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**Opposition double standards on parliamentary procedure and floating hotel**

The double-standards of the Opposition are evident once again in the attitude that they have adopted to the publication of information by the Government once a meeting of Parliament has been called.

Their view is that the Government should not publish information in statements or otherwise which may impact on a question that is to be answered in Parliament.

However, they have no difficulty in asking questions in public on issues which are already the subject of Parliamentary questions which they have previously just tabled themselves. This shows that they apply one set of standards to the Government and another set of standards to themselves by proceeding to do very much the same thing that they complain about.

The latest statement issued by the Opposition on the “Sunborn” floating hotel is an example of this attitude. In it the Opposition ask three questions. They want to know whether the project is a done deal, whether the environmental considerations are a done deal and whether any concerns of the local hotel industry are a done deal.

One of these questions has a considerable degree of overlap with a question that the Opposition has already tabled for answer in Parliament. Given this situation, the Government will therefore proceed to provide the answer in Parliament, as is right and proper.

It is relevant to the debate on double-standards to recall that the previous administration itself spent a considerable amount of time in discussions with an investor who was interested in bringing a floating hotel to Gibraltar, to the extent that the person concerned was interviewed on television about this project. The area that was considered then were several locations inside the port including the end of the Westview Park promenade next to the children’s play area in front of Harbour Views.

The original vessel, which was the subject matter of the discussions, was a luxurious five star ship and the project was stopped only after this was replaced by the operator with a lower category of vessel.

The Opposition, when in Government, were therefore not against the principle of a floating hotel berthing in Gibraltar and said publicly that they saw "value in the idea". The project did not materialise only because of the proposed vessel earmarked for it. There was no problem with the actual concept in itself. Indeed, as everybody knows, a floating hotel was subsequently brought to Gibraltar by the then Government for an international athletics event.