

# What about the real victims?

By Marian Stokes

**THE HOMEBUYERS** Pressure Group has been reading with interest the recent articles published regarding Gary John Robb and his stolen / frozen assets and, if it is all true, then we fell very sorry for him. But there is no mention of the real victims – the property buyers. Who feels sorry for the people who have paid for their properties a long time ago and are still waiting for them to be completed?

What about the buyers who should now be living in their Aga house, have moved all their possessions here on the promise of a completion date and are now in rented accommodation for the unforeseeable future. What about all the people who bought from other Construction Companies and are suffering the same financial loss and stress?

They are the real victims of the recent property boom. And who cares about them? It appears that nobody does.

Some of the Aga properties have been sold to two, and sometimes three, people and their Sales Agreements have been prepared by the same lawyer!! Who will decide which of these multiple buyers actually gets the property and which of the buyers now wants the property?

Will any of them get a full refund of monies paid, plus interest? Probably not. This scenario is not just applicable to Aga buyers. Some builders we



know have no intention of passing title to any buyers who have paid in full for their property. They just want to sell the houses over and over again to keep their bank accounts topped up or perhaps to buy the latest fashion car.

Some builders also rent out houses that have been paid for in full by a victim/buyer and what does the law state "as the titled owner of the land/property they are not acting illegally".

At our monthly meeting last Tuesday evening we

heard from an Architectural Engineer that most of our properties are substandard and any houses built on an incline are in danger of subsidence. No soil testing is carried out prior to build and no proper engineering inspections take place during the build. Add that to the fact that a lot of properties are built and sold in areas where there is no water or electric.

Who should ultimately be held responsible for what is currently happening to buyers of properties

in the TRNC? The builders? The lawyers? The Government? We think that all of them should be held accountable. The victims/buyers account for approximately 2% of the TRNC's population yet they are responsible for approximately 30% growth in the economy. And still nobody cares about them.

Because nobody appears to care about the TRNC, except the members of the Homebuyers Pressure Group, foreigners are leaving the Island and the tourists are not coming.

Why? The TRNC, especially the Kyrenia District, is a mass of concrete, filth, noise and pollution.

We offered the government an ideal opportunity to gain some positive publicity in the UK for the TRNC last week. A Granada TV crew were here filming for a Consumer Programme investigating some of the problems and pitfalls of owning or purchasing property abroad and were particularly keen to cover some of the issues in the TRNC.

The programme will be

shown on UK National television in a few weeks time. We informed the government and invited them to participate by including government officials working with the buyers with problems in an effort to understand them and to solve them.

The response from the government was complete silence. So we now know that they don't care about our problems and are not interested in an opportunity to positively promote the TRNC.