



The Voice of the Maltese

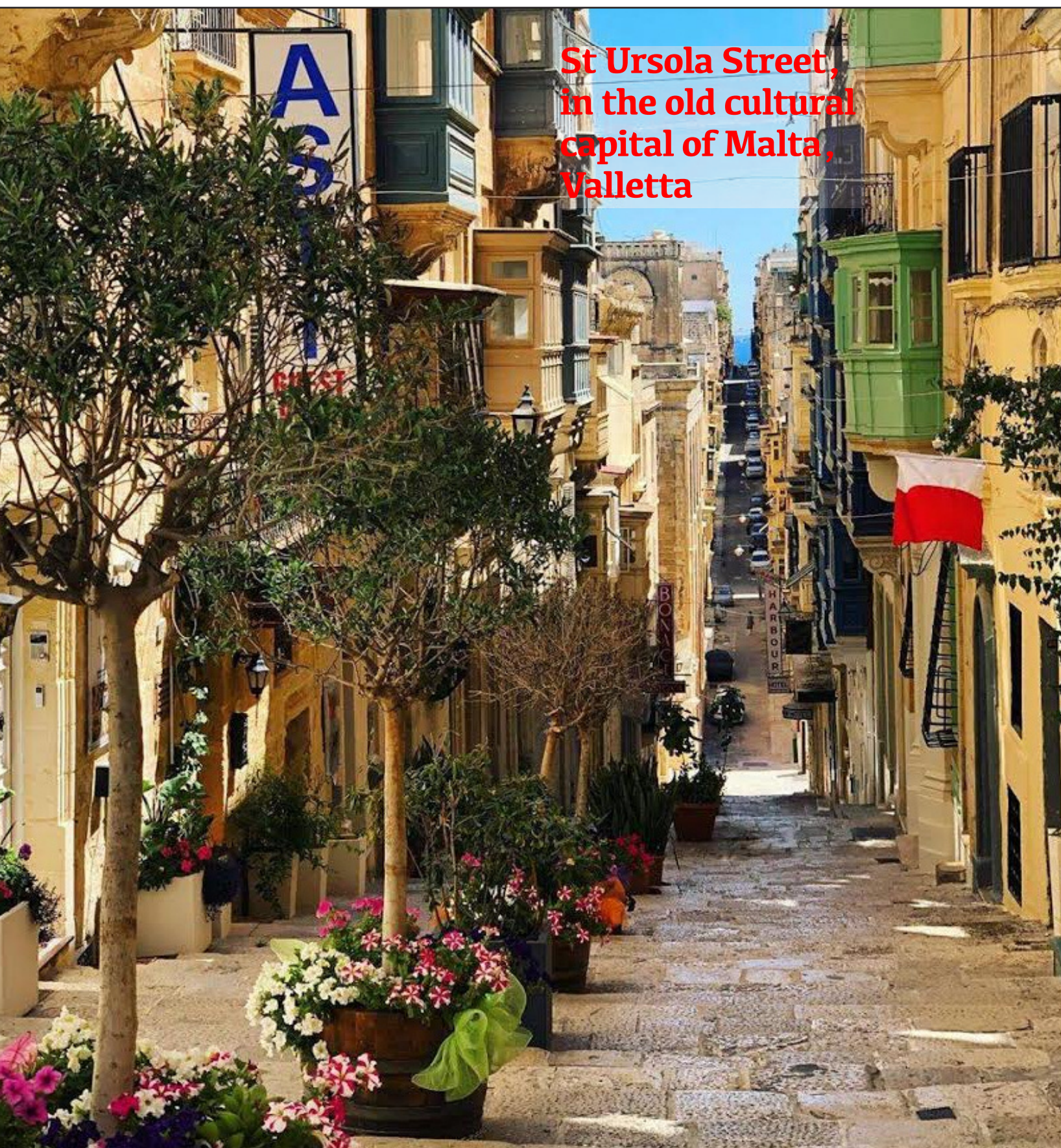
(driven by the voice of its readers)

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**St Ursola Street,
in the old cultural
capital of Malta,
Valletta**



Coronavirus revisited? ... or history repeating itself

Advice from Prof. Albert Victor Bernard in 1918 about the Spanish Flu in Malta

Before the coronavirus, Malta had been hit hard by a number of other life-threatening diseases, primarily the Spanish flu, that reached the Maltese islands in May of 1918. Around 16,000 cases were reported in the first 12 months but the influenza probably had affected a little over 50,000 people, the majority between 20 to 40, and mostly women.

