

GSLP / LIBERAL

General Election Manifesto 2003



OUR CONTRACT WITH GIBRALTAR



SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED BY THE GSLP / LIBERALS

OUR CONTRACT TO IMPROVE:

Housing

Education

Social Affairs

Senior Citizens

Medical Services

Employment

The economy

The business community

Tourism and Transport

Foreign Affairs

Youth, Sport and the Environment

Vote for progress and prosperity

The decision we take together when we go to the polls is about more than electing 15 members to our parliament, the House of Assembly.

It is about giving the eight votes to the team that will be the new government on November 28th. It is about choosing the team that will be answerable for putting into effect the programme that Gibraltar needs over the next four years.

Others may be presenting to you initiatives copied from us (from this and earlier campaigns) and which they have previously criticised. We are pleased that our policies are being copied. Yet, we are still the only ones that give you specific target dates for you to hold us to.

That is accountability.

Everything in this manifesto can and will be delivered, within the next four years. For the benefit of our people and our community. That is our binding contract with you, the electorate: to deliver on all our commitments in exchange for the confidence you deposit in us by trusting us with your eight votes and making us your government on the 28th November.

This programme has been carefully thought through and costed. It builds on and updates the commitments we gave you in the 2000 Election.

The key to Gibraltar's success can only be a dynamic, growing economy. This will enable us to open up opportunities for a new generation of Gibraltarians in employment, prosperity and housing and to reward our senior citizens by providing them with the security and

peace of mind they deserve.

We are the only ones that can do that.

In this context, the Spanish question is no longer on the agenda. As far as we are concerned, our people have made it crystal clear that they do not want our country's sovereignty discussed with Spain and that is the end of the matter.



We would be happy to co-operate with our neighbour for mutual benefit as long as there are no sovereignty implications. There is unfortunately no indication that there

is any interest on the part of the Spanish government in any such cooperation.

We must, therefore, now concentrate on getting our economy moving again and addressing the domestic issues that matter. We will do this by implementing a comprehensive programme that will generate the wealth to pay for the progress and prosperity we spell out in the pages that follow.

We are the only alternative to another four years of GSD government which will again consist of little more than your money being spent on publicity and window dressing whilst the basic elements of our cohesion as a people (health care, housing and priority in jobs) remain neglected.

You can use your 8 votes in block to elect us to form the new government that Gibraltar needs. Anything else is a wasted vote.

On November 27th the decision is in your hands. Make it happen. Vote GSLP / Liberals.

Joe Bossano

750 new housing units



✓ DERELICT HOUSES

The 750 new houses will be in addition to the houses that will become available from the refurbishment of existing derelict property.

✓ RATES REDUCTION FOR HOMES

We are committed to introducing a rates reduction of 20% for residential rates that are paid on time. This will apply to both rented and owner-occupied premises. The discount will be back-dated to 1998 when the same benefit was given to the business community. The reduced poundage given to businesses will also apply to residential premises.

✓ RELEASE OF EMPTY FLATS

The release of empty Government flats to persons on the housing waiting list will be given priority and completed within 18 months.

✓ SALE AND MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT FLATS

The Government will give sympathetic consideration to any request for the sale of a Government flat to an existing tenant. We will complete the programme of refurbishment, beautification and lift installation where possible on existing Government estates.

✓ TAX BREAK FOR HOME OWNERS

In 2000 we promised a £1000 a year increase in the tax allowance for home owners to reach £14,000. The GSD has copied and partly implemented our policy, just before this election. The allowance now stands at £12,000, which is £2000 less than if we had been elected. We now commit ourselves, as from 1 July 2004, to increase the level of tax allowance for home owners to £1500 a year to reach £18,000 over the next four years. This will apply to all home owners who will be able to claim the balance for the amount remaining as well as to new home owners who will be eligible for the full amount.

✓ EDINBURGH HOUSE RENTS DOWN

A GSLP/Liberal Government will honour the manifesto commitment made in 2000 to lower the rents for tenants of Edinburgh House in line with the rentals of buildings of a similar age in Gibraltar like Laguna Estate.

✓ NO INCREASE IN RENT OR UTILITIES

There will be no increase in the cost of Government rented housing over the next term of office. We restate our commitment that the cost of water and electricity will not be increased in the next four year term of office.

built by 2007

√ 750 NEW HOUSES FOR ALL

A GSLP/Liberal Government is fully committed to constructing 750 new housing units for rental and home-ownership. The home-ownership will include 50/50 purchase and 100% interest free means tested mortgages. The average price of a flat on 50/50 will be £66,000 of which the Government will fund £33,000.

This will include specially designed flats for our senior citizens and for disabled persons.

We will make an immediate start in 2004 on the construction of these new houses for the local market and deliver the 750 units by 2008.



