



PRESS RELEASE

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Date: 20th March 2015

Motion Date Relates to Important Legislation: "Feetham should be less paranoid."

The paranoid statements from Daniel Feetham about the fact that his motion will be debated on the 30th March show how little he knows about Parliamentary procedure.

The adjournment of the Parliament to that date has come about entirely as a result of the need for Education Minister Hon Gilbert Licudi QC MP to take the University of Gibraltar Bill, which cannot be taken until after the 25th March. The Bill could only have been taken before that date on the Chief Minister certifying that the Bill was urgent. Mr Licudi spoke to Mr Feetham to try to agree this but Mr Feetham indicated he did not believe that there were grounds for urgency. Because the Minister for Education will be travelling next week until the 29th March, the Bill cannot be proceeded with until the 30th March and Parliament has therefore been adjourned to that date. Opposition motions are dealt with at the end of the Parliamentary agenda, after Bills and Government Motions have been disposed of.

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, said: "The Government is very much looking forward to debating Mr Feetham's motion. But he needs to be less paranoid about the reasons for the date set for the debate and wake up and realise that he does not set the agenda of Parliament, the Government does. So perhaps Mr Feetham should make fewer jibes and issue fewer press releases asserting his theories on why his motion is going to be debated when it is and he should concentrate on how he is going to justify having so obviously misled Parliament yesterday, which will be the subject of the first motion to be debated when Parliament returns. That Government motion is a very important one, demonstrating he has lied to Parliament, and the fact we will take it on that date demonstrates that we are not trying to have the debate when few people are watching. We expect many will want to see how Mr Feetham tries to wriggle off the hook he has made for himself by having misled Parliament as he tried to do yesterday."