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Carnival Enthusiasts complain about relocation offer

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Plans to convert an old concrete batching plant in Ta' Qali into a number of carnival hangars have been turned down by the Carnival Participants' Association, www.di-ve.com has learnt.

The Government Property Division issued an eviction order telling the participants that they had until October to pack up and leave St Elmo since they were not entitled to stay on the land.

As the clock started ticking, with the eviction order notices pinned to the gates of "their" premises, the Carnival participants are not any happier now as the alternative site proposed by Education Minister Dolores Cristina is not suitable.

In a meeting held on Wednesday, L-Għaqda Partecipanti tal-Karnival complained about the relocation offered since Ta' Qali was too far from Valletta with government showing no intention to move carnival out of Valletta and out to Ta' Qali.



The old concrete batching plant in Ta' Qali.



The former Soldini site.

On their part, the Carnival Participants have found another derelict factory – the former Soldini site – around 3 miles away from Valletta which government is not prepared to give up.

The Carinval enthusiasts are asking government to finance the building of 27 hangars, worth €1.5 million, where they will be able to build and shelter their floats from foul weather.

They have threatened that if government failed to provide them with an adequate shelter till the end of August, the Carnival Participants would not build any floats next year.