The death rate at the time, when the population was much lower than today, reached 1000 people, and 1 in 10 was recorded in Gozo. The pandemic reportedly wiped out 5% of the world population.

*The original documents from 1918 (right and bottom) found at the Malta National Archives with Prof Bernard's advice about the **Influenza and how it may be avoided**. In both documents reproduced here, note the similarities in the advice by the Public Health Department in 1918 to those by the medical authorities today to contain the spread of COVID-19.*

Lately, influenza has been prevalent form in all European countries and a certain number of cases have occurred also in these islands. As we all know from experience how extremely catching influenza is, we must do our best to prevent it from getting into our household.

It is true that in the great majority of cases the illness runs a short course to recovery, but sometimes it may have unpleasant and serious complications. Besides, every illness, however slight, brings about a certain amount of disablement and costs money, and there is no time like the present when it is ore necessary to keep in good health.

Influenza is spread by means of the droplets of saliva and mucus coughed or sneezed by patients as well as by their sputum. Hence all those that are going through an attack should use their handkerchief when coughing or sneezing and should not spit on the floor or in the street, anywhere; neither should persons that are well mix with, or visit those suffering from the disease.

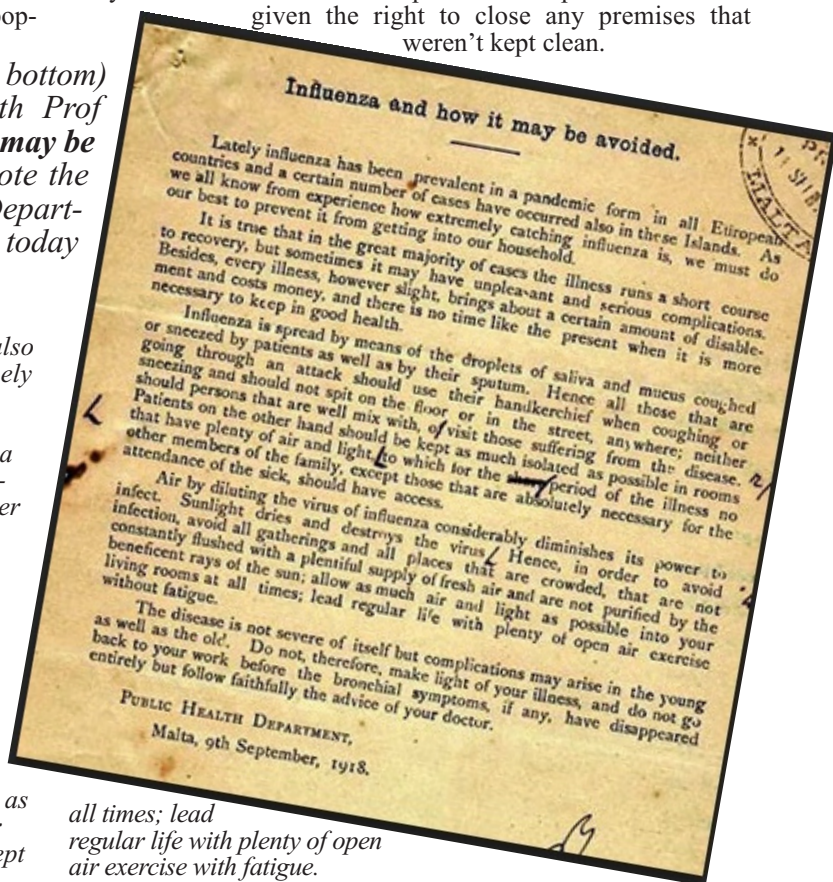
Patients on the other hand should be kept as much isolated as possible in rooms that have plenty of air and light, which for the period of the illness no other members of the family, except those that are absolutely necessary for the attendance of the sick, should have access.

