



The Hon Dr Joseph Muscat,
The Prime Minister,
Auberge de Castille,
Valletta

June 23 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

The discussion on the new Strategic Plan for Environment and Development (SPED) is due to continue in Parliament this evening.

On behalf of Din I-Art Helwa, while thanking government for taking up recommendations submitted by our organisation during the meetings held by the Parliamentary Committee for the Environment, we wish again to bring to your attention two particular clauses within the final draft Structure Plan (SPED) that make any improvements for the protection of out of development zones and protected areas merely cosmetic.

These two clauses within the new resolutions 2 b), i) and j) state that 1) where no other feasible alternatives exist in the Urban Area, these may be permitted in out of development zones, and 2) in Page 18 2 c, that projects which are of a sustainable nature can be permitted in out of development zones “as a last resort where it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development.”;

These two clauses now introduce uncertainty, can be applied very broadly to many development schemes and thus create loopholes that can be utilised in future to bring development into protected areas. They render null any improvements that have been incorporated into the final SPED draft.

This may be the last opportunity government has to give the nation a Strategic Plan that clearly defines and gives direction to the use of space for the next decade. These two clauses leave the plan vague and equivocal and therefore deny the SPED the essence of clarity it is required to have according to legislation. Din I-Art Helwa has already written to this effect to those MPs involved in the Parliamentary Committee for the Environment.

We would ask you as Prime Minister and as Minister in charge of Planning to instruct that these two ambiguous and ill-defined clauses are struck off the proposed final draft or that time be taken to define them properly before this draft is approved.

We would like to have your answer on these proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simone Mizzi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simone Mizzi
Executive President

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