PRESS RELEASE

MDA elect new President

Three and a half years after the Malta Developers Association was established to be the highest body and voice of private Real Estate developers in Malta, the association has a new President.

Outgoing President Michael Falzon decided not to stand for re-election for personal reasons and Vice-President Sandro Chetcuti was elected President at the MDA Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 16 January, 2014 (today), at Villa Rosa, St Julian's.

After the meeting Prime Minister Joseph Muscat addressed the MDA members present and attended a reception.

In his address at the end of the meeting, Mr Falzon thanked all the committee members, including those co-opted, for their contribution during the year, especially Mr Chetcuti, one of the MDA's founders, who always did his utmost and dedicated a lot of time to the Association.

Looking back at the past year, Mr Falzon mentioned how active it was for the MDA. "In a year where a general election was held, the MDA managed to influence the policies of the two main political parties in last year's Budget, which was adopted by the new administration that was elected in March, as well as their electoral manifestos and this year's Budget.

"We boast with satisfaction that the authorities adopted many of the measures which you members asked us to strive to obtain. It was also a year in which the MDA became a member of the European Union of Developers and House Builders (UEPC) and therefore today it is recognised on a European level."

Mr Falzon referred to statistics that were published in the latest Central Bank report: "One notices that in the past 12 months the construction sector has not continued to regress and is practically stabilised on levels which, although low compared to what they were before, are not showing signs of continued weakening.

“The contribution of the Construction sector to GDP and bank lending to the construction and Real Estate sectors have not declined in a significant manner. A positive indicator is that bank lending to home buyers has increased. We can state with confidence that the sector today is not continuing to regress and we hope it will begin to recover.”

In his speech Mr Falzon recommended that the new MDA committee employ a person to take over the Association’s administration and to locate a place that can be used as its headquarters.

After Mr Falzon’s speech it was the turn of the new President of the Association, Mr Chetcuti, to also address the meeting. He stressed the positive results achieved by the MDA in the first three and a half years since it was established: “We are being effective each time we press our arguments to ensure that the building industry will be sound and sustainable.

“We are working together and putting our full commitment to ensure we mature even more so that we can understand also what is to the benefit of the country as a whole. In one of the first initiatives we drafted a Code of Ethics that many members are respecting. There is still, however, more to be done so that everyone will conform.

“The more time passes the more we appreciate not only when things go in our favour but also when the whole country benefits because only in this way can Malta become a European model where you feel proud to invest in this rock which we treasure so much.”

Mr Chetcuti continued by stating that in his new position he wished the MDA to continue to work to earn the respect of the politicians, professionals and society in general. He wishes to find a balance with environmentalists so that the investment made in property will continue to appreciate so that everyone can benefit.

“My primary ambition is to eliminate a lot of unnecessary bureaucracy that is stifling. I believe that the MDA can be a key player so that it will assist the government in achieving this. If we are practical and eliminate a lot of time wasting, we can make miracles with this country,” he concluded.

16 January, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

President ġdid għall-MDA

Tlett snin u nofs wara li twaqqfet il-*Malta Developers Association* (MDA) li llum saret l-ogħla istituzzjoni u vuċi tal-iżviluppaturi privati tal-proprjetà, l-assoċjazzjoni għandha President ġdid.

L-ewwel President tal-MDA, Michael Falzon, iddeċieda li ma jerġax jikkandida ruħu ghall-kariga u dan għal raġunijiet personali filwaqt li dak li kien il-Viċi-President, Sandro Chetcuti, kien elett floku waqt il-Laqgħa Ġererali Annwali tal-MDA, li saret nhar il-Ħamis, 16 ta' Jannar, 2014 (illum), fil-Villa Rosa, San Ġiljan.

Wara l-laqgha, il-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat indirizza l-membri tal-MDA li kienu prezenti u attenda għal riċeviment.

Fid-diskors tiegħu fl-aħħar tal-laqgħa, is-Sur Falzon irringrazzja lill-membri kollha tal-kumitat, inkluż dawk *co-opted,* għas-sehem li taw matul is-sena, b'mod speċjali lis-Sur Chetcuti, wieħed mil-fundaturi tal-MDA, li dejjem stinka u ddedika ħafna ħin għal din l-Assocjazzjoni.

