

PRESS RELEASE

8th June 2019

The ethical standards and quality of the construction industry need to be raised immediately

The Malta Chamber is shocked by the news of yet another building collapsing, in a short period of time, this time in Mellieħa. While it will cautiously await the results of the necessary investigations to learn about what caused this collapse, it is abundantly evident to the Chamber, that this is symptomatic of a situation which is totally unacceptable in a civilised country and which must be addressed forthwith.

Only a few days back, (24th May 2019), the Chamber applauded the authorities for launching the Considerate Construction Scheme aimed at raising professional standards in the building industry.

The scheme had been promoted with the authorities by the Chamber itself, as it fell squarely in line with the Chamber's Economic Vision. The Chamber's view on the matter remains unchanged, as it advocates a high-quality economy where mediocrity and sub-standards are replaced by a culture of excellence, and where the current 'good enough' attitude is replaced by 'nothing but the best'.

The situation is now dire, and no more time can be wasted. The ethical standards and quality of our construction industry need to be raised immediately and brought in line with those in other developed countries. Our islands and our citizens certainly deserve no less.

It is considered neither ethical, nor professional to proceed on the basis of what has been witnessed in this very active building economy in Malta over the last years. Responsibilities must be shouldered by all, while the rights of innocent third parties need to be protected at all times.

Hence the urgency for a unified building authority that looks at the industry comprehensively and qualitatively is now most evident.

Given recent events, the Malta Chamber calls on authorities to act fast, and even consider going beyond the voluntary nature of the Considerate Construction Scheme, in order to ensure proper high quality practices in the construction industry if we really mean business, otherwise the launch of the Scheme would have been nothing more than a farce.

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