



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Where is the enforcement?**

The disaster at the only Golf Club on our islands is typical of the lack of enforcement and timely safeguards by the competent authorities to protect life and property. Permitting the use of an area so close to the Marsa Golf Course for the yearly of letting of fireworks on the occasion of the feast in Qormi had been the subject on many occasions in the past with Government and organisers, yet there was no never the willingness to take action and identify a safer area for such an activity.

Luckily no persons attending a social event in the area suffered any injury last Saturday but considerable damage done to the club house and equipment by the ensuing fire. This is a blow to the good number of visitors that frequent the island year in year out to practice this sport. At a time of declining demand of visitors the damage suffered to the only golf club on the two islands will definitely have a negative impact on this niche market. It is goes to show the short-sightedness we have experienced over the last decade in finding another suitable location to practice golf besides the Marsa golf course.

MHRA sincerely hopes that the authorities take good stock of the situation and predicament we have found ourselves in this particular lucrative niche market and draw concrete plans for the protecting of Marsa Golf Course and obtain national consensus to have a second golf course to grow this niche market for the benefit of our economy.

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**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2009**

### **About MHRA**

The MHRA has been established since 1958 and today represents 70% of all hotels in Malta and 35% of all restaurants, collectively representing an investment of over Euros 1.1 billion and employing in excess of 20,000 people. For the past 50 years the MHRA has represented the interest of hoteliers and restaurateurs on the Island acting as a lobby group to ensure that the policy decisions taken on the Island are in line with what the tourism industry needs to flourish. For more information about the MHRA visit [www.mhra.org.mt](http://www.mhra.org.mt) or call (356) 21 318133.