*“The GSD
have not laid
a brick in
eight years!”*

√ HARBOUR VIEWS & MONTAGU GARDENS

We will liaise with the management committees of these estates to assess the viability of extending the existing lifts down to the level of the garages. A GSLP/Liberal Government will fund these alterations.

√ EASTSIDE RECLAMATION

We will ensure that part of the extended East Side Reclamation project which we deliver includes provision for affordable housing for further 50/50 schemes.



Our contract on education

✓ **FREE NURSERY EDUCATION**

A GSLP/Liberal Government will provide free optional nursery education for all children. Private nurseries have been, and will continue to be consulted in order to be part of this scheme.

✓ **MINISTER FOR EDUCATION & YOUTH**

A GSLP/Liberal Government will return responsibility for youth back to the Minister for Education, after the GSD combined it with the environment, public services and sport.

✓ **PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT**

In the House of Assembly we have urged the GSD to set up a pupil referral unit. They have failed to do so. A GSLP/Liberal Government will set up such a unit in order to deal with children with behavioural difficulties.

✓ **SPECIAL NEEDS INCLUSION**

We have been critical of the poor resources that the GSD have provided for special needs children in our schools. We agree with an inclusion policy but not with the way they have gone about it. More resources will be provided as needed.

✓ **VOCATIONAL TRAINING GRANTS**

School leavers who do not wish to study in the UK can choose, if they so wish, to have vocational training in Gibraltar, and will receive a Government grant in that period.

✓ **NO PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION**

Parental contributions for student grants will be discontinued. The present maximum maintenance grant for students will be extended to all.

✓ **SCHOLARSHIP FUND INCREASE**

In order to meet our commitments, the budget of the scholarship fund, which currently stands at £ 3 million, would be increased by £ 1 million to £ 4 million.

✓ **SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS**

All students studying in the United Kingdom who want to take up the offer, will be guaranteed eight weeks of employment with the Gibraltar Government by the GSLP/Liberals. Each student will be individually contacted so that they can express a preference for an eight week period from June to September.

✓ **AUTOMATIC GRANT FOR POSTGRADUATES**

At present the allocation of grants for persons interested in taking a second degree is discretionary. A GSLP/Liberal Government will make this mandatory which means that those finding a place at a university in the United Kingdom will be able to go and study with a Government grant. This will not be means tested and there will be no parental contribution.

✓ **GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT**

Graduates who are not interested in further studies will be offered a post, if they want it, as a research assistant with the Gibraltar Development Cooperation for three years. The salary rates will be on a par with respective rates of pay in the United Kingdom.

THE UNIVERSITY OF GIBRALTAR

We have been committed for years to the expansion of the College of Further Education. This will be started in 2004 with a view to expand and upgrade it in order to lead to the conversion into the University College of Gibraltar which will be recognised internationally as a degree issuing institution. This will be done in partnership with a UK university.

Our contract on social affairs

✓ **EU FRAMEWORK EMPLOYMENT DIRECTIVE**

A GSLP/Liberal Government is committed to introduce the EU Framework Employment Directive, which prohibits discrimination in the workplace on the grounds of disability, age, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.

✓ **DISABLED PERSONS**

Provision will be made in our housing programme for adequate and affordable housing for disabled persons and their families.

As part of our commitment to the disabled, the eligibility for quarterly household cost allowance payments through Community Care Ltd will be extended to persons in receipt of social assistance and unable to work, including disabled persons.

A GSLP/Liberal Government will also extend the Minimum Income Guarantee to disabled persons.

✓ **COMMON LAW PARTNERSHIPS**

A GSLP/Liberal Government would legislate for the recognition of common law partnerships by the state in relation to measures like tax and benefits.

✓ **CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

The British Government announced in the summer that they intended to award gay couples the same pension and property rights as married couples. They would be expected to enter into "civil partnerships" by signing an official register. With British and European Union law moving in this direction, a GSLP/Liberal Government would be committed to introduce in Gibraltar whatever changes are introduced in the United Kingdom.

✓ **SEXUAL OFFENDERS REGISTER**

It is desirable to extend to Gibraltar the UK practice in relation to a Sex Offender's Register. This would allow the authorities in Gibraltar to keep track of sexual offenders from the UK who leave there to settle here.



