

VOTE A NEW WAY PDP A FRESH START

As we approach the end of the third term of the GSD government, you the electorate will be faced with a choice of voting for more of the same namely Peter Caruana's GSD, voting for a return to the past namely Joe Bossano's GSLP or voting for the future namely the PDP. Whilst both elected parties have had their moments we believe the GSD is stale, lacking in vision and on a number of occasions has shown an arrogant decision-making style. The GSLP is currently the same animal, which you the electorate have rejected in repeated elections.

Some may well disagree and feel that the GSD or the GSLP offer a positive solution. We respect your views and appreciate your desire to try and return your preferred party to Government that after all is what democracy is about. However there will be many who vote not on the basis of a positive vote for the future but rather on a negative vote of who you prefer to keep out. What could be called "better the devil you know vote".

Many people have found our radical policies which have set out how we should govern ourselves maturely and fairly,



VOTE POSITIVELY
Nick Cruz
PDP Executive Member

captivating and progressive. Many recognise the benefit that our policies on planning ahead in the fields of housing, the environment, traffic, planning, tourism and health could bring. Many people tell us that during our brief existence since the 7th June 2006 the things we say and the manner in which we say them more closely reflect the way they feel or think. We describe this as a "New Way" of politics and despite the fancy label (which I hope you will

forgive us for) it is not rocket science, it is simply common sense which is why you can relate to it. We are told by many people that if they felt we could reach Government they would vote for all PDP candidates, but they fear that a vote for us may let the party they most fear or dislike into power instead. The suggestion is that although you agree with us a vote for us may be a wasted vote. Some simply suggest that it might even be better not to vote.

We firmly believe however that though your concerns are understandable, a negative vote is exactly that and does nothing to bring to the fore a fresh view on all areas of policy that touch our every day life. If you vote for the past or for the present that this is

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VOTE POSITIVELY

KEITH AZOPARDI
PDP LEADER

"We are now very near the election and all parties will be putting their ideas to you.

This newsletter is another in the series by which we are trying to explain our ideas for Gibraltar. I ask that you judge it against all that you hear from the other Parties.



At the coming election it is important that people vote positively and select who they want to steer Gibraltar in coming years and not simply to keep somebody

else out. That point has been made by my colleague Nick Cruz already in the lead article of this newsletter.

Of course we can only carry these plans out if we are elected to Government so I ask that you look at what we offer and hope that you will support us in the months and years ahead".

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exactly what you will get. We ask you all instead to vote for that New Way, vote for common sense, vote positively. If you still have these understandable reservations and ultimately decide to vote for the current elected parties whether it is because you think they will be the best option or simply a 'better the devil you know' vote, we would ask

you to remember that in this election you have ten votes but that a Party only needs to get 9 candidates elected to have a majority in the new Parliament of 17 seats. You have a spare vote to use in the best way you think without risking anything and if you can relate to our message, then you can still safely cast one or more votes for the PDP this election, even if you feel unable to give us all. Use your extra votes wisely. Remember you have ten votes not eight. The PDP can be your voice for the future.

Help to ensure that whoever governs Gibraltar will do so with a common sense view and with an approach that keeps Gibraltar at the forefront.. A vote for the Progressive Democratic Party is a positive vote for the future. A vote for the PDP is a vote for a Fresh Start, even if it is only a first step in the right direction.

BETTER HEALTH FOR GIBRALTAR

The people of Gibraltar deserve a quality health care. Undoubtedly there has been investment in infrastructure over the last decade but the bulk of changes that the GSD Government take credit for were actually steered by PDP leader Keith Azopardi during his time in Government. We know what needs to be done to improve our health service and we can restore the confidence of our staff.

Gibraltar's healthcare now needs to be taken to a new level of improvement and the PDP are the Party with the ideas and vision to do it.

Staff morale is low. There is much discontent with a small handful of imported managers and the lack of communication fostered between medical and nursing professionals and managers. Our citizens are highly taxed and have the right to expect a service that responds to our needs as a community.

Very soon the PDP will be announcing a set of policies to improve our healthcare system and integrate it more efficiently with other services.

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HOUSING NEEDS ARE NOT BEING MET

There are still many people in Gibraltar suffering in bad housing conditions and not getting their housing needs dealt with. There are many that cannot afford to buy at the inflated prices of the current market. The Government is still failing to



one of the many derelict sites in the Upper Town area.

provide solutions for these individuals and families.

Gibraltar has historically suffered from a lack of decent housing for our people. In recent years we have experienced a surge of home ownership with the advent of the

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BETTER HEALTH FOR GIBRALTAR

Our people deserve better health and this is a key target of the PDP. The plans we will publish will build on the work so far and aim to deliver improvements in quality that all our citizens can benefit from.