Air by diluting the virus of influenza considerably diminishes its power to infect. Sunlight dries and destroys the virus. Hence, in order to avoid infection, avoid all gatherings and all places that are crowded, that are not constantly flushed with a plentiful supply of fresh air and are not purified by the beneficent rays of the sun; allow as much air and light as possible into your living rooms at

Malta wasn't immune and when the flu hit the island and there were various information campaigns and quarantine was ensured.

At the time Dr Albert Bernard, who acted as the Chief Government Medical Officer, made a number of recommendations (see the two documents) to control the spread of the Spanish Flu.

The Government ordered every cinema and places of entertainment to be kept clean and ventilated. The places were disinfected daily and schools were to be kept clean. The public health was given the right to close any premises that weren't kept clean.



all times; lead regular life with plenty of open air exercise with fatigue.

The disease is not severe of itself but complications may arise in the young as well as the old. Do not, therefore, make light of your illness, and do not go back to your work before the bronchial symptoms, if any, have disappeared entirely but follow faithfully the advice of your doctor.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Malta, 9th September, 1918

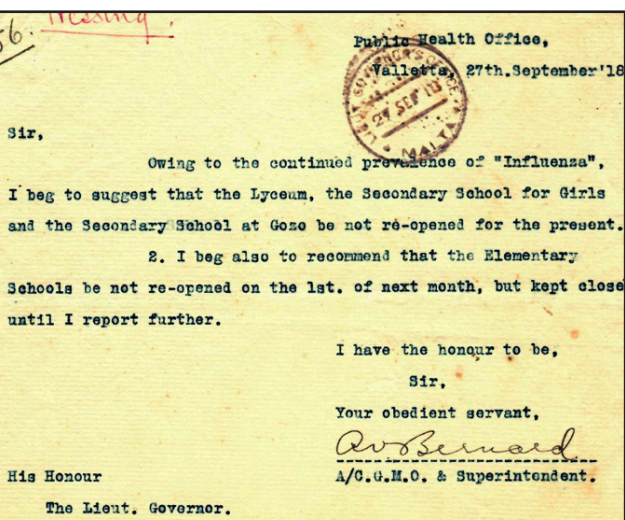
Spanish Flu was responsible for 50 million deaths all over the world

At the time of the Spanish Flu Pandemic in 1918, Prof. Albert Victor Bernard was the Acting Chief Government Medical Officer (CGMO). His grandchild, Mister Anthony Bernard, who is an Orthopaedic Surgeon in Malta, is of the opinion that the pandemic in 1918

was most likely caused by the H1N1 virus. "Spanish 'Flu was responsible for some 50 million deaths, more than the losses during the ending Great War where grandfather lost two of his nephews. One was the first Maltese death on the Western Front and the other in the Gallipoli campaign," states Mr Bernard.

Mr Bernard described the document obtained from the Malta Archive (*copied left*), as "captivating". In it, "Prof Albert recommended to the Lieutenant Governor of Malta that schools should remain closed during the pandemic

(*Continued on page 3)



Mankind brought to its knees/ from page 2

Prof Albert Victor Bernard signed the recommendation (on page 2) as acting CGMO & Superintendent on 27th September 1918

He said: "Owing to the continued prevalence of "Influenza", I beg to suggest that the Lyceum, the Secondary School for Girls and the Secondary School at Gozo be not re-opened for the present.

2. I beg also to recommend that the Elementary Schools be not re-opened on the 1st of next month, but kept closed until I report further."

Mr Anthony Bernard said "it is sobering to realise that mankind can be again brought to its knees by this microscopic virus and in spite of all our technological advances we find ourselves completely unprepared yet again."

Anaesthetist Prof. Stephen Gatt and Mr Anthony Bernard are both alumni of the same vintage of the Royal University of Malta. Prof Gatt, very well known among the Maltese community in Australia, is critical about early re-opening of schools (in Australia) with the exception of Years 11 & 12. "To my dismay, two of my grandchildren returned to school today". Professor. Bernard's appeal a hundred years ago, regarding the cautious recommendation about School Reopening during the Flu Pandemic rings true to him.

"It is wonderful that something as simple as a notice of advice to Malta's population afflicted by viral infection can elicit an identical emotional response from the medical community a hundred years later. The parallels are so similar... we have not progressed one iota in a hundred years. We still have no vaccine and no specific treatment. In spite of our success in flattening the curve ('the hammer') we must remain vigilant and cautious. Let us learn from past wisdom of Prof Bernard," Mr Bernard and Prof Gatt said.

