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K A M R A T A L - P E R I T I

To support members of the profession in achieving excellence in their practice of architecture and engineering in the interest of the community

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MEPA REFORM HAS TO LEAD TO QUALITY IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

The *Kamra tal-Periti* welcomes Government's commitment to undertake the necessary and much desired reforms to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) and confirms its agreement with the decision to give the reform process the importance it deserves by placing it under the direct stewardship of the Prime Minister in the light of his responsibility for the National Policy for Sustainable Development.

The *Kamra* believes that the whole scope of the reform at MEPA should be driven by an ingrained desire and a steadfast commitment to ensure that the nation achieves **QUALITY** and **SUSTAINABILITY** in the built and unbuilt environment.

The reform process should therefore form part of an overall process of institutional renewal based on a clear vision for the economic and social development of the nation and the proposals should be designed to deliver tangible and sustained results on three main objectives:

- major improvements in the quality of our built and unbuilt (urban and rural) environment measured in terms of the social and environmental benefits that development provides to society and not merely the economic growth of particular sectors;
- a qualitative improvement in the level of service provided by the Authority, measured not merely in terms of cases processed, but in terms of consistency, transparency and fairness;
- the ability of the Authority to enhance its human resources by attracting and retaining enough personnel of the right calibre and qualifications capable of providing a service of impartiality and excellence for the benefit of society as a whole.

The *Kamra* submitted its Policy Paper on the MEPA reform to the Prime Minister in March 2008, basing its recommendations on its vision for a more sustainable development of the environment. This vision was outlined in the *Kamra's* publication '*THE URBAN CHALLENGE: Our Quality of Life and the Built Environment*' of November 2007.

The *Kamra* notes with satisfaction the ongoing consultation process is being carried out by Government and MEPA with various sectors with regard to the proposals being put forward, and assures Government of its continued support and commitment to be available for such discussions. Following the meeting with the Prime Minister on 31st July 2008, the *Kamra tal-Periti* will, in the coming weeks, be putting forward further proposals to holding the newly appointed Chairman of MEPA Austin Walker in order to fully contribute to this process.