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It is a bit rich for Opposition to complain about housing

The continuing campaign by the GSD Opposition on housing issues is another glaring example of "do as I say and not as I do." It is well known that when the GSD were in Government it took them over a decade to embark on relevant housing projects and it is therefore a bit rich that they should now be pressing the existing Government to do something that they themselves failed to do when they were in power.

The Government has already said that the housing projects announced to date will cater for approximately 950 flats, about 140 of which have been earmarked for rental. The exact number will be known once the tenders have been awarded and the exact room composition is known. The Government have announced five housing projects and put three of them to tender in only 14 months. It took the GSD ten years to get to this position. Therefore their continuous nitpicking on these issue lacks any credibility.

More than that, the GSD went as far as announcing housing projects which then never materialised. In March 2003, the then GSD Government announced 150 flats for rental to people on the Government housing waiting list on two sites in Devil's Tower Road, principally on the site of the existing workers' hostel. This never materialised. The GSD also announced, in Government, that 200 affordable homes would be built by the developers of the Eastside project. This again failed to materialise.

It is evident that the now Opposition are not in a position to preach to anyone about housing. The flats that finally saw the light of day during their time in office were rushed through almost as an afterthought in the final years of their tenure. This explains why the housing waiting list grew by about 250% during that time.

The GSLP/Liberal Government have, in sharp contrast, made housing our people a top priority and to this end five housing schemes have been announced. The Government is still looking at other housing projects in order to increase the supply of homes for our people even further.