✓ **MATERNITY GRANTS AS OF RIGHT**

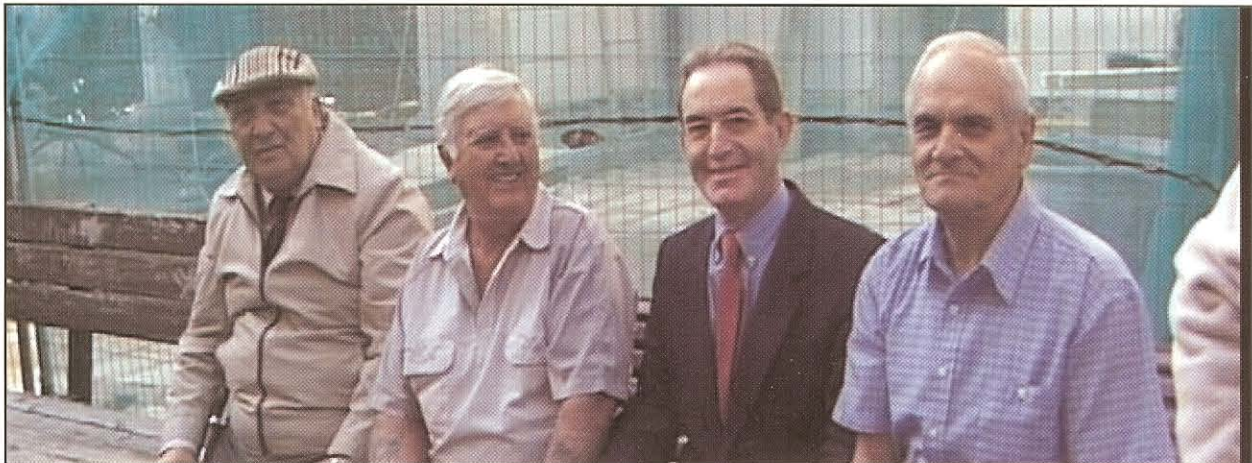
We were critical of the decision taken by the GSD a few months after the last elections to means test maternity grants. This grant is a result of contributions made and should be the same for everyone irrespective. In Government the GSLP/Liberals will abolish means testing for maternity grants.

✓ **GERIATRIC UNIT**

The needs of elderly citizens for the future needs to be addressed, in the context of an increasingly ageing population. A GSLP/Liberal Government will make provision for a Geriatric Unit, for persons who cannot look after themselves, which will be located initially in the St Bernard's Hospital building. Those elderly persons who can look after themselves will have the new specially designed flats, and those who live with their families will receive the Minimum Income Guarantee.

**We will
deliver**

Our contract with senior citizens



✓ **DIVORCED WOMEN'S PENSION RIGHTS**

The Social Insurance Ordinance in Gibraltar is behind the rest of Europe and the GSD has rejected calls from us to amend and update it. As the law now stands, when a couple divorce, the husband's social insurance contributions are no longer valid for the wife to claim benefit, including her old age pension. We will put this right immediately by bringing Gibraltar law up to date so that payments are made pro-rata, based on the length of the marriage.

✓ **COMMUNITY CARE FUNDING**

A GSLP/Liberal Government will renew the annual funding of Community Care Ltd to enable them to meet the higher level of payments and build up their reserves.

✓ **MINIMUM INCOME GUARANTEE**

In January this year the Minimum Income Guarantee was reduced by the same amount as Community Care had been increased the previous month. The GSD therefore took away what Community Care had given. We will refund this to those affected and make sure that it does not happen again.

We are committed to extend the minimum income guarantee to all pensioners and not only to those living alone, as the GSD did.

NO TAX ON WORK PENSIONS

Your pensions from work will stop being liable to tax as from 1 July 2004, the start of the new tax year. Working people have paid tax on their wages and salaries throughout their lives and now it is only fair that on retirement they should not have to pay tax on their pensions as well.

✓ **COMMUNITY CARE OFFICERS**

The social wage for Community Care Officers will be increased.

✓ **FLATS FOR THE ELDERLY**

The 750 flats that we intend to build will include flats for the elderly. Bishop Canilla House saw unacceptable water ingress, we must ensure that this does not happen again.

✓ **INCOMPLETE SOCIAL INSURANCE RECORD**

We will allow those pensioners who have an incomplete social insurance record the opportunity to complete their record and in this way receive a full pension.

**SERVICES
FOR ALL
PENSIONERS**

A number of services will be available at no charge to our senior citizens. These are as follows:

✓ **TELEPHONE RENTALS**

No telephone rental charge. The number of free calls will remain the same.

✓ **DOCTOR'S HOUSE CALLS**

Pensioners will be entitled to free doctors house calls.

✓ **TV LICENSES**

All pensioners will receive their television licenses free of charge.

✓ **TRANSPORT**

Arrangements will be put in place to ensure that there is unlimited free travel for our senior citizens on buses.

**£1500 FOR
EVERY SENIOR
CITIZEN
ON NATIONAL
DAY**

The National Day Bonus is currently £125. Under the GSLP/Liberal proposals it should have reached £450 this year already, and would go up to £500 next year.

On 10 September 2004 we will pay, in addition to the £500 bonus, a special bonus of £1000 to coincide with the 300 years of British Gibraltar. For pensioner couples the bonus will therefore amount to a total payment of £3000.

***“Our senior citizens
deserve nothing less”***

Our contract on health



End dependency on Spain for essential services

✓ HOSPITAL MOVE TO EUROPORT

In our 2000 election manifesto we entered into a commitment to construct a purpose-built hospital for Gibraltar. The GSD decided instead to move the existing hospital from St Bernard's into an office block at Europort. We are now stuck with this decision.

