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### *InfoGibraltar*

## Entrevista al Ministro Principal sobre la Proclamación de SM El Rey

Gibraltar, 11 septiembre 2022

### **Ministro Principal:**

Este es un momento fundamental. Hemos tenido la Proclamación ahora en Gibraltar, que refleja la Proclamación del Consejo de Accesión ayer en Londres. Gibraltar jura hoy su lealtad a un nuevo Rey, la misma Corona y con el mismo fervor que Gibraltar ha tenido en su lealtad a nuestra Soberana, la Reina Isabel II, hasta su fallecimiento, declaramos nuestra lealtad y nuestro apoyo y fidelidad para el ahora Rey Carlos III, Rey de Gibraltar.

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### **Ros Astengo (GBC):**

El Rey Carlos se ha comprometido a continuar la devoción de su madre al servicio público. Pero, por supuesto, es una nueva era para la monarquía. Y el Rey Carlos querrá poner su propio sello en el papel. Quiero decir, ¿qué significa para la Commonwealth y los territorios de ultramar también? Hay muchos que dicen que estamos en una encrucijada ahora y que es el momento de un reinicio.

### **Ministro Principal:**

Bueno, este es el comienzo de la era Carolina. Tiene que ser diferente. Es decir, Joe Bossano y Fabian Picardo tienen las mismas políticas, pero las expresamos de forma diferente. Las representamos de forma diferente porque no somos clones el uno del otro.

Y creo que lo que Su Majestad ha hecho es comprometerse a servir exactamente igual que Su Majestad, de por vida, representando exactamente los mismos valores, representándolos a su manera, expresándolos a su manera. Y creo que Gibraltar se beneficiará enormemente de los precedentes de un hombre que fue ecologista antes que la mayoría. Creo que el Rey Carlos ha demostrado ya una sabiduría más allá de sus años. A veces ha suscitado las burlas de algunos comentaristas por opiniones que luego se han demostrado acertadas.

Su papel ahora no es expresar opiniones públicamente, sino expresarlas en privado a los primeros ministros, que le verán cada semana, a otros con los que se pueda encontrar, a los que tratará de guiar suavemente. Y creo que eso es lo que esperamos de nuestra Corona y de nuestro Soberano.

Y permíteme decir, Ros, lo orgulloso que estoy de la forma en que Gibraltar ha llevado a cabo este proceso. Y hoy aquí el proceso de proclamación por parte de Su Excelencia y el desfile que hemos visto, todos los cuerpos uniformados de Gibraltar representados, el pueblo de Gibraltar escuchando atenta y respetuosamente mientras se hacía la Proclamación, como se habría hecho hace 300 años, desde que Gibraltar se convirtió en británico, cada vez que ha habido un cambio de Soberano, por supuesto, ayudado un poco por la tecnología. Ha transmitido a todos los hogares de Gibraltar, ha transmitido a todos los dispositivos móviles de Gibraltar y, de hecho, a todo el mundo, que habrá



### AVISO

podido ver lo bien que lo ha hecho Gibraltar. Y quiero dar las gracias también a los que estáis en la emisora nacional por vuestro trabajo de estos últimos días.

#### **Ros Astengo (GBC):**

Gracias. Imagino que hace mil años, cuando se iniciaron estas ceremonias, nunca imaginaron que existiría esta tecnología, por supuesto. Esta proclamación se remonta a esos días.

Pero quiero hacerle una última pregunta, Ministro Principal. Cuando la Reina fue coronada en 1953, se embarcó en una gira por la Commonwealth, llegando a Gibraltar el 10 de mayo de 1954, y fue recibida aquí en el Convento. Ahora se habla de una gira de la Commonwealth para el Rey Carlos. ¿Espera que pase por Gibraltar? Porque, por supuesto, sabemos que la Reina sólo ha podido venir una vez, aunque han venido miembros de su familia. ¿Cree que el Rey Carlos vendrá a Gibraltar?

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#### **Ministro Principal:**

Como jefe de su gobierno de Gibraltar, decir lo que esperarí sería empezar la relación con el pie izquierdo.. Pero ciertamente puedo decirle que a Gibraltar le gustaría mucho que el Soberano viniera a Gibraltar. No necesita ninguna invitación. Una vez más, sería casi una grosería invitar a Su Majestad a Gibraltar porque Gibraltar pertenece a Su Majestad y no necesita invitación para venir aquí.

