



Valletta Alive Foundation

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Valletta Alive Foundation Welcomes Incentives In Favour Of Regeneration Of Historic Areas

The Valletta Alive Foundation welcomes the incentives for the rehabilitation of properties in Urban Conservation Areas announced by the government in the Budget for 2012. These incentives will leverage much needed private investment in historic areas, such as Valletta. The Foundation urges the private sector to take note of these incentives and seek to make the best possible use.

The incentives are a clear signal of Government policy in favour of the regeneration of historic areas, a signal which MEPA should take note of. MEPA's Grand Harbour Local Plan favours regeneration. This notwithstanding, MEPA's excessively negative approach to the alteration of buildings is a disincentive against investment in Valletta and other historic areas. Often, applications for rehabilitation in historic areas takes too long to process and the resultant delay is a further disincentive for potential investors. For Grade 3 buildings and unscheduled building in UCAs, MEPA should adopt a more positive approach allowing for changes to be made and giving priority to the adaption of buildings to modern day needs.

Another matter which needs to be addressed is parking in Valletta for residents, for the commercial community and for evening cultural events. A more proactive approach and a holistic strategy is required to provide effective access to Valletta by means of both private and public transport. The lower end of Valletta, in particular, can never be regenerated unless proper parking facilities are provided.

Alfred Zahra
Chairman