5 ta' Ġunju 2015

Stqarrija ta' Louis Galea dwar ir-rapport tal-Bord tal-Inkjesta Mater Dei

Sa l-elezzjoni ta' Ottubru 1996 jiena kont il-Ministru tas-saħħa u chairman tal-FMSS* tul l-ewwel fażi tal-bini tal-isptar. Jiena diġa` weġibt għal mistoqsijiet li l-bord ħass li kellu jagħmilli fid-9 ta' April 2015.

Jien nappoġġja kull sforz li jista` jwassal biex min kellu x'jaqsam ma' azzjonijiet frawdolenti fil-provvista u l-ittestjar ta' konkrit ta' kwalità inferjuri jinżamm responsabbli.

Filwaqt li beħsiebni nibqa` nikkopera mal-awtoritajiet rispettivi fl-investigazzjonijiet li jistgħu jagħmlu, kuntrarjament għall-konklużjonijiet jew insinwazzjonijiet tar-rapport, nistqarr kategorikament li taħt ir-responsabbilita` tiegħi:

- l-FMSS u l-Gvern ma kellhom l-ebda għarfien tal-allegat frodi;
- il-Gvern, il-bord tal-FMSS u jien aġixxejna b'diliġenza u safejn kien raġjonevolment u oġġettivament possibli assigurajna li jkun hemm f'postu u jitħaddem qafas ta' kontroll adegwat;
- qatt ma kien hemm xi kollużjoni minni, jew safejn naf jien minn xi membru tal-bord tal-FMSS fiż-żmien li fih jien kont involut, f'xi att impropriju jew illegali kif ir-rapport jittenta jimplika fil-konklużjoni 5 tiegħu.

Waqt li l-esperjenza kollha turi li hemm lezzjonijiet x'nitgħallmu biex sitwazzjonijiet bħal dawn jiġu evitati fil-futur, wieħed m'għandux jistenna li tintrefa` responsabbilita` politika għal frodi li l-awtoritajiet bl-ebda mod ma jkunu jafu bih. Il-frodi min natura tiegħu stess hu magħmul biex iqarraq u biex jevita il-kontrolli stabbiliti u għandu jiġi persegwitat bis-sħiħ. Għaldaqstant, ir-responsabilita` f'dan il-każ għandha tingarr minn dawk li allegatament ipprovdew jew ittestjaw b'mod frawdolenti konkrit ta' kwalita` inferjuri.

Jien beħsiebni nkompli nikkolabora mal-awtoritajiet f'ħarsien sħiħ tal-liġijiet ta' Malta.

Qiegħed nagħmel din l-istqarrija bla preġudizzju għar-riservi tiegħi fuq l-inkjesta nnifisha, n-nuqqas ta' bażi għal ċertu stqarrijiet magħmula minn numru ta' xhieda, u għan-nuqqas ta' evidenza li fuqha r-rapport jibbaża ċerti konklużjonijiet, kif ukoll bla preġudizzju għal xi investigazzjoni li tista' qed issir b'konnessjoni mal-każ.

Louis Galea

* Fondazzjoni għal Xjenzi u Servizzi Mediċi

5 June 2015

Statement by Louis Galea on the report of the Mater Dei Inquiry Board

Up to the election of October 1996 I was the Minister for health and the chairman of the FMSS* during the first phase of construction of the hospital. I have already answered the questions that the Board put to me on the 9 April 2015.

I fully support all endeavour to hold those responsible to account for any fraudulent actions in the supply or testing of poor quality concrete.

While I remain fully available to co-operate with the respective authorities in such investigations, contrary to the report's conclusions or insinuations, I categorically state that under my watch:

- the FMSS and the Government did not know of the alleged fraud;
- Government, the FMSS board and myself acted diligently and as reasonably and objectively as possible to ensure that an adequate control framework was in place and implemented;
- no collusion at all ever existed by myself, or to my knowledge by the members of the FMSS board at the time I was involved, in any improper or illegal act as the report attempts to imply in conclusion 5 of its report.

While the whole experience shows that there are lessons to be learnt to prevent such situations in the future, one cannot expect political responsibility to be borne for fraud which is completely unknown to the political authorities. Fraud by its very nature is intended to deceive or override controls and should be unreservedly pursued. As a result, responsibility in this case should be borne by those allegedly involved in the fraudulent supply or testing of poor quality concrete.

I will continue to collaborate fully with the authorities in full compliance with the laws of Malta.

I am releasing this comment without prejudice to my reservations on the inquiry itself, the lack of evidence backing up certain statements made by a number of witnesses, and the evidence backing up certain conclusions expressed by the board of inquiry, and without prejudice to any investigations that might be ongoing on the case.

Louis Galea

*Foundation for Medical Sciences and Services