Pero el pueblo de Gibraltar anhela una visita. Estaríamos encantados con una visita. Deseamos una visita. Cuanto antes, mejor, cuanto más a menudo vengan él y la Reina Consorte a Gibraltar o cualquier miembro de la familia real, más felices seríamos. No veo ninguna razón para que no haya una visita.

Hablando de los aspectos diplomáticos de esto, en las conversaciones que hemos tenido para un tratado entre la Unión Europea y el Reino Unido en relación con Gibraltar, estoy empezando a ver un descongelamiento de nuestra relación con nuestros vecinos españoles. Espero que esto continúe. Estas cosas van y vienen. Espero que estemos en el comienzo de una nueva era de convivencia, de una asociación en la que podamos trabajar con nuestros vecinos y seamos respetados por lo que somos y por quienes somos. Tengo que decir que en los últimos tres o cuatro días hemos visto un apoyo al pueblo de Gibraltar desde sectores inverosímiles en España: el Partido Popular en La Línea, Juan Franco, Juan Carlos Ruiz Boix en San Roque, Adrián Vaca, el alcalde de Castellar, y también el PSOE en La Línea, todos ellos expresando que se identifican con nuestro dolor por la muerte de nuestra Soberana, que lo reconocen. Y a nivel de Madrid, también las condolencias al pueblo británico; la propia Madrid ha declarado tres días de luto, Andalucía está en un día de luto. Hay muchos británicos en España. Tomemos lo mejor del pasado. Valoremos cosas como la ceremonia de hoy aquí y dejemos que la gente de nuestro entorno vea que la britanidad de Gibraltar enriquece mucho esta zona y aporta algo especial, que deberían recibir con agrado. Y por eso, si hubiera una visita real de Su Majestad el Rey a Gibraltar, espero que sea un momento que pueda reflejarse como una reunión de todas las comunidades del Campo de Gibraltar también, en torno a la britanidad de Gibraltar, que nunca va a cambiar, que nunca se va a diluir. No vamos a aceptar eso en absoluto. Si alguien necesitaba ver el juramento de lealtad del pueblo británico de Gibraltar, sólo tenía que ver el genuino dolor que todos hemos sentido y expresado por la muerte de nuestra Reina Isabel II y la genuina lealtad que Su Majestad el Rey Carlos III, engendrará en Gibraltar, como ya lo hace.



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**Chief Minister:**

This is a seminal moment. We have had the proclamation now in Gibraltar, reflecting the proclamation of the Accession Council yesterday in London. Gibraltar today pledges its allegiance to a new king, the same crown and with the same fervour that Gibraltar has had in its loyalty to our sovereign Queen Elizabeth II until she passed away, we declare our loyalty and our support and allegiance for now King Charles III, King of Gibraltar.

**Ros Astengo (GBC):**

There are some who say that the King is merely a ceremonial position, a symbolic one. Can you just put into words, practically, what does a new sovereign mean for Gibraltar?

**Chief Minister:**

Well, we're very lucky that we have a democracy where we choose executive government, but we don't choose our head of state because choosing a head of state would involve a process, as we see in other republics, where intellectually, of course, it makes sense to think that you might be able to choose every level of the hierarchy, but you've got to stop the functioning of the state when you're doing that plebiscite. In Gibraltar, we don't stop the functioning of the state, in the United Kingdom, we don't stop the functioning of the state because we are electing a government. The state under the Crown is seamless, unless you have a moment when the Crown passes and we have the ceremonial aspects of the new sovereign being proclaimed. It makes things easier. You know, sometimes democracies don't always come up with results that rest easy with the whole of a population. You might have issues of controversy surrounding the choice that is made. We don't have that issue with our crown and head of state because that is something that is constant, it's seamless and is provided for in our law, including the heirship that follows. Now, I believe in British constitutional monarchy, partly because of my political involvement, whether I'm sitting on the opposition benches in Parliament or the Government Benches in Parliament, or indeed when I'm in the hierarchy of political parties, just in the executive committee, we are committed to that. I don't think constitutional monarchy works everywhere, and I don't think republics work everywhere. We are very lucky with the monarchy that we have, with the constitutional settlement of the United Kingdom, with our written constitution that sets out all aspects of how things function. You barely have to give a thought to the aspect of the Crown and the head of state in Gibraltar and in the United Kingdom, in the realms and in the Commonwealth, because it's all set out so clearly in the conventions that have been established, hard fought for through civil wars, but now many centuries ago.