It has to be said, that when it comes to Malta, is emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and it has fared much better than most, with only nine deaths to date. Most of them also suffered from a number of chronic conditions.

Governor General's Regulations (1918)⇒

Further to the recommendations (reproduced on opposite page) by Prof Albert Victor Bernard, other regulations intended to prevent the spread of the Spanish Flu in 1918, the Governor General also issued a number of regulations in another document that is found in the National Archives of Malta (right), which states:

1. Every keeper of a cinematograph, theatre or any other place of entertainment shall keep all part as Superintendent of Public Health the premises where such entertainments are held perfectly clean and thoroughly ventilated to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of Public Health.

2. Every keeper mentioned above shall not allow to remain on such premises a number

of persons larger than that for which sitting accommodation is provided and shall otherwise conform to the intrusions that the said Superintendent may give to prevent overcrowding in such places.

3. Every such keeper shall cause the place where such entertainment is held to be disinfected at least once daily in the manner prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Health.

4. Every director of a school, including schools for religious instructions, shall keep his school clean, and ventilated to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of Public Health. He shall also conform to the instructions the said Superintendent may give to prevent overcrowding in the school and for

IN exercise of the powers vested in the Governor by article 38 of the Fourth Sanitary Ordinance 1908, His Excellency has been pleased to make the following regulations for preventing the spread of influenza, viz:

1. Every keeper of a cinematograph, theatre or any other place of entertainment shall keep all parts of the premises where such entertainments are held perfectly clean and thoroughly ventilated to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of Public Health.

2. Every keeper mentioned above shall not allow to remain on such premises a number of persons larger than that for which sitting accommodation is provided and shall otherwise conform to the instructions which the said Superintendent may give to prevent overcrowding in such places.

3. Every such keeper shall cause the place where such entertainment is held to be disinfected at least once daily in the manner prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Health.

4. Every director of a school, including schools for religious instruction, shall keep his school clean, and ventilated to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of Public Health. He shall also conform to the instructions the said Superintendent may give to prevent overcrowding in the school and for the disinfection of the school premises.

5. In case the Superintendent of Public Health considers that any cinematograph, theatre or other place of entertainment, or any school, including schools for religious instruction, is not kept sufficiently clean and ventilated or is so overcrowded that it may cause prejudice to health, it shall be lawful for him to order the immediate closure of such cinematograph, theatre, place of entertainment or school, and the keeper or director concerned shall be bound to keep his place of entertainment, or his school as the case may be, closed until the said Superintendent is satisfied that no danger to health is likely to follow its re-opening.

September , 1918.

the disinfection of the school premises.

5. In case the Superintendent of Public Health considers that any cinematograph, theatre, or other place of entertainment, or any school, including schools of religious instruction, is not kept sufficiently clean and ventilated or is overcrowded that it may cause prejudice to health, it shall be lawful for him to order the immediate closure of such cinematograph, theatre, place of entertainment or school, and the keeper or director concerned shall be bound to keep his place of entertainment, or his school as the case may be, closed until the said Superintendent is satisfied that no danger to health is likely to follow its re-opening.

September 28, 1918



Prof Albert Victor Bernard - in a 1994 painting by Luciano Micallef

References: C. Savona-Ventura: Bernard, Albert Victor: Royal Army Medical Corps, Maltese biographies of the twentieth century [eds. M.J. Schiavone.

Who was Prof Albert Victor Bernard?

Albert Victor Bernard, Professor of Preventive Medicine, was born in Valletta on March 14, 1885. He was educated at Flores College, and the University of Malta. He followed that up by a postgraduate course in hygiene and tropical medicine in London

On April 27, 1909, Dr Bernard joined the Government Health Service as assistant medical officer in the Central Civil Hospital in Floriana, and two years later, in 1911, he was proposed as the successor to Dr Critien as CGMO, subject to him obtaining the diploma in Public Health at University College Liverpool. He left for England on March 16 that same

year and was granted £150 to cover college fees, travel and all other expenses.

Before leaving he was obliged to enter into an agreement binding himself to serve the Malta Government for at least 10 years, and in the event of him failing to obtain the Diploma of Public Health to refund all expenses incurred for his training.

