



Media Release

Potential Buyers on Construction Sites

12 September 2016

The Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) would like to voice its concern about the practice of allowing visitors onto construction sites without ensuring their health and safety. This includes situations involving estate agents taking potential clients onto sites still under construction, sometimes while works are being carried out. This creates risks for all parties on site.

OHSA would like to stress the importance of safeguarding the health and safety of all persons on site, whether workers or not. This is the duty of the owner of the construction site, who is defined as 'the client' under Legal Notice 281 of 2004.

Moreover, it is the duty of the project supervisor for the execution stage (regulation 5 (f) of the above-mentioned regulations), to "take the steps necessary to ensure that only authorised persons are allowed onto the construction site". The granting of such authorisation implies that only persons who are adequately protected are allowed onto the site.

Hence, before allowing access to people on site, it has to be ascertained that arrangements are in place to ensure the health and safety of everyone there. OHSA would also like to take this opportunity to once again stress the fact that according to the law, for every construction project one has to appoint a project supervisor for the design stage and a project supervisor for the construction stage. These roles can be undertaken by the same person or by the client himself/herself, as long as they are competent to do so.

In the case of construction sites on which work is scheduled to last longer than 30 working days and on which more than 20 workers are occupied simultaneously, or on which the volume of work is scheduled to exceed 500 person days, the project supervisor is duty-bound to communicate in writing a prior notice to the OHSA at least four weeks before work commences. The project supervisor for the design stage is duty-bound to ensure that prior to the setting up of a construction site, a health and safety plan is drawn up.

A comprehensive list of all OHS legislation may be accessed through the OHSA's website: www.ohsa.org.mt

-ends-