that the GSD Government would itself have required the exclusion of all others at any event it was sponsoring in the years they were in office.

In fact, as far as the Government is aware, the event on the 28th of April to commemorate Workers Memorial Day has seen MPs from all Parliamentary parties invited to it and the event on 1st May is a public event.

The fact of the matter is that it was the GSD when in Government that sought to control contact between unionists and other political parties and that the attempt to control unions was so blatant that it led to considerable unrest in the membership of more than one union. Moreover, there were times when officers of Unite were blatantly telling people to support the GSD, as became evident in an interview with the previous Chairman of the District Committee of Unite and in the attitude taken by other leading members of that union before the election. Indeed, the information available to the Government is that the previous administration's attitude was that trade unionists had to choose whether to work with the GSD Government or be in contact with the Opposition and have no access at all to Ministers.

In restoring the basic tenet of democracy that people have the Constitutional freedom to associate, the Government will not be requiring trade unionists to choose between it and the Opposition or other politicians.

In light of the reality set out above, the statements by Messrs Netto, Feetham, Montiel and Sisarello are actually rendered quite ridiculous by the weight of the facts contradicting them.

Everyone is welcome to the events organised by the Trades Council and those co-sponsored by the Government to commemorate Workers' Day on 1st May and invitees to the Unite event on 28th April are from across the political divide, including those of the GSD political party that ignored the call to commemorate the day whilst they were in government.