

Leitrim Observer

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No confidence in Bord Na gCon - Kenny

There is a problem with the greyhound industry in that the people on the ground breeding dogs who want to get on with it and go racing and who have a stake in this industry feel betrayed by Bord na gCon due to many things that have happened in the last number of years, Sinn Fein Deputy Martin Kenny told the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine. “They have no confidence in the present board,” he said.

“There is no confidence among the Irish greyhound industry in Bord na gCon,” he said. “The Harold’s Cross situation was just one reflection of that. While that is only a small bit of it, everywhere I go, I hear the same thing, whether it is about the greyhound tracks which are owned, part-owned or part-managed by Bord na gCon, about the maintenance of those tracks, the people who are employed at the tracks, the greyhounds or doping. All I hear is that it is a golden circle and if one is not connected with the well-connected people, then one is out of the circle.”

Deputy Kenny said that the Oireachtas could legislate all it liked and bring in all the rules they wanted. “The view of the majority of the people on the ground is that there is no will from Bord na gCon to implement anything that is fair or proper,” he said.

Politics is a noble profession - Kenny

Former Taoiseach Enda Kenny told the Dáil he was eternally grateful to the Irish people and particularly the people of Mayo for repeatedly giving him the opportunity to work on their behalf.

In his farewell address to the members of the House, he said he really believed that politics is work worth doing, “a noble profession”.

“Despite the many scandals and disappointments, I believe the vast majority of people elected to this House are here because we have an interest in and love for our communities and country and we wish to make a difference,” he said. “For me, cynicism is always an easy cop-out. The true measure of worth and courage is to keep trying again and again, knowing that much of that effort will go unrewarded.”

He said he understood the people's disillusionment with politics and the political process. “I believe that a first step towards overcoming that might be for us as politicians to treat one other with a greater degree of respect,” he said. “We can argue vehemently the merits of issues or measures without questioning one another's motives or intent. Politics is always about people and government is always about making decisions. For my own part, I am the first to acknowledge I have not got everything right but I can honestly say my motivation was always what I believed was in the best interests of the Irish people.”

He said he recently passed through Strade, which is the birthplace and final resting place of Michael Davitt. “To paraphrase what he said in his will to the Irish people, to all my friends I leave kind thoughts, to others I express my fullest forgiveness and to Ireland my undying prayer for absolute freedom and independence, which it has always been my ambition to achieve for her,” he said. “I hope that in the two Governments I have led, we have made a modest contribution towards that ambition.”