We will provide extra parking facilities for free for the visitors to and the staff of the new hospital adjacent to the building.

✓ DEDICATED HEALTH MINISTER

A GSLP/Liberal Government will have a dedicated Minister for Health with an office in the hospital building. At this stage the crisis is so serious that whoever holds the portfolio on health will be dedicated exclusively to the department.

✓ SCANNER AND DIALYSIS UNIT

The GSLP/Liberals are committed to provide a fully functional scanner unit and a fully equipped dialysis unit in the Europort hospital. This means that our people will no longer have to go abroad for this service. We cannot be dependent on Spain for essential services.

✓ LOWER PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

In order to correct the injustice of increased prescription charges under the GSD, a GSLP/Liberal Government will lower prescription charges back to £ 1.20. The cost will be capped so that the maximum to be paid is £6.00.

✓ WAITING LISTS "STOP-WATCH"

We commit ourselves to ensuring that all users of the GHA have the care that they need within the time they need it. We will introduce a "Stop Watch" scheme whereby you will have the right to treatment within a period of time (which will differ depending on your illness). The "stop-watch" will start ticking from the moment that you are diagnosed with an illness.

This will mean that you will receive the treatment that you need very quickly. It is not acceptable that those who need treatment should have to suffer whilst they wait for years on end, as is presently occurring. Patients will be given the choice to be treated outside Gibraltar.

MEDICAL SERVICES

✓ LOWER DOCTOR'S HOUSE CALLS

In order to reverse the increase under the GSD, house calls paid to doctors will be cut in half from £10 to £5. To ensure doctors do not lose out, the Government will make up the difference to them. House calls to pensioners will be free.

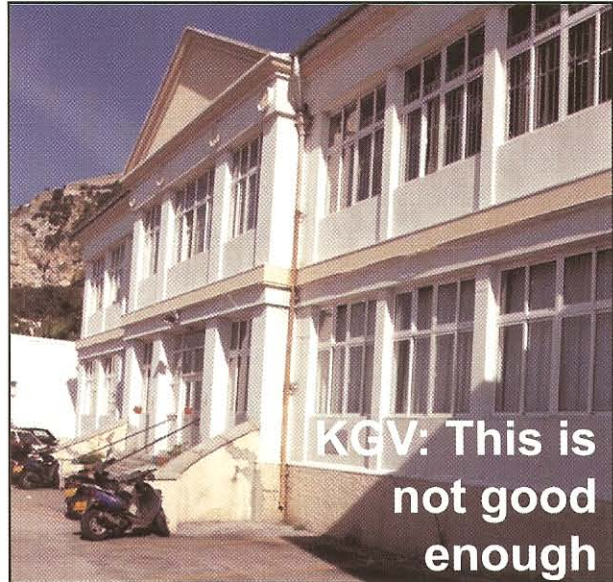
✓ PRIVATE PRACTICE

The GSD announced that the problems associated with private practice had been solved because they made an agreement that private patients would not be taken on if the waiting lists were longer than 12 months.

However, there are people in the waiting lists who have been there for 3, 4 and 5 years, and private practice still continues with the GSD Government turning a blind eye.

We will eliminate these problems by ensuring that extra resources are provided so that patients will get the treatment they require within a reasonable period, and without having to go private, as a result of the measures being taken in relation to the waiting lists.

**HEALTH
WARNING:**
Voting for the
GSD can
seriously
damage your
health



MENTAL HEALTH CARE

The facilities at KGV are seriously lacking. We will therefore commit ourselves to re-housing the KGV at a purpose built facility which will also include:

Extra buildings to serve as sheltered accommodation for patients with long term mental illness who are in a position to look after themselves. They will obviously be supervised by wardens, community nurses, mental welfare officers and community occupational therapists.

A Day Centre for patients where they can receive advice and treatment from community nurses. They will have a place to go to, rather than stay at home.

A Respite Home for patients suffering from Dementia. Alzheimers Disease, for example, is progressive and more and more people in our community are suffering from it. It is extremely difficult for families to take constant care of their relatives suffering from this disease and the facilities available at KGV or Mount Alvernia are not adequate.

✓ COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

A GSLP/Liberal Government would review the complaints procedure of the health authority and bring it directly under the office of the Ombudsman. Resources will be provided to the office.

√ NURSES RECRUITMENT

Vacancies for nurses will be opened to all without discrimination, although it is obvious that persons with degrees, GCSE's and other qualifications will stand a better chance of securing employment. But all will be able to apply and be considered.

Contract Nurses - There has been an increase in the number of foreign contract nurses employed by the Health Authority because the Government are not offering the opportunity to our local nurses to train abroad. We will introduce Specialist Training for nurses and we will send our nurses to the UK to train in specialist areas of nursing. We will also give priority to our local nursing staff to fill clinical managerial posts that become vacant, instead of employing outsiders. We are quite confident that our nurses are capable, as they have always been, to take up these positions.

