

H.A. No

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

SUBJECT

**H.O.A. MEETING
14 APRIL 1971
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
(22 TO 24)**

PERTINENT PAPERS		PERTINENT PAPERS	
SUBJECT	NO.	SUBJECT	NO.

Questions asked by the Honourable Members at the Meeting of the House of Assembly held on the 14.4.71.

No.22 of 1971

Oral

The Hon. A.W. Serfaty

Sir, has a report been produced by the architects of the Viaduct Reclamation Housing Scheme on the environmental aspects of this project?

Answer:

The Minister for Public Works and Housing

Sir, with permission I would like to answer this question and the one that follows at the same time.

No.23 of 1971

Oral

The Hon. A.W. Serfaty

What is the envisaged building programme of the Viaduct Reclamation Housing Scheme?

Answer:

The Minister for Public Works and Housing

The Consultants for the Viaduct Reclamation Housing Scheme have submitted two reports and a detailed brief since they were appointed last year and the question of environmental aspects features very prominently in them.

Insofar as the building programme is concerned, the Consultants are at present engaged on preparing the final details of the building programme proposed. I shall be going to England tomorrow to discuss with the Consultants the final stages of the scheme and to visit housing estates in new townships which will provide useful guidance of the type of dwellings to be provided and construction to be utilised at Viaduct. I will also be looking at the type of new refuse incinerator plant we have in mind to acquire. It would therefore, be premature for me, at this stage, to anticipate events although I can assure the House that a full statement on the project will be made shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO NOS.22 AND 23 OF 1971

HON. A. W. SERFATY:

Sir, will the Hon. Minister say whether this environmental report will be discussed with the parties interested in the Parcar Hotel and the Marina Project? That will be one supplementary. On the question of the progress; I wonder whether we can have an idea what the total cost of the Viaduct Housing Scheme is going to be. I understand that rough estimates are being prepared; what the date of commencement will be; and what the date of completion will be? I am not asking this tongue in my cheek, I would like to have an idea of these details.

HON. J. CARUANA:

Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member opposite that the consultants have, throughout the current year and last year, been in very close consultations with the prospective developers of both the Parcar and the Marina projects, and the proposed environmental features and the outline of the Viaduct have been agreed to, particularly by the Marina developers which are the most affected.

On the question of cost, date of completion and date of commencement. Mr. Speaker, this, as I have announced in my previous answer, will no doubt form part of the full statement which the Government intends to make very shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO NOS. 22 AND 23 OF 1971 (CONT'D.)

HON. A. W. SERFATY:

May I just make one more supplementary on these two questions, and that is, will the Hon. Minister bear in mind, if the cost were to be very high, or the delay in commencement and completion very long, will he bear in mind the possibilities of embarking on smaller schemes to tide us over the years of delay?

HON. J. CARUANA:

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member opposite for that point, and it is precisely this which the Government did when we embarked on the development programme which was discussed in London in December, 1969. No less than six of what the Hon. Member opposite refers to as minor projects have been approved, two of which have already gone out to tender as the House is aware.

HON. A. W. SERFATY:

I am referring to housing.

HON. J. CARUNA::

.....One of which is housing, 30 odd houses at Catalan Bay. All six projects will tide us over, at least during the current development programme.

HON. A. W. SERFATY:

I am very sorry but the answer is, I believe, unsatisfactory regarding the housing side of what the Government's commitments are. The question I was referring to was on housing not on health centres etc., and, if I may say so, the question is not satisfactorily answered.

HON. J. CARUANA:

I am sorry that the Hon. Member opposite is not satisfied with the answer, but housing has been included in the interim development, such as Catalan Bay, and the other projects nonetheless are important: there are projects which I stated last time in the House will take between a year and 18 months to complete, so they do fill the gap in the Development Programme and the needs of Gibraltar.

No.24 of 1971OralThe Hon. A. W. Serfaty

How is the land earmarked for development off Gardiner's Road to be distributed for tender purposes?

Answer:The Chief Minister

In order that the Government might be able to assess the market fully, it is intended to publish a notice, in Britain and in Gibraltar, inviting interested parties to put in their bids. The notice will make it clear that applications will be considered both from individuals wishing to acquire single plots of land and also from persons or firms wishing to develop the area comprehensively, either in whole or in part.

The Government will then be in a position to decide how to proceed thereafter, based on the number and nature of the applications received and with a view to ensuring that the best and most economical use is made of the land available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO NO.24 OF 1971

HON. A. W. SERFATY:

That is a pretty satisfactory answer, but I would like to ask just a question. I presume that when the site is put out to tender in England and here it will be divided into plots, so that people will know exactly where they stand. If they want to make an offer for part of the area only. Am I right in assuming that the area will be divided into plots by the Government Engineers before it goes out to tender?

HON. CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to hear the Hon. Member saying that he is satisfied with the answer, and I think I can satisfy him even further and say that yes, of course, an idea will be given of the plots.

HON. A. W. SERFATY:

Thank you.