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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**THE GOVERNMENT IS 'IMPROVING GIBRALTAR LIKE THERE IS NO TOMORROW'**

It is clear that Daniel Feetham's GSD Opposition have decided to behave like a parrot repeating the same old tired mantra again and again without the faintest knowledge of what it is that they are talking about. They have failed to realise that their incessant repetition of the same boring old narrative is having little or no impact on the electorate.

In their latest attempt to impersonate a parrot, the Opposition yet again accuse the Government of 'spending like there is no tomorrow.' In fact, there is considerable truth in this accusation. The Government is spending money which our community can afford in order to improve the quality of life people in Gibraltar because that is what our manifesto says and what we were elected to do. The Government is NOT, as the GSD did whilst in power, spending £10m in a hole in the ground, £250,000 per public toilet or £80m on an airport which Spain can cherry pick and then decide not to use.

Since it came into office, the Government has carefully and prudently calibrated spending so that it initiated new housing developments at Mons Calpe Mews and Beach View Terraces, new flats for the elderly at Charles Bruzon House, the hugely-popular Commonwealth Park, new schools in the old St Bernard's Hospital building, plans for a new university, a new Dementia and Alzheimer's unit, road resurfacing, improved beaches, refurbished Government housing, a new marina for small boats, a sewage treatment works and a host of other improvements to the social fabric of the city. We are even completing some of their own manifesto commitments, like the runway tunnel! Some of these are not attractive or eye-catching, like the sewers investment, but they are essential, given the years without investment in these areas by the GSD. Those projects make the best social use of the money available to the Community. These are the right spending decisions based on the budget available. The GSD made the wrong budget decisions and thereby WASTED taxpayers' money as best exemplified by the £10m spent on the old Theatre Royal, probably the biggest amount of money ever thrown away by a Gibraltar Government.

Meanwhile Gibraltar's cultural life has also sensitively been transformed by the Government's promotion of the Music Festival, the Jazz Festival and the Literary Festival whilst our law enforcement agencies are better resourced now than they ever have been in the past.

It would have been easy for this Government not to have invested in a better tomorrow. It could have just hoarded money and watched the subsequent growth of our Reserves - but that is not the style of this Government.

Instead, we have done both. We have spent where necessary and saved, so that usable cash reserves will total around £96m as set out in the approved estimates of revenue and expenditure 2014, up from £2m at the time the GSD left office. We have also seen the cash reserves of the Savings Bank increase from £2,000 (two thousand pounds only) at the time the GSD left office to almost £20m.

So, instead of accusing the Government of 'spending like there is no tomorrow,' it might be more accurate to say that this Government is 'improving Gibraltar like there is no tomorrow.'

And it will continue – the contract for a new power station will be signed shortly and we intend to give effect to other projects in our manifesto.

Moreover, this Government has a major manifesto commitment to halve the current level of gross debt during its time in office. This commitment is in no danger of being broken – no matter what the Leader of the Opposition might have to say on the matter.

The reality is that people can see how this Government has transformed Gibraltar for the better in just under three years. No matter how negative and how repetitive the Opposition want to be, they just cannot get away from that.

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, said, "I ask that people judge us on our actions and performance by the end of this parliamentary term. Then they will see that Mr Feetham's scaremongering had no basis in fact. Sir Peter Caruana has set the record straight in Parliament and agreed his Government would have had to increase borrowing even further if he had been elected in order to deliver the GSD manifesto. The war of words Daniel Feetham wants to engage ignores Sir Peter's clear position and is monotonous repetition of his untrue mantra, as well as not being of any help to Gib Plc, and when the chips are down and the financial performance of my Government is assessed before the next election, the people will see Daniel Feetham was all talk, repeatedly crying wolf, trying to worry everyone and talk Gibraltar down. Then is when the truth will be clear for all to see. Until then I guess we will have to continue hearing Danny play the Prophet of Doom week after week. It is no wonder more and more people are turning away from his negative style of politics."