Enrolled Nurses - We will keep to the commitment that Enrolled nurses should have the opportunity to train up to the level of Staff Nurse. We also give an undertaking that whatever conversion course is required, our Enrolled Nurses will continue to be paid their present salary whilst they train.



New Re-registration policy - We will re-address the issue of the new 're-registration' rules introduced by government. The letter sent to nursing staff attaching conditions in relation to compulsory re-registration every three years is complete nonsense which constitutes a breach of their terms of employment and implies that they have no job security beyond three years. We are committed to withdrawing this letter and replacing it with a sensible system for nurses to maintain their registration and level of training.

√ SPONSORED PATIENTS

To alleviate the financial hardship undergone by sponsored patients and their families, which affects the most vulnerable in our society, everyone will receive the full allowance and means-testing will be abolished.

√ ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

We will immediately introduce legislation so that it is clear that your medical notes belong to you. You will be entitled to copies of them. This will reverse the existing unfair practice which prevents you from having access to information about you.



Our contract with working people

✓ **NEW 10% RATE OF TAX**

The starting rate of income tax will be cut from 17% to 10%. A GSLP/Liberal Government will restructure the tax system in such a way as to bring the effective marginal rate down from 45% to 40% for the middle income taxpayer.

✓ **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

A GSLP/Liberal Government would act in consultation and partnership with the trade union movement. Industrial relations would be the designated responsibility of a Minister at a political level, although dealings would be with the Personnel Department.

✓ **MINIMUM WAGE**

The benefit from parity with United Kingdom wage levels should also be given to those who receive the minimum wage. In October the minimum wage in the UK went up to £4.50 an hour. We would do the same in Gibraltar.

✓ **EMPLOYEES IN GOVERNMENT COMPANIES**

The harmonisation of conditions in the government service, including pension rights with years of service since 1996 taken into account, will be extended to all employees of Government companies.

✓ **NO CONTRACTORISATION**

Government work and services will be carried out by direct labour which includes employees in related entities on government pay and conditions. There will be no privatisation or contractorisation of any work, all of which will be undertaken in-house.

✓ **SOCIAL INSURANCE REFORMS**

The social insurance system will be restructured to enable pro-rata contributions to be made for part-timers. Social insurance payments for persons under 18 will be abolished.

✓ **THE CIVIL SERVICE**

The GSLP/Liberals are committed to conduct the public administration of Gibraltar through an efficient, well trained and adequately manned civil service. We will invest in the service. The existing system of training and promotions will be reviewed in consultation with the civil service union. Vacant posts will be filled and the service will be run by the Heads of Department.

A review of general orders will be conducted. This has not been looked at since 1968 and needs modernisation and updating.

✓ **FRONTIER WORKERS**

We are concerned at the influx of frontier workers in the private sector. A GSLP/Liberal Government is committed to strengthen the machinery to deal with illegal labour.

Priority of employment in the public sector will be given to Gibraltar residents.

✓ **CONSTRUCTIVE DISMISSAL**

The GSD Government has persuaded the courts to overturn the law which allowed an employee to claim unfair dismissal on the basis that he or she had been "constructively dismissed", ie forced to resign because of the treatment being received from the employer. We will amend the provisions of the Employment Ordinance to specifically provide employees with the right to claim that they have been constructively dismissed.

✓ **STATUTORY REDUNDANCY PAY**

The statutory minimum redundancy payment now is subject to a limit of a maximum of 1 year's salary. The legislation allows for a greater amount to be agreed but large employers are using the statutory provisions as the standard and not agreeing any greater amount. We will therefore review the one year limit in order to avoid this.

The Gibraltar Business Development Plan

✓ HIGHER ECONOMIC GROWTH

The economic policy objective of the GSLP/Liberals is to achieve a higher rate of growth. This is possible. It has been done before and it can be done again. In the period up to 1987/88 the underlying growth of the economy was 6% to 8% per annum. In the four years from 1996/97 the growth has been an average of 5.8% per annum. The economy can and should grow at a faster rate and we are committed to an average of 10%-12% economic growth per annum.

✓ LAND RECLAMATION INITIATIVE

Additional land reclamation will be undertaken on the west side, which will enable facilities to be relocated and release some of the existing land for redevelopment.

The land reclamation on the east side which was criticised at the time by the GSD, is now worth £36 million. We will expand the GSD's project, by going to a 10 metre depth. That will make it possible to create 1/4 million square metres of land, as opposed to the 60,000 square metres now preferred by the GSD. The value would then be in the region of £150 million and cost a fraction to produce. We will reject any project which restricts future expansion on this site.

✓ MINISTER FOR INWARD INVESTMENT

There will be a Minister with special responsibility for Inward Investment.

