



PRESS RELEASE

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Opposition failed to improve the electricity distribution network

The Opposition have shot themselves in the foot once again by linking today's power cut to a new power station. They have still failed to understand that the power outage resulted from a fire in the distribution network and not from a lack of generating capacity.

The Government has explained time and again that Gibraltar's creaking distribution network has suffered from years of neglect and under-investment during the sixteen years that the GSD were in Government. This is a position that the new Government set out to correct by approving the funding for an overhaul of the network which has now started and is taking place in stages.

In 1999 the Manx Report warned the GSD that Waterport Power station was on its last legs and needed to be replaced by 2010.

In 2005 a report submitted to the previous administration warned about the need to improve and reinforce the electrical distribution network.

In 2007 a further report again warned the GSD that very little consideration was being given to the deficient distribution network and that this made power outages and disruptions highly likely.

It is incredible that the Opposition should refer to mandates from the electorate when they were the ones who had secretly agreed to increase the price of electricity to the consumer by over 100% and they went to an election in 2011 and said nothing. This was discovered by the incoming Government after we won the election. It was not the only surprise.

Moreover, it was the Opposition who put their plans for a grand air terminal and a new theatre before the best interests of Gibraltar from 1996 until 2011 when what they should have done is provide a new power station and improve the creaking infrastructure. They failed Gibraltar on this issue and are now trying to airbrush this responsibility away.