

PRESS RELEASE

3rd March 2020

Need for complete reform of the Building and Construction Industry reached new high

The Malta Chamber of Commerce is shocked by the latest incident, which resulted in loss of life, following the collapse of the fourth building, due to excavation works taking place next door, in less than a year. The Malta Chamber sends its sincere condolences to Mrs Miriam Pace's husband, family and friends.

This loss of life is an expression of injustice by those responsible for this killing. It is unacceptable that safety in one's home is compromised in this brutal manner. The Malta Chamber has already, in the past called for a complete rehaul of the Building and Construction Industry.

In its Economic Vision for Malta 2020-2025 which the Malta Chamber launched only two weeks ago, it has put forward a number of recommendations for the injection of a serious dose of discipline, professionalism and responsibility into the Building and Construction Industry that is in dire need of an overhaul if it is to inspire the confidence our country deserves.

The need for a complete and holistic reform of the Building and Construction Industry has reached a new high. Hence, the Malta Chamber, calls for all systems to be in place, for the Building Regulations to be launched without further delay, for enforcement to accept no tolerance and for the immediate resourcing of the long awaited Building and Construction Authority that was meant to have started operations at the end of last year.

As it has done in the past, the Malta Chamber will not shy away from calling a spade a spade and recognising this latest episode for what it is – the failure of a poor building and construction industry systems which is resulting in the unthinkable.

It is amply evident to all that the current laws, regulations, and systems in place together with the supporting enforcement (or lack of it) are seriously falling short from ascertaining the safety of residents, third-party properties and the peace of mind of our people.

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