

St Thomas Bay selfish encroachment



Some owners even have the cheek to cordon off the access to their illegally-built boathouse. MEPA seems hapless and obsolete in front of such audacity. Will ever such squatters be evicted?

With a 272-km-long coastline, one would expect very few conflicts to be triggered in this country on public access to the foreshore.

We all know that this is not the case, mainly due to the fact that 60% of the Maltese coastline is inaccessible due to topographic constraints, with 96% of the remaining 40% accessible coastline being committed to tourist or maritime industry activities. Couple this with a good dollop of Maltese-style cheek and ego, and you are courting disaster.

St Thomas Bay in Marsascala is a case in point, with the start of the holiday season in June witnessing a mass exodus of caravans (some 40-50) which are parked literally on the water's edge, hence effectively obfuscating seaside views to passers-by.

Such caravans come complete with concrete platforms and a whole suite of commodities, such as border fencing - access to the foreshore is certainly prevented along at least 300 m of coastline on the road to il-Munxar.

To date, no caravan site has been earmarked in our islands, hence leading to such ruthless exploitation of our coastal resources.

Illegal boathouse construction within this bay is rampant all year round, with some developers even having the cheek to cordon off entire stretches of land which I am sure they worked for so hard.

Now that the next elections are not exactly round the corner, MEPA should embark on some 'real' enforcement.