

QUALITY SEAL FOR MARINE AQUARIUM

Poema del Mar joins the Zoos Association

During the annual congress of the Asociación Ibérica de Zoos y Acuarios (Iberian Association of Zoos and Aquariums, AIZA), of which Loro Parque is a member, the Poema del Mar management announced that the marine aquarium would also join the association.

The news confirms the high quality standards of the facility and the excellent work it does in the field of education and species conservation. Visitors to the Poema del Mar aquarium will gain an insight into the great biodiversity that is the life of the oceans, seas and rivers of this planet. AIZA is a non-profit association that includes zoological gardens and aquariums in Spain and Portugal. Membership is a form of guarantee that the members comply with all the standards in force in their country, as well as those of the association itself. ■



Photo: Loro Parque Group
 ↑ Loro Parque helped with the organisation of the congress with two contributions of its own

CORRUPTION IS NOT A TRIVIAL OFFENCE

Jail for ex-Santa Cruz Mayor

Last week, the Supreme Court confirmed the sentence ordered by the Santa Cruz de Tenerife Provincial Court against the former Mayor of Santa Cruz Miguel Zerolo.

He must serve seven years behind bars for corruption. No further appeal can be lodged against the verdict, and Zerolo entered Tenerife II prison on April 1. The judge considered it proven that a property, which was sold to the Santa Cruz City Council for tourism projects in the area surrounding the Playa de Las Teresitas in 2001 at a price of €52.5 million, was sold at a price far above the estimated value, to the detriment of the Santa Cruz City Council.

The ex-mayor's comrades who were also sentenced for corruption are Juan Víctor Reyes, ex-secretary of the City Planning Department (four years and six months), and José Tomás Martín González, former manager of the City Planning Department (four years). The two entrepreneurs and sellers of the Las Teresitas beach development, Ignacio González Martín and



↑ Entrepreneurs and politicians wanted to 'rehabilitate' themselves at the expense of the Santa Cruz City Council, using the land directly behind Playa de Las Teresitas

Antonio Ramón Plasencia, each received five years and three months for embezzlement of public funds.

The judge ruled that they had acted in full awareness of the detriment that would be caused to the City Council which even had to increase its budget to accommodate this

transaction. In addition to the prison sentences, those convicted may not hold public office for a period of between seven and 17 years, depending on the sentence. The six are also required to pay the Santa Cruz City Council a fine of over €61.7 million. Eight years have now passed from

the first trial to the final verdict, but justice has finally been done. For all those who hold public office, one thing is at least certain now: cronyism and corruption, as in the past, are no longer possible today. At the very least, those who are discovered must reckon with the hard hand of justice. ■



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