



## **Political and Religious Tolerance**

We have witnessed a need for increased local political and religious tolerance which also needs to be addressed from an educational and leadership point of view, by the country's political leaders. Just to give a practical example: a week ago a friend introduced me to another person as a person involved in the Movement or Progressives and Moderates. This person simply (quite arrogantly) said 'ok bye' without even allowing an introduction or any form of dialogue to take place. My reaction was to state that it is time to progress beyond such thinking and that this was surely not the attitude adopted by Dr. Eddie Fenech Adami who promoted dialogue and political tolerance. This comment seemed to irk this person further almost to a point of aggression and therefore as a result I chose to back off by shaking hands and stating that it would be best to discuss such matters another time and in a more appropriate context, since we were at a noisy social event. After various experiences of this kind, I can personally confirm that there is a lot of room for improvement locally in terms of political tolerance and the promotion of dialogue. The country's political leaders have a fundamental role to play in the process of reconciliation between people via their example, especially prior to a general election when political tensions tend to increase.