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DOES OPPOSITION WANT GOVERNMENT TO USE THE PLANNING PROCESS OR NOT?

With regard to the Grand Battery, the Opposition are accusing the current Government of a 'lack of political integrity' because, they claim, Government failed to use the planning process prior to the demolition of structures built during World War 2.

Such criticism is risible. This project was conceived by the previous GSD Government – a Government which never used the planning process for its own projects. Having been presented with this 'a priori' decision on Grand Battery, the current administration quickly ensured that all interested parties were informed of the decision and gave them the opportunity to comment on the proposed works.

'Unlike its predecessor, this Government has committed itself to ensuring that every one of its projects is being submitted to the Development and Planning Commission at this stage for guidance and advice,' said Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Joseph Garcia. 'We have also ensured that the Planning procedures are infinitely more open and transparent than ever they were before: indeed, we are pleased that in their Parliamentary Questions, they confirm that we do have a policy of openness and transparency.'

'The Opposition are now criticising us for failing to follow a course of action they do not believe in! It is completely contradictory for the Opposition to accept that the Grand Battery works were their project when in Government and then complain that the project did not follow a Planning process which they did not use.'