



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE
No 6 Convent Place
Gibraltar**

PRESS RELEASE

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INAUGURATION OF POLICE AUTHORITY PREMISES

Premises for the Gibraltar Police Authority, situated at 1 Casemates House, Casemates Square, will be officially inaugurated by Hon Daniel Feetham MP, Minister for Justice this evening. The premises will also house the Police Complaints Board.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the premises, the Minister for Justice said,

'The majority of modern police forces today are moving away from the traditional model of policing in favor of a policing model more oriented towards establishing a close working relationship with their communities. The Gibraltar Police Authority ("GPA") will help change the way people experience policing by helping to focus on the needs of the individuals and the community that receive and use police services without interfering with the operational functions of the RGP which remain, by the terms of the Police Act, vested in the Commissioner of Police. We believe that citizens must feel that the police and the criminal justice system put them first. The GPA will help achieve that.'

'The Government has been committed to providing the GPA with accommodation and this central location is ideal to provide the general public with access to it. I look forward to working with members of the GPA and on behalf of the Government I thank them for the hard work they have put into this.'

The Chairman of the Gibraltar Police Authority said,

'The Authority has applauded the move of the Government to appoint a Minister with responsibility for Justice. The members of the Authority look forward to working very closely with Mr Feetham to secure and maintain an efficient and effective police force for Gibraltar.'

'Since its creation in March 2007 the Authority has been busy setting up its working procedures to enable the Authority to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to the Police Act 2006. In this respect the Authority is grateful to the Government for the provision of premises and for the appointment of a full-time secretary. Members of the general public can now attend at the office'

during normal working hours on matters which fall under the remit of the Authority or the Police Complaints Board’.

To coincide with the inauguration of the premises, the GPA is launching its website www.gpa.gi. This includes information on the remit of the Police Authority, its members, the Authority’s publications and affords the general public with an opportunity to contact the Authority or to provide feedback.

Note to editors:

The premises will be inaugurated at 7 p.m. on 4th December 2007. The Press is invited to cover the event.