GSLP's 50/50 scheme and a rise in sales of other properties which were previously static, as well as the increase of sales in private developments. A demand driven market has created an increase in prices to an unprecedented high. Whilst this may be great for our economy, it is not so great for those whose pockets are not quite that deep.

At the same time, we have a growing population with rental housing needs, not all of whom can afford to buy their own home even on a shared home ownership scheme. This coupled with Government's abject failure to build any new rental flats in the whole of their 11 year term of office, is totally unacceptable. Why should our people have to move to Spain to find decent homes?

We read in the press now that Government are planning to build these long awaited flats together with parking spaces for each, as well as a school in the mid-harbour reclamation area. This is excellent news and we truly hope this will be a huge success. However, if these turn out to be more manifesto promises as has happened previously, our people will be left wanting. We have already - from Opposition - announced exciting plans to provide several hundred houses for rental as part of our New Town Project.



*Rosemarie Peach
PDP Executive Member*

Additionally, we now have the announcement of the sale of rental flats to tenants at a "reduced" cost. One cannot help but wonder why a deadline has already been set for November, without the results of the "test cases" mentioned in Government's housing budget speech having even been analysed or discussed publicly. There is no indication as to whether this scheme would be taken up by the majority of tenants, nor are these tenants (or anyone else for that matter) aware of how the general maintenance of their flats and common areas would be paid for. Is this another hidden burden on the taxpayer? Why the rush? Are Government now having a pique of conscience that not enough has been done during their three terms of office and it's a race to ensure that they now please as many people as possible prior to the forthcoming elections?

The Progressive Democratic Party has the vision to provide what our people need. We can only deliver these if we are elected to Government. The PDP would ensure that these needs were met as a priority and not as a last ditch attempt to secure re-election.

A "GREEN" BUILT ENVIRONMENT



When you sit in your car almost inevitably stopped and look out at the immense concrete that looks back at you, you are entitled to ask what's happening? What's gone wrong? The PDP believe it's the entire disregard for proper planning by this Government.

The new Gibraltar Development Plan will need to address a series of core issues such as the current chaotic traffic situation, poorly planned developments, avoiding "concrete jungles" and noise nuisance. Additionally, the PDP believes that care and attention for our environment also needs to be fully incorporated within the Plan.

The construction industry is probably Gibraltar's single largest polluting industry. Carbon emissions are produced during the manufacture and transportation of building materials, during the construction process, and crucially too,

during the entire life span of the building (through heating, cooling and lighting costs). "Environmentally Friendly Design" of the highest standards has to be encouraged so that buildings are designed well above the minimum standard practice. Ideally, new developments should incorporate green roofs, solar panels,

triple glazing, water recycling and natural ventilation.

However, to begin with, we believe that our minimum, legal requirements need to be drastically raised so that excellence in this field becomes the norm. A PDP Government will ensure that all new buildings meet modern European standards of Environmentally Friendly Design.

The new Gibraltar Development Plan has to offer tools for proactive use, by providing guidelines, ideas and encouragement to developers and designers interested in developing quality buildings through better environmental design - which will be one of the central aims of a PDP Government. Under a PDP Government you hopefully will look out of your moving car and breath, feel and see not just concrete but green areas and space.

TRAFFIC

The Progressive Democratic Party are totally committed to producing and implementing a comprehensive, co-ordinated traffic plan to deal with a situation on our roads that at times has been so chaotic that Gibraltar has experienced total gridlock, a situation that is sadly becoming more commonplace in Gibraltar. The present administration is neither tackling the situation, nor initiating any co-ordinated plan to improve it in the near future.



*Gigi Sené
PDP Executive Member*

The increased traffic flow is partly due to the volume of cars, commercial and heavy vehicles entering and leaving Gibraltar on a daily basis, partly to the

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INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

Many are concerned by the levels of anti-social behaviour amongst young people in our community. Reducing anti social behaviour is therefore a vital part of improving the quality of life of our citizens. Our youth are our future and therefore deserve the investment in time, money and resources that will safeguard Gibraltar's future society.

Our youth's free time can either be the Prime Time for Anti-Social Behaviour or the Prime Time for Youth Enrichment and Achievement. To achieve the latter a PDP government would:

- * Via quality programmes prevent anti-social behaviour and teach skills and values. These extra curricula activities would amongst other things allow youngsters the opportunities to take part in community projects such as Youth Bands, Army Cadets, Police Cadets and Fire Cadets etc.
- * Meet the training needs for the delivery of these quality programmes and increase the compliment of youth workers if necessary.
- * Ensure that our youth have supervised activities— without supervision youngsters are more likely to become involved in anti-social behaviour.
- * Endeavour to provide activities and resources to deliver these high qualities programmes for e.g.: A library, computers, arts/

music room, multi-use games areas, skate park etc...

