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PRESS RELEASE

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Temporary workers hostel arrives by sea

A Floatel has arrived in Gibraltar today to be prepared for use as a worker's hostel. The vessel is not owned by the Government and is the responsibility of the vendors until such time as the Government decides to purchase it.

The Floatel, called Kalmar, was towed by a sea-going tug from Rotterdam, where it was previously berthed by the owners.

The Government is under no obligation to purchase until the vendor can prove all necessary inspections have been carried out and all documentation is in order.

The Floatel will be temporarily berthed at GibDock in order to carry out minor repairs.

The intention of the Government, after consultation with affected parties, is to moor the Floatel in the area of the Ferry Terminal and to use it as temporary accommodation to decant Moroccan workers.

It will be recalled that the previous administration entered into an agreement with the developers of Buena Vista to provide them with vacant possession of the hostel in that site by the summer of 2012. Unfortunately, no provision was made for the relocation of the workers who live there and the new Government came up with the use of a Floatel on an interim basis while a permanent solution is built.

A full inspection of the Floatel will be carried out by the Government once the repairs have been completed.