✓ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The aim of a GSLP/Liberal Government is to make Gibraltar the most competitive internet location in Europe.

✓ GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT CORP.

The GDC will be tasked with securing regeneration and economic expansion. Graduates will be offered posts as research assistants.

✓ FINANCIAL SERVICES

The GSLP/Liberals are totally committed to the finance centre as a source of economic growth and of employment for our people. In 2000 we highlighted the decline in the banking sector, something which has continued in the second term in Government of the GSD.

We are confident that we can attract a minimum of a new bank a year to Gibraltar.

✓ INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

We believe that Gibraltar has enormous potential in developing the service provided to the international business community by our professionals. A GSLP/Liberal Government will closely work with these professionals to develop a strategy to maximise their ability to service the international market and to maximise their competitiveness in it.

✓ TAX STRUCTURE

We will implement zero corporate tax on 1 July 2004 whether or not the EU Commission has given approval to the alternative measures for raising revenue. We have a plan to put into place alternative revenue raising measures from the same source as at present without affecting individual personal taxpayers.

✓ LACK OF OFFICE SPACE

There is concern in the business community at the limited office space available after the Government decided to move the hospital into Europort. This has to be addressed, otherwise prices will spiral and newcomers, who can afford to pay more, will drive established firms out of the market. We will conduct an immediate survey and take steps to make new premises available.

Our contract with the business community

✓ **LOAN GUARANTEE FOR BUSINESS**

A GSLP/Liberal Government will ensure that provision is made for loans to be made to businesses through a loan guarantee scheme.

✓ **SMALL BUSINESS BOARD**

A small business development board will be set up chaired by the relevant Minister and including the business organisations in Gibraltar. This will facilitate the concerns of the business community on issues like streamlining business procedure.

✓ **RATES RESTRUCTURE**

A GSLP/Liberal Government will conduct a complete review of the rating system in Gibraltar. The payment of rates on unoccupied premises will be abolished.

✓ **TENDER SYSTEM**

A system of competitive tendering will be maintained with priority, where possible, given to local firms.

✓ **BUSINESS START UP SCHEMES**

Investments will be made in small workshops and business units to help and encourage the setting up of new businesses.

✓ **SELF-EMPLOYED & PARTNERSHIPS**

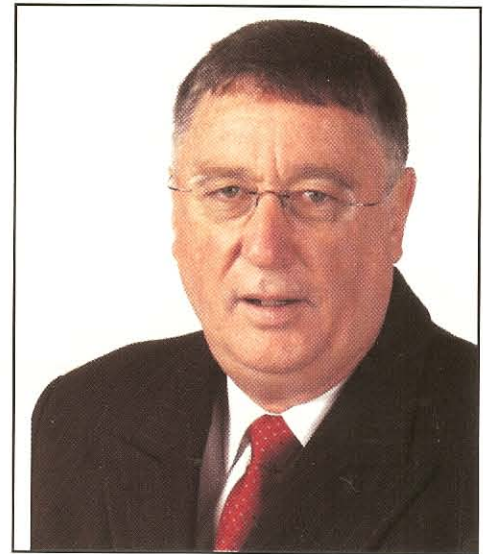
The GSLP/Liberals are prepared to move in the direction of treating self-employed persons and partnerships in the same way as a small business for tax purposes.

✓ **TELEPHONE CHARGES DOWN**

We are committed to lower the cost of international telephone calls to businesses.

✓ **MINIMUM WAGE ASSISTANCE**

A GSLP/Liberal Government will give assistance to small businesses who may have difficulty in meeting the minimum wage.



A NEW BANK FOR GIBRALTAR

✓ **BANK OF GIBRALTAR**

The role of the Gibraltar Savings Bank will be expanded to take on board the needs of Gibraltar businesses and personal users. The banking sector in Gibraltar has contracted under the GSD, leaving the consumer with less choice.

✓ **FAIRER LICENSING HOURS**

The GSLP/Liberals voted against the licensing hours introduced in designated zones around Gibraltar including Casemates and the Marinas. In Government, we will review the system on the basis of fairness and equality.

✓ **MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

There will be a Minister with special responsibility for small business.

Our contract on tourism and transport

✓ VALUE FOR MONEY

All posts currently involved in tourism will be retained. However, it is clear that with the money being spent more could be done to create employment and economic wealth for our people. The existing tourism budget would also be retained, however, the money will be more effectively targetted and linked directly to results. A GSLP/Liberal Government would work closely with the private operators in the industry.

✓ FERRY LINKS

A GSLP/Liberal Government will back any reputable properly licensed and equipped operator to run a ferry service to Morocco. Backing will also be given to any operator wishing to start a service between Gibraltar and Algeciras, so that the Spanish refusal to grant a license can be tested in the European Court.