- * Strive to include sports in these quality programmes e.g. by extending the concept of Summer Sports throughout the year.

"Prime Time for Anti-Social Behaviour or the Prime Time for Youth Enrichment and Achievement."

Indirectly sports can have an impact by providing challenge and adventure, and by giving meaning and a sense of purpose to young people's lives. Sports have been known to divert offenders and young people at risk away from anti-social behaviour.

- * Pledge to open our four Youth Clubs every day, including weekends to deliver these quality programmes.
- * Provide advice and counselling services within the youth clubs. Work closely with social services and include parenting skills for social cases and those struggling with child rearing.
- * Aim at providing an effective strategy to reduce bullying. A youngster who bullies is more likely to engage in other negative behaviour.
- * Tackle with increased vigour the drink and drugs problem amongst young people e.g. by changing the laws controlling the consumption of alcohol from 16 years to 18 years
- * Focus on the educational needs of the less able pupils by



Moira Walsh
PDP Executive Member

providing a vocational route earlier on, at secondary level. Pupils are less likely to become disaffected if their needs are met, resulting in fewer problems with anti-social behaviour, truancy, etc...

- * Make sure that our youth become involved in community work because they need opportunities to be successful and civic minded. A community youth development scheme means shifting away from just concentrating on problems, towards concentrating on strengths, competencies and enjoyment in self -development and community development. Community programmes, were part of the youth service in Gibraltar up until 2001. Reinstating these would be a priority.
- * Create more opportunities to liaise with youth groups. The Youth Advisory Council would be convened on a much more regular basis.
- * Try by all means to reinstate the Youth Exchange Programme, especially since EU funding is available.

The Progressive Democratic Party is fully aware that investing in Youth Programmes is investing in the future of our society and in government would aim to target the needs of our youth.

PDP TO LOWER CORPORATE AND PERSONAL TAX - THE WAY AHEAD TO FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH

A PDP government will deliver improvement in Gibraltar's economic management by focusing on meaningful and continued consultation, strategic planning, and investment in substantial physical and legislative infrastructure.

We all recognise that our economy like all modern and free democracy is private sector driven not Government lead. Government must listen to the private sector. A PDP Government would ensure that meaningful and sustained consultation became not just sensible and good practice but the norm.

Like any business the management of Gibraltar's economy cannot realize its full potential without short, medium and long term planning. Reactionary or whimsical planning causes problems to business and Government alike and should be avoided. A PDP Government would ensure that Strategic Economic Plans were regularly made in consultation with all relevant parties and adhered to unless circumstances changed. A level playing field where all are consulted and aware of the long-term objective is not only fair but is also sensible.

The PDP see the development of Gibraltar's finance centre, its Tourism and Leisure industry, its

Nick Cruz
PDP Executive Member

port activities, and development of the e-commerce opportunities as central to Gibraltar's economic success. The PDP are clear on what is required to create fertile ground for all these areas of our economy. The Party's plans for Tourism and Heritage will form part of a separate policy announcement.

For business and specifically new business to prosper the physical infrastructure must exist. We all recognize Gibraltar's immediate physical limitations. A PDP Government (post an environmental impact study and widespread consultation) would take steps to overcome these in a realistic, practical and immediate way through an ambitious land reclamation project, which would see in excess of 4 sq km being reclaimed and zoned.

The proposed reclamation on the eastern side of the Rock would be divided into several Zones including; Zone 1 "Residential New Town" Zone 2 "Tourism and Leisure" Zone 3 "Commercial".

A PDP government would invest in the building of a centralized Business Centre that would encompass all government departments (and quasi govern-

ment departments) relevant to business activity. The clear objective of the Gibraltar Business Centre would be to facilitate business procedures and coupled with review of the bureaucratic process currently suffered by business it will deliver a one-stop fluid business

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TRAFFIC

proliferation of construction sites and partly from the expanded use of the airport. The Government is failing in their duty to the public to provide interim solutions to alleviate these problems in the short term especially since the planned infrastructure works to the frontier/Airport/Devils Tower Road area are soon to be commenced.

The seemingly uncontrolled proliferation of construction work all over Gibraltar is due to a lack of co-ordinated planning on the part of the current Government. Until such a time as we vote in a government with a true willingness to put in place a structured and cohesive plan and the vision and drive to implement it, we will continue to suffer the consequences in our daily lives. The PDP given the opportunity, have the commitment to provide you with that government.

