



PROCEEDINGS OF THE GIBRALTAR PARLIAMENT

AFTERNOON SESSION: 4 p.m. – 4.09 p.m.

Gibraltar, Friday, 21st December 2018

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The Gibraltar Parliament

The Parliament met at 4 p.m.

[MR SPEAKER: Hon. A J Canepa CMG GMH OBE *in the Chair*]

[ACTING CLERK TO THE PARLIAMENT: S Galliano Esq *in attendance*]

Condolences to Hon. Chief Minister and his family

Mr Speaker: The Hon. the Deputy Chief Minister.

Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. Dr J J Garcia): Mr Speaker, on behalf of the Government and I
5 am sure of both sides of the House, I would like to express our most sincere condolences to our
friend and colleague the Chief Minister and to his family on the sad passing away of his mother,
Magda.

I had the pleasure of knowing Magda for many years, initially through mutual business
connections. In this way I have actually known her for longer than I have known the Chief
10 Minister himself. She was a lovely woman, a wonderful person and a loving mother, was very
proud both of her family and also of the achievements of her son. One of the last occasions on
which I saw Magda was before she took a turn for the worse – precisely, in Convent Place one
morning, looking for the exit. She told me then, once again, how unreal it felt to see us there:
‘Parece mentira,’ she said.

15 The passing of a loved one is hard at the best of times. The timing today, as we enter the
Christmas period, makes it particularly difficult. The Chief Minister and his family will be
comforted to know that they are in our thoughts and in our prayers. May Magda rest in peace.

Christmas and New Year wishes

Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. Dr J J Garcia): Mr Speaker, given the circumstances, I am
grateful to the hon. Members opposite for taking written answers to questions instead of oral
20 answers, because this has been a challenging year. It has been dominated by the departure of
the United Kingdom and Gibraltar from the European Union and we are confident that whatever
the New Year may bring – whether there is a deal or no deal, whether or not there is another
referendum, whether we leave the European Union or whether we remain – whatever may
happen, Gibraltar will win through in the end.

25 That same spirit which saw us through the evacuation of the civilian population during World
War II, which resisted the dictator next door, which withstood the closure of the land Frontier,
which adapted from the closure of the naval dockyard, which battled shared sovereignty every
inch of the way, that same spirit will see us face the challenges posed by Brexit and overcome.

I take the opportunity on behalf of the Chief Minister and of the Government to wish
30 everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for the New Year. Whatever
2019 may bring, we will rise to the challenge together.

Mr Speaker, before I move to adjourn the House, I understand the Hon. Leader of the
Opposition and the hon. Lady would also like to say a few words. (*Banging on desks*)

Mr Speaker: The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

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Hon. E J Phillips: Mr Speaker, we echo the comments by the Deputy Chief Minister and, on behalf of Her Majesty's Opposition and the GSD, we offer our deep condolences to the Chief Minister and his extended family.

40 Mr Speaker, anyone who has lost a parent will know the deep pain and suffering as a result of the passing, but I think in this case and the moving service at St Theresa's Church today, it is clear that the late Mrs Picardo was extremely proud of her son the Chief Minister and indeed very proud of her family. Anyone who has ever lost a parent is always told by people that their mother or father would have been proud of them, and I think it is right to say that the late Mrs Picardo must have been very proud of her son, a man, a father and a Chief Minister of our
45 community. Our deep condolences go to the extended family and indeed, of course, to Members opposite.

In relation to the Deputy Chief Minister's comments in relation to the challenges that we face this coming year, one of the comments by his Lordship the Bishop today was in relation to solidarity in this community in respect of the family, and clearly there are challenges ahead, curves ahead, for this entire community. I am sure that all of us, not only in this room but in the wider community, will stand in solidarity in relation to the challenges that we will face. (*Banging on desks*)

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Mr Speaker: The Hon. Marlene Hassan Nahon.

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Hon. Ms M D Hassan Nahon: Mr Speaker, from this corner of the House I too echo the sentiments of the Deputy Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and extend my deep and sincere condolences to the Chief Minister and his family on the passing of his dear mother at this very difficult time when one should be looking forward to the holiday season and being with one's loved ones. But I do hope that the Chief Minister will find consolation in how much his mother was loved and respected, as we saw in a packed funeral this morning, full of watery eyes and genuine sorrow for this wonderful lady who has just passed away. I take this opportunity to wish the Chief Minister strength, faith and inner peace to get through this difficult time and reassure him that in this House – I am sure I can say from all of us – we are with him at this
60 present time.

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Regarding Brexit, Mr Speaker, of course there are challenges, as we all know and as we all deal with all the time and speculate all the time, but I have to say that I have no doubt that in the spirit of the Gibraltar history, as we have always seen, we will prosper, reinvent ourselves and sail through to better moments.

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Thank you. (*Banging on desks*)

Mr Speaker: Before I call on the Hon. Dr Joseph Garcia to move the adjournment of the House, may I associate myself with the condolences that have been expressed to the Chief Minister, which my wife and I dearly share.

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I would also like to express my admiration for hon. Members in that here we were coming for a very short session to adjourn Parliament; it was only necessary for seven Members to attend, and yet everyone who has been able to attend has done so as a mark of generosity.

Finally, I wish to express the hope that you will have a very happy Christmas and I wish you God's blessing for next year. Thank you. (*Banging on desks*)

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The Hon. Dr Joseph Garcia.

Questions for Written Answer

Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. Dr J J Garcia): Mr Speaker, first I have the honour to table the answers to Written Questions 27-31/2018 inclusive.

Adjournment

Deputy Chief Minister (Hon. Dr J J Garcia): And now I have the honour to move that this House do now adjourn *sine die*.

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Mr Speaker: I now put the question, which is that the House do now adjourn *sine die*. Those in favour? (**Members:** Aye.) Those against? Carried.
The House will now adjourn *sine die*.

The House adjourned sine die at 4.09 p.m.