



2 March 2011

“LET’S CHANGE THE WAY WE ARE GOVERNED – MAKE THE POSITIVE CHOICE FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT” – PDP ANNOUNCE 20 POINT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

There needs to be a radical shake-up of the way Gibraltar is governed. That will lead to real improvements in the way decisions are made that will, in consequence, improve the policies that affect our daily lives. The PDP has campaigned for a change to the way we are governed and for a new, more constructive style of politics since its launch in 2006. We set out a comprehensive policy entitled *Living Democracy* in 2006 which then formed part of our manifesto in 2007.

Today we are announcing our specific 20 point implementation programme for the first 18 months of a PDP Government. That programme will ensure that we guarantee political regeneration, information, accountability and better Government. If elected our plan will be implemented in stages over four years. However in a series of measures during the first 18 months we will seek to make a very firm start to that plan by introducing the following:

- **Guarantee Political Regeneration and Accountability**
 1. **8 year term-limits for Chief Ministers;**
 2. **Public meetings of the Planning Commission;**
 3. **Members nominated by Leader of Opposition appointed to Boards of GBC and Police Authority**
 4. **Monthly question time for Chief Minister in Parliament**
 5. **Bi-monthly question times for Ministers**
 6. **The appointment of a Parliamentary Ombudsman with powers of investigation and sanction over members**
 7. **The appointment of an Independent Tender Board**
 8. **A Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament chaired by a member of the Opposition**
 9. **Electoral reform to guarantee better representation and participation in the political process**
 10. **Legislation for an enlarged Parliament with backbenchers holding Government to account at no extra cost over the first four years**
 11. **The appointment of backbenchers onto the Health Authority and Social Services Agency to foster scrutiny, debate and accountability**

- **Guarantee Better Government**

- 12. A United Front for Gibraltar – Joint delegations with the Opposition to the United Nations**
- 13. Greater consultation and Cross-Party Committees with the Opposition on:**
 - **Foreign Affairs,**
 - **Health and Social Services,**
 - **Housing,**
 - **Environment and Transport**
- 14. A Referendum law to allow citizens to petition the Parliament to put questions of public importance to a referendum**
- 15. A Code of Practice for Ministers and Departments to guarantee replies to enquiries from members of the public**

- **Guarantee Information**

- 16. Monthly meetings of the Parliament**
- 17. Online access to the answers and information supplied in the Parliament**
- 18. Televised meetings of the Parliament**
- 19. A Code of Practice for Government establishing principles of Freedom of Information**
- 20. Better working practices for the Parliament to ensure the flow of public information**

The detail of the implementation plan over the first 18 months of a PDP Government is set out in the attached note. We are seeking to carry out the approach marked out in the comprehensive Living Democracy Policy launched in 2006 [also attached].

õThe People of Gibraltar deserve clarity from those who aspire to form Government. Only by being elected to Government will we be able to carry out these plans. Our implementation programme is clear and specific. Where are the specific policies of the GSLP and GSD? They make vague statements or worse still fail to deliver on their promises. Only by electing a PDP Government will the electorate see the radical overhaul of the way we are governed that will dramatically improve the quality of decision-making and the policies that affect the lives of all our community. The PDP is the positive choice for change at this forthcoming election. If we change the way Gibraltar is governed, if we improve consultation and accountability of decisions and we improve the way decisions are taken then we will have better decisions on health, housing or social services. There will be a real knock-on improvement on quality of life. This is as much an approach to how things should be done and a philosophy as well as a specific implementation of measuresö said PDP Leader Keith Azopardi.