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Opposition have jumped to the wrong conclusion about Alameda Estate

It is nothing short of bare faced cheek for the GSD Opposition to complain about the state of some lifts in Alameda Estate as if this was not a legacy of their own time in office. They should exercise more caution and greater humility in their approach.

If they understand that things cannot be done overnight, then they should also understand that there are times when a prudent silence might do them good rather than making assumptions on the hoof which are then exposed as being incorrect.

The Government has been advised that a number of years ago, the GSD when in Government obtained quotes for the repair of the lifts in question including the replacement of the doors. However, in reality, the only repairs that were finally approved by them was the beautification of the inside of the lift cabins and the replacement of the emergency brake system, but unfortunately not the doors which were the cause of the problem.

The GSLP/Liberal Government has carried out repair works since the beginning of the year and these are still on-going. The replacement of the doors is scheduled to start this week as agreed. The repairs to date have resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of breakdowns and a further reduction is expected once the new doors are fitted.

The main problem at Alameda House had been the rain water ingress via the window openings in the common staircase landings. The rain accumulated and run down the stairs and ended up outside the lift doors eventually affecting the electrics depending on the volume of rain. The opening to both common staircases have now been enclosed with aluminium fixed louvers at the top and sliding windows at the bottom. The Government has also carried out work on the header tanks to ensure that any leaks or overflow is directed away from the lift shaft.

Moreover, the Opposition have jumped the gun with no knowledge of the facts because the completion of the refurbishment work in Alameda Estate has already been approved by the Government. It is therefore not the case that the Estate has been forgotten and very much the opposite is true. Indeed, it was under the previous administration that many issues relating to the estate were abandoned for very many years until virtually the last minute.

Instead of jumping to conclusions, the Opposition should wait until they are better informed about what will happen at the time of the second Budget of the GSLP/Liberal Government. The works are earmarked to start in the new financial year.