



PRESS RELEASE

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Gibraltar Lights Up for the Queen's 90th Birthday

The lighting of the Queen's 90th Birthday beacon will take place on Thursday 21st April from the top of the Moorish Castle (Tower of Homage) at 9:15pm. The beacon will be lit by Manar Bentahayekt in the presence of His Excellency the Governor, Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, and Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia. Ms Bentahayekt's parents and her 'Med Steps Challenge' training team will also be in attendance.

A network of beacons will be lit by communities and others throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, along with the Commonwealth and UK Overseas Territories to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday.

In addition, the number 90 will be projected on to the Moorish Castle overnight, and an image of Her Majesty The Queen will be projected on to the North Face of the Rock.

The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC, said: "I am delighted that Gibraltar will be honouring Her Majesty's 90th Birthday alongside the rest of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth. It is also extremely fitting that the beacon will be lit by such an inspiring and dedicated young Gibraltarian as the whole community reflects on Her Majesty's lifetime of steadfast service to the British people. I am confident that Her Majesty remembers with warmth and fondness her historic visit to the Rock in 1954 during which she was struck by the famous 'loyalty of its people'. As we convey our love and respect for Her Majesty by lighting this beacon, projecting a celebratory 90 on the Moorish Castle and projecting an image of the Queen on to the iconic north face of her Rock of Gibraltar, let us remember the words of Sir Joshua Hassan: 'This small Rock may be the smallest of Your Majesty's possessions but in the loyalty of its inhabitants to the British Crown it is second to none'. I am sure that all the People of Gibraltar will join me in sending warmest congratulations and wishing our Queen a happy and peaceful 90th Birthday."