



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel:20051739; Email: pressoffice@gibraltar.gov.gi

PRESS RELEASE

No: 56/2015

Date: 3rd February 2015

Opposition now saying the opposite of what they did in Government

The Opposition appear to think that they can judge others using a different yardstick than they applied to themselves when they were in Government. They defended one set of criteria when they were in office which is different from what they are now preaching from the Opposition benches. These double-standards are plain for all to see in their latest comments on the buses.

The fact is that the Government have already explained that price is not the only criteria that is used when determining the award of tender. This was also the case when they were in Government. There are other factors which include service, reliability, track-record and maintenance issues which also come into play. This has not changed.

It is also a fact that the GSD themselves when in Government often said that certain tender information was commercially sensitive and that it could not be made public whether outside or inside our Parliament.

The Government has also explained that the buses ordered by the GSD Government were announced with a 15-20 year life-span provided that they received proper maintenance. They have the audacity to complain about a tender award when they allocated the contract to service those buses directly to AM Capurro and Sons Ltd without a tender. This cost the taxpayer £ 2.7 million. It is worth pointing out that when this contract was renewed in 2009, it was on the basis that costs would go down and instead what happened is that costs went up. In 2010 and 2011 over £ 30,000 A MONTH was being paid on average to service the buses.

It is clear that if anyone has anything to be nervous about it is the GSD Opposition. They are so transparent in advocating the opposite of what they practiced that this will fool nobody.

This bus saga has really passed its sell-buy date. In today's Release, Mr Figueras says, *'they're not even realising that the Opposition is not criticising the measures the Government may have taken to allow the new buses to drive along Europa road - we're only asking what those measures were!'*

Yet, in yesterday's GSD Release, the only reference to Europa Road was as follows:
'The Government has refused to provide any reassurance that any measures have been taken to ensure that it is safe for the new buses to drive along certain parts of Europa Road.'

So, where did they ask what 'those measures' were?

On the subject of buses, Mr Figueras is now so confused by the obfuscation of his own arguments that his Press Releases have become a meaningless jumble of words. Once his thinking (and his Releases) have become clearer, the Government will be happy to answer them.