



MEDIA RELEASE

MHRA regarding controlled parking scheme

MHRA strongly reiterates its stand on the negative impact resulting from the controlled parking schemes in prime commercial areas, which are ill-thought and which will impede tourists' mobility. These concerns are based on protecting the viability of many businesses including restaurants and hotels, and respecting their fundamental right to retain free and easy access to their establishments.

Rather than alleviating an already difficult parking situation in these crucial areas, the introduction of residents' parking zones on such a major scale will certainly worsen conditions in these areas. Moreover, the allocated timings for most areas are unreasonable and will definitely create problems for all motorists who need to visit a particular area for whatever reason, including visiting friends and family who reside in these same areas.

The idea mooted by Dr Mario DeMarco to allow tourists residing in Sliema and using a hired car to use residents parking, is supported by MHRA. It is only logical to grant these temporary residents such privileges. However these same conditions must be applied equally in every locality where similar parking problems are faced, rather than discriminating against tourists residing outside Sliema.

Although these small concessions are a move in the right direction, MHRA contends that Government should immediately intervene in this awkward and ill-founded regulation, to ensure that a sound and holistic plan is drawn up for each particular area. In any case it would be inconceivable for any such scheme to be applied unless it is preceded by a real and concrete plan to create additional and sufficient parking space to cater for each areas' needs. This must be based not only on the parking requirements of residents, but also on the business and tourist requirements of each location, who form an integral and equally important part of every locality. Only following such a thoughtful and constructive approach, matched by the necessary remedial action, can such far sweeping parking legislation ever be considered.

We trust that common sense will prevail and that rather than putting the cart before the horse, the requirements of us all as a nation will be given the importance they truly deserve.

Wednesday August 19, 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 or call (356) 21 318133.