

PRESS RELEASE

20th January 2020

So far so good

The Malta Chamber, cautiously welcomes the breath of fresh air that is apparently characterising the first week in office of new Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela. The decisions taken so far augur well for the future.

The Malta Chamber welcomes the fact that the Government is already implementing proposals from the document it presented to the Prime Minister titled 'Ethical Business calls for Change – a manifesto for Good Governance'. The concrete actions of the past days reflect the Prime Minister's statement that his Government and the Chamber were on the same page on this very important current priority for the country.

The Chamber welcomes the subject of Good Governance being given its much deserved attention by the Prime Minister's cabinet, which was in turn supplemented by the establishment of a committee focusing on this matter.

On a related note, the resignation of Dr Justyne Caruana from Gozo Minister, only hours after certain revelations being made concerning her next of kin, sends a strong, and much needed message of zero tolerance towards any shadow of a doubt of questionable conduct. Our country's leaders must be kept accountable to the highest level of standards, and the tempestive action in this regard was very well received.

The same goes for statements made by two senior members of Abela's Government in the past days:

Environment and Planning Minister Dr Aaron Farrugia's intention to publish a register of all meetings with stakeholders, in a bid to promote transparency and good governance, is certainly the direction the country's administration needs to look at.

Similarly, the Chamber also welcomes the statement by Minister for Internal Affairs Byron Camilleri who stated that every single allegation needed to be investigated.

The Chamber welcomes these moves, and augurs that such commendable initiatives shouldn't be left to the prerogative of individual Ministers, but ought to be made a Government-wide requirement for all the administration.

In light of the above, the Chamber expresses a degree of cautious optimism. There are several more recommendations that the Government needs to consider, but certainly, so far so good.

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