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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**RGP names new vessels after former Governors**

At a ceremony this morning, the Royal Gibraltar Police named their new interceptor vessels after two former Governors, Sir Francis Richards and Sir John Chapple. The two launches which were purchased in late 2011 from Safe Boat, a US company based in Seattle, Washington State, specialising in providing marine capability to the US Law Enforcement Agencies .

The Commissioner of Police, Eddie Yome, welcomed the many distinguished guests including HE the Governor, Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia and Justice Minister Gilbert Licudi to the ceremony and described the new vessels as a 'great asset' which would allow his officers, 'better to carry out their important role on the waters.'

After describing the two former Governors as distinguished servants of Gibraltar and, of course, of the Queen,' the Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo said that 'It had given him great pleasure to agree to the acquisition of the vessels. All our law-enforcement agencies should have the resources as befits the important job they do. The Government took great pride in taking this step to enhance the protection of our community.' He then thanked all RGP officers for the excellent job they carried out.

In naming one of the vessels, Sir John Chapple described it as 'A great honour.' It made him feel 'very humble' to see the vessel with his name on it.

Similarly, Sir Francis Richards, said that having an RGP vessel named after him meant 'An enormous amount. The relationship I had with the RGP was one of the happiest memories' from his time in Gibraltar.

After the two vessels had been blessed by Monsignor Paul Bear, the Commissioner of Police again thanked the many distinguished guests for attending the ceremony and announced that, in the near future, the RGP would be taking delivery of an even larger vessel which would further enhance the Force's sea-going capability.