**Ros Astengo (GBC):**

King Charles has pledged to continue his mother's devotion to public service. But of course, it is a new era for the monarchy. And King Charles will want to put his own stamp on the role himself. I mean, what does it mean for the Commonwealth and the overseas territories as well? There are many that are saying that we're at a crossroads now and it's time for a reset.

**Chief Minister:**

Well, this is the beginning of the Carolean era. It has to be different. I mean, Joe Bossano and Fabian Picardo have the same policies, but we express them in a different way. We represent them in a different way because we're not clones one over the other.

And I think what His Majesty has done is pledge himself to service in exactly the same way as Her Majesty did, for life, representing exactly the same values, representing them in his way, expressing them in his way. And I think Gibraltar will benefit greatly from the precedents of

a man who was an environmentalist before most. I think that King Charles has demonstrated already a wisdom beyond his years. Sometimes he has attracted derision from some commentators for views which later have been demonstrated to be right.

His role now is not to express views publicly, but to express them privately to prime ministers, who will see him every week, to others who he may meet, he will gently seek to guide. And I think that's what we expect from our Crown and from our Sovereign.

And may I just say, Ros, of how proud I am, of the way that Gibraltar has worked through this process. And today here the process of proclamation by His Excellency and the parade that we've seen, all of Gibraltar's uniformed bodies represented, the people of Gibraltar listening attentively and respectfully as the proclamation was made, as it would have been made two or 300 years ago, since Gibraltar became British, every time there has been a change of sovereign, of course, aided a little by technology. You've transmitted into every home in Gibraltar, you've streamed into every mobile device in Gibraltar and indeed to the whole world, who will have been able to see how well Gibraltar has done this. And I want to thank also those of you in the national broadcaster for your work these past few days.

***Ros Astengo (GBC):***

Thank you. I imagine a thousand years ago when these ceremonies first began, they never imagined that this technology would exist, of course. This proclamation dates back to those days.

But I want to ask you one final question, Chief Minister. When the Queen was crowned in 1953, she embarked on a Commonwealth tour, arriving in Gibraltar on the 10th of May 1954, and she was received here at the Convent. There is talk possibly of a Commonwealth tour now for King Charles. Would you expect him to stop by Gibraltar? Because, of course we know the Queen only managed to make it here once, even though members of her family have come over. Would King Charles come to Gibraltar, do you think?

***Chief Minister:***

I think for me it would to start the relationship off on the wrong foot, as the head of His Government of Gibraltar, to say what I would expect. But certainly I can tell you that Gibraltar would very much wish to see the Sovereign come to Gibraltar. He needs no invitation. Again, it would almost be bordering on the rude to invite His Majesty to Gibraltar because Gibraltar belongs to His Majesty and he needs no invitation to come here.

But the people of Gibraltar would pine for a visit. We would be delighted with a visit. We wish a visit. The sooner the better, the more often that he and the Queen Consort might come to Gibraltar or any members of the royal family, the happier we would be. I see no reason why there should not be a visit.

Talking about the diplomatic aspects of this, in the conversations that we've been having for a treaty between the European Union and the United Kingdom in relation to Gibraltar, I am starting to see a thawing of our relationship with our Spanish neighbours. I do hope that that continues. These things ebb and wane. I hope we are at the beginning of a new era of conviviality, a partnership that we will be able to work with our neighbours and be respected for what we are and who we are. I must say that in the past three or four days we have seen a support for the people of Gibraltar from unlikely quarters in Spain: the Partido Popular in La Línea, Juan Franco, Juan Carlos Ruiz Boix in San Roque, Adrián Vaca, the mayor of Castellar, and also the PSOE in La Línea, all of them expressing themselves as identifying with

our grief on the death of our Sovereign, a recognition of that. And at the level of Madrid, also condolences to the British people; Madrid itself has declared three days of mourning, Andalusia is in one day of mourning. There are a lot of British people in Spain. Let us take the best from the past. Let us cherish things like the ceremony here today and let people around us see that Gibraltar's Britishness enriches this area greatly and brings something special, which they should be welcoming. And so therefore, if there were to be a royal visit from His Majesty the King to Gibraltar, I hope it would be a moment which could be reflected as a bringing together of all the communities of the Campo de Gibraltar as well, around the Britishness of Gibraltar, which is never going to change, which is never going to be diluted. You know, we're not going to accept that at all. If anybody needed to see the Pledge of Allegiance of the British people of Gibraltar, they just needed to see the genuine grief that we have all felt and expressed on the death of our Queen Elizabeth II and the genuine loyalty that His Majesty King Charles III, will engender in Gibraltar, as he does already.