Meta ta ħarsa lura lejn is-sena li għaddiet, is-Sur Falzon semma kemm kienet wahda attiva għall-MDA: "F'sena li fiha saret elezzjoni ġenerali, l-MDA irnexxielha tinfluwenza l-*policies* taż-żewġ partiti politiċi ewlenin fil-Budget tas-sena l-oħra, li kien adottat mill-amministrazzjoni ġdida li telgħet f'Marzu, kif ukoll fil-programmi elettorali tagħhom u fil-Budget ta' din is-sena.

"B'sodisfazzjon ngħidu li l-awtoritajiet ħadu ħafna mill-miżuri li inthom il-membri tlabtuna nitħabtu għalihom. Kienet sena wkoll li fiha l-MDA saret membru tal-Għaqda tal-Iżviluppaturi tal-Unjoni Ewropea (UEPC) u għalhekk illum hi rikonoxxuta fuq livell Ewropew."

Is-Sur Falzon semma l-istatistika li tidher fl-aħħar rapport tal-Bank Ċentrali: "Wieħed jinduna li f'dawn it-tnax-il xahar li għaddew is-settur tal-kostruzzjoni ma baqax sejjer lura u prattikament stabilizza f'livell li għalkemm hu baxx paragunat ma dak li kien qabel, mhux qed juri sinjali li se jkompli jiddgħajjef.

"Il-kontribut tal-kostruzzjoni lill-GDP u s-self mill-banek lis-setturi tal-kostruzzjoni u l-proprjetà ma naqsux b'xi mod sinifikanti. Sinjal tajjeb hu li s-elf mill-banek għax-xiri ta' djar baqa' jiżdied. Nistgħu ngħidu li s-settur illum mhux qed ikompli jbatti u nisperaw li jibda jirkupra."

Fid-diskors tiegħu is-Sur Falzon irrikmanda lill-kumitat il-gdid tal-MDA li timpjiega persuna li tieħu ħsieb l-amministrazzjoni tal-Assocjazzjoni u li tfittex post li jservi bħala l-kwartieri tagħha.

Wara li tkellem is-Sur Falzon, il-President il-gdid tal-Assocjazzjoni, is-Sur Chetcuti, wkoll indirizza l-laqgha. Hu saħaq fuq ir-riżultati pożittivi li l-MDA kiseb fl-ewwel tlett snin u nofs minn mindu twaqqaf: "Qqegħdin inkunu effettivi kull meta inressqu l-argumenti tagħna sabiex naraw li l-industrija tal-bini tkun tajba u sostenibbli.

"Qegħdin naħdmu flimkien u nagħmlu l-isforzi tagħna biex nimmaturaw dejjem iżjed ħalli nifhmu wkoll x'inhu tajjeb għall-pajjiż kollu. F'wieħed mill-ewwel inizjattivi konna fassalna Kodici ta' Etika li ħafna minna qegħdin nirrispettaw. Fadal però ftit ieħor qabel ma naslu ma' kulħadd.

"Kull ma jmur aktar napprezzaw meta mhux biss niggwadanjaw aħna però meta jiggwadanja l-pajjiż kollu għax b'hekk biss Malta tista' ssir l-aqwa mudell fl-Ewropa fejn tħossok kburi li tinvesti fuq din il-blata li daqshekk ngħożżu."

Is-Sur Chetcuti kompla jgħid li fil-kariga ġdida tiegħu jixtieq li l-MDA tkompli taħdem biex tikseb aktar ir-rispett tal-politiċi, il-professjonisti u s-socjetà in ġenerali. Mal-ambjentalisti jixtieq isib bilanċ ħalli l-investiment li jsir fuq l-art dejjem japprezza ħalli jgawdi kulħadd.

"L-ambizzjoni ewlenija tiegħi hi li neqirdu ħafna burokrazija żejda li taqtagħlek nifsek. Nemmen li l-MDA tista' tkun *key player* ħalli tgħin il-gvern sabiex verament dan isir. Jekk inkunu prattiċi u nnaqqsu ħafna telf ta' ħin, għeġubijiet isiru f'dan il-pajjiz," temm jgħid.

16 ta' Jannar, 2014

MDA, c/o 45, Valley Road, Birkirkara, Malta
Tel: +356 2142 4485 | Fax: + 356 2142 4487 | Mob:+356 9949 6503

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