✓ YACHTS AND CRUISES

The number of yacht and cruise calls at Gibraltar continues to fall at a time when nearby ports are doing better than us. The GSLP/Liberals will in Government ensure that the marketing of these sectors is carried out in such a way as to provide growth.

✓ TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Tourism Advisory Council will be re-constituted to include representatives from the different tourist sectors. At present the council includes persons who sit there on an individual capacity, and who do not represent the industry as whole.

✓ UPPER ROCK

The GSD have allowed the Upper Rock to deteriorate into a state of filth and neglect. We will correct this and also address issues affecting the staff.

✓ PORT DEPARTMENT

The Port Department will remain a Government department. There will be no attempt to move the staff into the Port Authority and the development of the Port will be the responsibility of the Port Department.

✓ NEW AIR ROUTES

Four air routes from Gibraltar airport have been lost since the GSD came into office in 1996. We will have a policy objective of encouraging more airlines to fly new routes to Gibraltar. It is important to renew links with Heathrow airport and Morocco.

FOR THE MOTORIST

✓ ROAD TAX ABOLISHED

A GSLP/Liberal Government will abolish road tax within our first term of office.

✓ NO MORE CLAMPS

The clamping of motor vehicles in the public highway will be abolished.

✓ AN END TO TRAFFIC CHAOS

The GSD continues to deny that there is traffic chaos in Gibraltar. We will conduct a major review of traffic arrangements to ease jams, all interested parties will be consulted. A substantial investment on new roads will be made and existing ones will be maintained.

✓ MOT CERTIFICATES TWO YEARS

We have been calling for MOT tests to take place with a frequency of every two years, as allowed by the EU directive, as opposed to every year. Last June the Government finally agreed to this but have still not implemented it. A GSLP/Liberal Government will implement this policy without further delay.

Our Contract on Foreign Affairs

The social and economic prosperity of Gibraltar is not dependent on sharing sovereignty with Spain as the British foreign office was telling us after the resumption of Brussels talks with Spain in 2001. We will say 'NO' to Spain and deliver a secure and prosperous future for Gibraltar.

✓ INTEGRATION WITH BRITAIN

The GSLP/Liberals do not accept that the new draft constitution and the concept of devolved integration with Britain are mutually exclusive options.

We will therefore invite the participation of the Opposition and of the Integration with Britain Movement (IWBM) as equal partners at such constitutional talks. This will give the IWBM an equal opportunity to put their case on devolved integration alongside the proposals in the new draft House of Assembly Constitution. We are convinced that with goodwill on both sides, any differences can be reconciled and we do not have to divide Gibraltar by asking people to choose between the two.

✓ ADVISORY LEGAL OPINION

In the context of the constitutional talks with London, we will raise the question of the United Kingdom seeking an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice in The Hague, if the British Government were to take the view that our right to self-determination is constrained by the Treaty of Utrecht.

NO TALKS ON SOVEREIGNTY

The policy of a GSLP/Liberal Government is that the sovereignty of Gibraltar should not be a matter for discussion with Spain. We remain committed to confining the Brussels process, and the 1987 airport agreement, to the dustbin of history.

✓ NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION

We have formally tabled the draft constitution to Dr Macshane on his visit to Gibraltar. Immediately after the election, as your Government, we will request a date from the UK for the commencement of formal Constitutional talks.

✓ IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

The GSLP/Liberals have always supported, and will continue to support in Government, normal European co-operation with the neighbouring country, and in particular the immediate Campo area, as long as it is clear that there are no political strings attached and that this takes place outside Brussels.

✓ UNITED NATIONS

As a Government, we will seek the involvement of the Committee of 24 in the negotiations to agree with UK a decolonising constitution. This will ensure that the final result, which will need to be approved by the people in a Referendum, meets the UN criteria to enable Gibraltar to be removed from the UN list of colonies.

After Gibraltar is delisted, one of the major arguments used by Spain in its international campaign against Gibraltar will have disappeared, since they will no longer be able to say that it is anachronistic that there should still be a colonial territory in Europe.

We will continue to make our case at the United Nations, as a Government, before the Committee of 24 and the 4th Committee, and will encourage the participation before these two Committees by the Opposition and others.

✓ EU CONSTITUTIONAL TREATY

We will ensure that nothing is done in the context of the EU Treaty creating a constitution for the EU which adversely affects our status as part of the Union, on the terms and conditions we obtained entry in 1973.

Our contract on the environment

✓ YOUTH EXCHANGES RESTORED

A GSLP/Liberal Government will restore youth exchange programmes that have been run down under the GSD. We think there is considerable value in sending young people from Gibraltar abroad and in having young people from other countries come here to see for themselves.

✓ KING'S BASTION LEISURE CENTRE

In Government, the GSLP/Liberals would demolish the old King's Bastion Generating Station on Queensway and construct a leisure centre inside the Bastion itself. This project would have particular emphasis for young people. The GSD have promised to develop this site in 1996 and 2000 and failed to deliver.

