

PRESS RELEASE

October 2008

Removal of Illegal Encroachment in City Gate commended

The Valletta Alive Foundation welcomes the enforcement action taken by Government's Property Division to remove illegal encroachments at City Gate. For too long, a laissez-faire attitude has allowed City-gate's appearance to become tacky and shabby, an image which is certainly not appropriate for the entrance of Malta's most important City. The illegal take-up of public space by chairs, tables and other paraphernalia deprives people of space as they walk through or make use of the bus terminus.

VAF also notes that there are other streets in Valletta which have benefited from the removal of illegal encroachments including Zachary street. Enforcement on illegal encroachment together with the extension of pedestrianisation has brought about, and will continue to bring about, much needed improvement in Valletta's urban spaces. VAF urges government to maintain the initiative and ensure that Valletta's urban spaces are appropriately safeguarded for pedestrians. Clearly there is much more that needs to be done, but certainly the initiatives taken to date are in the right direction.