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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Major refurbishment of housing estates commences**

The Chief Minister Fabian Picardo and Housing Minister Paul Balban today signalled the commencement of refurbishment and lift-installation works in Glacis Estate, Laguna Estate and Moorish Castle Estate.

This is in accordance with the Government's manifesto commitment.

The Chief Minister viewed a sign-board in each estate with an artist's impression of each project which marks the site mobilisation of the works in Glacis, Laguna and Moorish Castle Estates. This follows a period of consultation with residents of each Estate.

The works will consist of a new mono-pitched roof to all low rise buildings, the re-cladding of the external elevations, window replacement, the provision of defined individual clothes drying areas and the installation of new lifts, where possible, within Moorish Castle and Laguna Estates.

The projects will spread out over approximately a three year period and result in the improvement of the characteristics of the buildings by way of providing improved sound proofing, thermal insulation and an increased quality of life to tenants.

Refurbishment work has already started in Varyl Begg Estate and has already been approved to restart in Alameda Estate.

The Chief Minister said:

"I am delighted to be able signal the start of the works in these three estates as promised by the GSLP/Liberals during the last general elections. This is a major manifesto commitment that the Government has started to give effect to today. The tenants in these estates are Government tenants and we take pride in improving the area for their benefit."

Further, the Minister for Traffic, Housing and Technical Services Paul Balban said:

“I am proud to be able to continue with the work started by my colleague and friend the late Charles Bruzon who was looking forward to and would have been delighted with the commencement of the projects. ”

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