✓ SOUTH DISTRICT POWER STATION

A GSLP/Liberal Government understands the noise and emission problem experienced in the South District with the MOD and OESCO power stations. We will take action to alleviate this problem immediately after the election.

For this reason, we will be doing everything that we can to ensure that we move the OESCO power station away from this area as soon as possible. The MOD have already announced that they will be moving their generating station from this area. This creates an ideal opportunity.

✓ POLLUTION

We will also enforce laws which deal with noise and pollution generally. None of this will be allowed in any way to affect our ability to generate the electricity that our community needs to run an efficient economy. We are committed to funding the acquisition by the Environmental Agency of the necessary equipment to measure and record levels of pollution.



✓ ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The GSLP/Liberals are committed to commissioning an environmental report into the emissions of the oil refinery and industrial complexes on the Spanish side of the border. This report would be made public.

✓ PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

A GSLP/Liberal Government is committed to protecting the environment. Both the Nature Protection Ordinance and the Upper Rock Nature Reserve were implemented by the GSLP in Government. We will ensure that there is strict enforcement of the law relating to protected species.

The GSLP/Liberals are committed to listen to the advice of experts in the field on matters relating to the environment. We will create more green areas for recreational purposes.

✓ HERITAGE

A GSLP/Liberal Government will give priority and importance to heritage considerations, and will act in close consultation with the experts in the field.

✓ SPORTSCITY PROJECT

We are committed to complete the Sportscity project

✓ SPORT

A GSLP/Liberal Government is totally committed to fully support our sportsmen and women inside and outside Gibraltar.

We will vigorously back the international affiliation of Gibraltar's sporting associations to their corresponding international bodies. This is important both for the development of our sportspeople and for the international recognition of Gibraltar abroad.

The GSLP/Liberals will back those sporting bodies who wish to take legal action when such membership is unfairly blocked.

✓ LAW AND ORDER

A GSLP/Liberal Government will support our law enforcement agencies to ensure that Gibraltar remains a safe a peaceful place to live in. There must be no political interference with judges or the judiciary in general. We pledge that there will be no return to the fast launch activity.

✓ JURY SERVICE

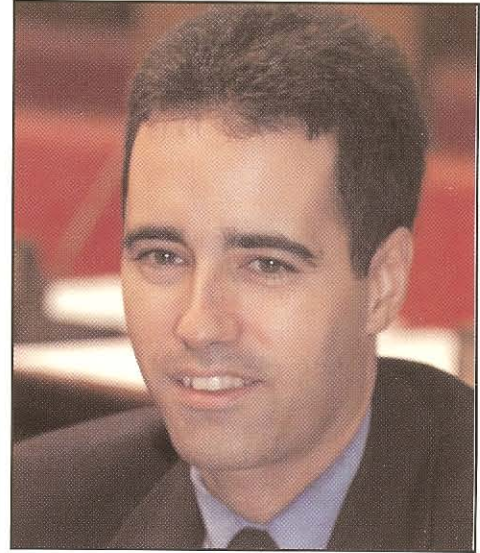
The new ruling on including women in juries has to be addressed and in that context, and in consultation with the judiciary whose independence must be safeguarded, we shall review whether the use of juries is best for all type of crimes.

DIRECT DEMOCRACY

There will be a system of direct democracy, whereby the Chief Minister will appear on television once a quarter to answer questions from the electorate.

We are ready for Government

says Liberal Leader Joseph Garcia



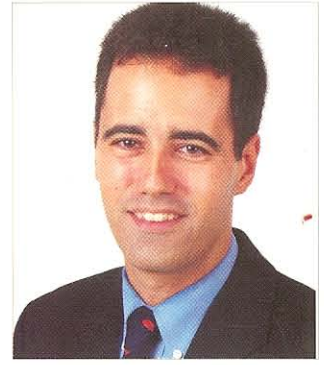
In this manifesto you will have read our programme for Government over the next four years.

This is a programme designed to create progress and prosperity for all. It is our binding contract. Your part of the contract is to give us your eight votes and elect us into Government on 27 November. In return for this, we pledge a series of policies designed to improve your quality of life.

*Our many commitments have been costed and dates have been given by when they can be implemented. This is a new way of doing things. In contrast, the GSD have promised the same thing over and over again and have not delivered. **WE WILL DELIVER.***

It is clear that we are the only people who can replace the GSD in Government, which makes it all the more important that you vote for us. In eight years they have failed to sort out the crisis in the health service and they have created an acute housing problem as prices spiral through the roof.

We will be honoured to serve you, the people of Gibraltar, as your next Government. We are ready to govern. Our team is the best team for Government. On 27 November vote for the eight GSLP/Liberal candidates.



**CHOOSE
PROGRESS
&
PROSPERITY**



**Block Vote the
8 GSLP / Liberal
Candidates**



We will deliver