



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**DEPUTY MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

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**DEPARTMENT  
OF ANTIQUITIES  
1516 LEFKOSIA**

3 June, 2024

Mr Omar Alshikh

Email: [amrlood@gmail.com](mailto:amrlood@gmail.com)

Dear Mr Alshikh,

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN CYPRUS**

I refer to your email dated 25 February 2024, concerning the above subject and I would like to inform you of the following.

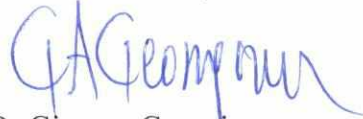
Having received information on your behalf on the four specific mosques, which according to your previous letter are in need of restoration, please be informed that listed as Ancient Monuments of the Second Schedule, according to the Antiquities Law, are solely the Tousla Mosque in Larnaca and the Peristerona Mosque in Nicosia District. The mosques of Maroni and Kofinou are not listed, therefore the Department of Antiquities has no competence on the said two mosques.

Concerning Peristerona mosque, as evident in the photographs that you forwarded, the monument is already under major conservation. As it was stated in our previous letter, the restoration of the minaret, struck by lightning and exhibiting major structural issues, has already been concluded. The work was funded exclusively through the governmental budget reaching a cost of up to approximately one million euro. Conservation work on the monument currently continues, focusing on its roof and all other necessary work ensuring its protection. As far as Tousla Mosque is concerned, which is by no means neglected or in any sort of structural danger, a conservation project is under way, under the auspices of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage and in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities. The relative studies, that include the conservation of the monument and its presentation, are currently under preparation.

Considering what was stated above, it is surprising that you consider the abovementioned mosques as "in need of restoration". Furthermore, I would like to point out to the fact that the relative photos you forwarded to us, particularly of the Peristerona mosque, clearly demonstrate that they were taken during the night, from inside the fencing of the mosque, while it is clearly signalled that no entry is allowed, apart from authorised personnel, for safety reasons, as the monument is currently a construction site. Similarly, the photos of Tousla mosque, particularly the ones of the interior of the monument, are also taken from inside its yard, which is again fenced.

As far as your specific questions are concerned we feel that our previous letter answers most of them to a large extent. I do take this opportunity however, to reiterate that all Monuments and religious sites listed under the Antiquities Law are treated with the same level of respect and protection with no exceptions being made particularly based on ethnic or religious affiliation. I would also like to mention that apart for the strictly Governmentally funded conservation projects, we support through the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot Community, the conservation of cultural heritage monuments including religious ones, many of which are mosques. We feel that this tangibly demonstrates the will of the Government and of the competent authorities for the preservation, protection and promotion of cultural heritage monuments and places of worship, be it Muslim or Christian.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Giorgos Georgiou  
Director  
Department of Antiquities