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Illogical & Contradictory Statements from Daniel Feetham Sink the GSD

The leader of the Opposition is really making a laughing stock of himself and his party by the lack of logic and huge contradictions he is pursuing in his "say anything, however ridiculous" political style.

In relation to the regulation of fishing, Mr Feetham is quoted as saying that "the present situation is unsustainable as the ban against fishing with nets is only being enforced against locals and not Spanish Fishermen."

In fact, however, and as everyone knows, that was exactly the position when Mr Feetham was in Government as Minister for Justice with specific responsibility for the Rule of Law. That discriminatory situation between locals and Spanish fishermen is exactly what the infamous "fishing agreement" done by Sir Peter Caruana perpetuated. For that reason, Mr Feetham is criticising that which was occurring on his watch and even before under the provisions of the discredited fishing agreement. Even now Mr Feetham promotes and defends the infamous fishing agreement, which is inherently in contradiction with his apparent affront at the difference in treatment between locals and Spaniards. Mr Feetham's position is therefore transparently illogical.

In relation to whether the GSLP and the Liberal Party would ever contradict each other on Viewpoint, Mr Feetham is quoted as saying: "...It is near impossible to envisage circumstances where a Liberal Party representative (whether elected or not elected) will ever express a different view to that of a GSLP representative..."

In fact, however, as recently as May this year the GSLP and the Liberal Party attended a Viewpoint debate and defended different positions in relation to the candidates they each backed in the European Parliamentary Election.

In relation to debt, Mr Feetham suggests that the situation is perilous now that gross debt is at £450m, even though usable cash reserves are predicted to climb to close to £100m by the end of the financial year.

In fact, however, gross debt under the GSD had reached over £520m, usable cash reserves were down to £2m by the end of their final financial year in office. Sir Peter Caruana has himself admitted that the GSD, if returned to office would have borrowed even more to deliver the commitments in their 2011 manifesto.

In relation to the political debate generally, Mr Feetham criticises the Government for "personalising the debate."

However, in just the past seven days, Mr Feetham and other executive members of the GSD have called the Chief Minister "a control freak", "arrogant" and accused him of "interfering with the freedom of the press" and running Gibraltar "as a police state". Mr Feetham and some of his fellow GSD Executive members need to ask themselves if they are therefore the ones "personalising the debate."

With so many contradictions and such a lack of logic in every public statement he makes, it's little wonder so many people who previously supported the GSD under Mr Caruana are deserting that party in droves. Mr Feetham appears to say one thing and do another. He criticises things that were the policy and practice of the GSD before the election and which he previously defended. People can see through such blatant opportunism. There must no doubt be some very embarrassed members of the GSD Executive who can see how illogical so many of the party's statements are and how they expose Mr Feetham and the GSD to ridicule.

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, said: "The Government is working hard to ensure we improve Gibraltar like there is no tomorrow. We are delivering on the big issues that matter to the Nation as a whole and on the small matters that are of concern to individual citizens in our Community. We have done a lot already and we have a lot to do. We will not be distracted from continuing to deliver for the whole of Gibraltar. That's what matters to our people; not the Punch & Judy show Mr Feetham seems to be auditioning for every morning on the front pages of our newspapers!"