

Tal-Balal revisited

Quoting straight from the horse's (MEPA) mouth, "vines are not protected as per LN 12/01, and no objection was received by the Department of Agriculture (23/2/04) following the fact that the area was allocated for the specific development by the Parliament". Hence, the Department of Agriculture, which is supposedly sowing the seeds of viniculture in this country, does not bat an eyelid when 3,000 vines are going to be cut down.

What about the millions of cubic metres of water that the same vines consumed over the six-year-period? Our view of nature is highly anthropogenic and we fix a tag to every species in this world, mainly in terms of its rarity.

Vines are not rare. Hence, they do not fall under the jurisdiction of LN 12/01. Their cutting can go ahead, also because they were originally planted illegally.

To date, my proposed panacea of transplanting them in January has met no heeding. The sound of the chain saws moving in would certainly have made those fond of wine wince!

I thank Peter Gingell, acting MEPA PRO, for this information.