



## Environment

The first proposal received is that the Environment Protection Directorate (EPD) within MEPA, the Malta Resources Authority (MRA) and the Environmental Health Unit (with the Public Health) be amalgamated into a single Environment Authority so as to consolidate their operations and their regulatory/enforcement capacities. At present we have three weak environmental authorities, all of the lacking resources and enforcement capabilities.

Another recommendation was to implement environmental change via local councils, by going beyond planting trees and playgrounds and making sure that all developments in local council localities are checked for the construction of rainwater cisterns, as required by law. This will increase the strategic water reserve of every locality and of the country and reduce flooding. In a citizen's own words:

“40,000 litres per minute of publicly-owned water is being pumped up by private companies or individuals, 24 hours a day, 365 days and every minute all of the above know and decide to look the other way. One may argue that this is a statement, not a proposal. Proposal? Defining ground water as a public resource (as are antiquities) in the Maltese legislation and as suggested in the constitution of 1974 would be a good start. In 40 years, no party and no MP has taken the bother of legislating in favour of public water. We have MP's and parties proposing private members bills, motions, legislation about everything under the sky, but water? Nah, probably because it's underground. Out of sight, out of mind and oh yes, no votes there.”

As a movement we do support this citizen's message on the grounds that a serious government takes up the responsibility to be a guardian of the common good vs. the interests of short sighted private individuals.

It is also very clear that there is an ongoing call for more controlled developments, especially in residential areas where there is a high building intensification already. In a contributor's own words:



“Do we really need all these apartments? Is there a balance between demand and supply of these monstrous developments? Nowadays it is almost ‘sad’ to go to Sliema due to the large amount of building sites, dust, cranes etc. It is no longer a pleasure to take a stroll when all you see is concrete and experience the lack of fresh breathable air.

Various previously sought after areas have lost their ‘glitz’ due to surrounding construction.”

Another problem is the lack of parking space in certain areas like Sliema or Valletta. This respondent is in favour of the creation of underground or multi storey car parks.

Various persons are in favour of the restoration of old buildings and facades which bring them back to their former glory, especially in areas such as Valletta and the three cities. The waterfront model was seen as a success.