ENVIRONMENT

One of the biggest hurdles to overcome when attempting to further enhance the quality of our immediate environment is changing the outlook, perception and attitudes that the local community harbours towards this issue. A fresh start in overcoming such hurdles is for Governments to lead by example and change their laid back attitude towards our rapidly decaying environment. It is essential for the Government to lead in the introduction, implementation and compliance with environmental initiatives. These can then be extended to the private and residential sectors with greater ease. A variety of measures are needed ranging from strategic vision and leadership, energy conservation in the workplace, greater environmental awareness and the use of recyclables.

The four pillars of Education, Consultation, Research and Monitoring are also very important to sustain environmental awareness, lessen and control pollution as well as analysing how pollution emanating from Spain affects us. Again in this field the Progressive Democratic Party would - together with relevant professionals in the fields of education and research - and after due consultation with NGOs, introduce a number of measures to boost the work currently being done in these areas.

The PDP has been developing its environmental policies with the same degree of conviction as it has done in other areas of policy such as social and economic reform. Furthermore, our environmental policies have been designed in parallel with other reforms in an attempt to provoke a mutually beneficial relationship between the environment and the mechanics and outcomes of our other policies. We will endeavour to obtain external funding whenever possible to achieve the following objectives; (A) An improved and modernized public transport system including cycle paths, cycle racks, green lanes and the introduction of a pilot study to investigate the possible future use of public-use bicycles. (B) Energy saving projects such as the use of energy saving

light bulbs and motion sensors in all Government buildings as well as the potential introduction of solar powered street lighting. (C) Developing more green areas and the green roofing of new building projects to further beautify Gibraltar as well as help minimise heat islands and actively trap ambient particulate pollution. (D) Update Gibraltar's building regulations so that all developments adopt an acceptable level of environmentally friendly design aimed at reducing carbon emissions.



*Dr Gavin Gafan
PDP Executive Member*

The above-mentioned summarised examples include a few of our targets and visions regarding the protection of Gibraltar's environment and our contribution towards minimising climate change. The international community has been made aware of the dangers our world faces as a result of our previous and ongoing environmental neglect. The environment can no longer be viewed as a political vanity to be used as a vehicle for securing votes. Immediate and effective solutions must be put into place to help reduce pollution within and around Gibraltar in order to minimize their impact on our health, ecology, economy and international climate change.

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PDP To Lower Corporate...
support system.

Physical Infrastructure is not enough. Our current laws must be stripped of any bureaucratic characteristics that simply add cost and delay business.

On tax the PDP recognise that the Finance and Gaming industries and all commerce and business generally provide enormous benefit to Gibraltar (by providing jobs and paying tax) and require a good low tax environment for both

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PDP To Lower Corporate...

companies and individuals if Gibraltar is to encourage foreign investment and the continued presence of international companies. Equally Gibraltar's people are too highly taxed and the job of Government is to return as much money as possible to its people.

The PDP's tax objectives are to lower personal income tax to a net 20p in the pound and set a competitive corporate tax rate of 10% that works for business. As can be seen from the last budget the GSD has failed to deliver any vision that provides certainty to the finance centre and a competitive tax system in the context of other well regulated EU finance centres.

The PDP are confident that its proposals are not only feasible but that the increased business that would result from reducing tax would result in a higher tax revenue that can be used to meet the PDP's social agenda. Dublin Ireland, Isle of Man and several others have all experienced increased economic growth and resulting overall tax revenue following a drastic reduction in rates of taxation. This must be combined with more efficient ways of collecting tax arrears.

TOURISM

The PDP are proud of Gibraltar, not just of her people but also of her history, her diverse environment and her natural and majestic beauty. We feel that both the GSLP and the GSD have failed miserably to realise the potential Gibraltar has to offer. The fact that we have 8 million visitors on average every year is testimony to Gibraltar's charm, history and natural beauty and certainly not to good management by either this or the previous government.

Gibraltar desperately needs a proper strategic plan that allows both tourists and locals to make the most of and marvel at the natural environment and physical history that surrounds us.

A PDP Government has a clear vision of Gibraltar's potential and in consultation with all relevant parties would develop a plan that would create the sort of environment that would attract tourists to Gibraltar and make their experience here one which they would remember

Rosemarie Peach
PDP Executive Member

and keep them coming back. A new museum, an upgrading of all our tourist sites to include talking tours, a sophisticated heritage experience using our military history, more and better hotels, bigger and cleaner beaches, a better shopping experience, a clean and user friendly Nature Reserve, a real marine tourism product and recreational facilities all focussed on attracting tourists and residents alike.

A PDP Government would ensure the right balance of public and private participation to develop Gibraltar into a tourist destination, not just for the day but for longer stay holidays. A PDP Government would, by careful and innovative planning ensure less congestion and air pollution to ensure that an improved tourist product comes hand in hand with a better quality of life for Gibraltarians as well as our guests.

JOIN THE PDP NOW



WORKING TOGETHER
FOR THE FUTURE
YOU DESERVE

Name.....

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