On obtaining his diploma, Bernard was to be appointed Medical Officer of Health from the date of his return to Malta. He was appointed medical officer of health in the Public Health Department on April 15. His duties included giving special lectures with demonstrations to sanitary inspectors.

During the Italo-Abyssinian War in 1935 he delivered lec-

tures on medical aspects of chemical warfare and treatment of casualties, and in 1937, at the age of 52, he was appointed Chief Government Medical Officer, a position he occupied until 1945. During World War II, he planned and was responsible for the health services of the Islands and for implementing the Emergency Hospital Scheme for the wounded and gas casualties among the civil population.

He was nominated MBE (1919), OBE (1928), CBE (1941), CMG (1945), and made officer of the Crown of Italy for services after earthquake in Calabria, Sicily.

He published several papers on medical health and historical subjects before he died in June 20, 1955 at the age of 70.

Another service offered by The Voice of the Maltese providing legal information to our readers

The Era of COVID-19: Separating when you have children

by Paul Sant

Are you worried that COVID-19 will put an immediate stop to your access to the courts? Are you worried that the situation at home is escalating, and that you will need parenting orders urgently?

Perhaps you've heard rumours swirling around about ballooning court timetables, and months of inaction. Put simply, that need not be reflective of the progress of your matter.

COVID-19 Will Not Slow Down Progress of Urgent Parenting Matters

As of two weeks ago, the Family Courts stepped forward to ensure that families doing it tough don't fall between the cracks, or suddenly find themselves unable to access the Courts.

There is now a specific COVID-19 list, for urgent parenting matters. The types of matters on the list will include, but are not limited to:

- allegations of family violence;
- conflict because of the breakdown of existing contact arrangements that relied upon established contact centres that have been forced to close temporarily;
- arisen due to the closure of state borders, where one parent lives inter-state and their contact with the children has severely reduced.
- impacted by medical issues or precautions in the current pandemic and their impact on parenting arrangements.

The time frames for the progress of these matters is still somewhat unclear, however these types of matters are now guaranteed priority, and we anticipate that

the time delays will not be significant. All urgent parenting applications filed in either of the Family Law Courts, will be assessed at first instance by a Registrar.

It is intended that the new list will assist the Courts in becoming more responsive where issues of compliance have arisen due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

The Court's aim is to ensure where possible that parents and children are able to continue to foster meaningful relationships despite the difficulties created by this pandemic.

I Have Parenting Orders, But I Can't Comply Because of COVID-19

What happens when complying with your existing parenting orders means that you will be in direct contravention with COVID-19 restrictions, or compliance means that you are placing your child's or your own health at risk?

The answer is not simple, but we will endeavour to work through this painful conundrum with you in this article. Orders represent a legal expectation and obligation regarding printing of the child/children until that child reaches the age of eighteen.

First is first, non-compliance with a parenting order means that a party has breached them. When parenting orders are breached, the non-breaching party is usually at liberty to bring Contravention proceedings. Contravention proceedings are a special type of application to the Court, notifying the Court of the other party's breach and often asking for a specific remedy, such as:

1. Variation of an order;
2. Make up time, for lost time with the child;
3. Seeking that the other party complete

anger management or a parenting course;

4. Penalising the breach party by way of fine, or imprisonment in extreme circumstances.

However, the law recognises that at times breaches of parenting orders can be unavoidable, or so minor in nature that it does not warrant a re-visiting of the arrangement. In essence, the defence to contravention proceedings revolves around whether the parent that breached the orders had a "reasonable excuse", among other factors.

Up until late 2019, practitioners and the Courts alike had a pretty firm grasp on what "reasonable excuse" actually meant. However, in today's context, where COVID-19 restrictions, medical advice, and layer upon layer of uncertainty, have impenetrably muddled the waters, it is no longer so clear.

The new COVID-19 restrictions will test the Courts, and over time the law will be developed and fine-tuned as it is applied to new cases and circumstances.

For example, is it unreasonable to prevent a child from travelling to the other's home where the parent works in a high exposure job, and the live-with parent is concerned about the child contracting an illness?

What about circumstances where parenting arrangements collapse, because they relied on supervised contact, or change over at school or in public locations that are now closed? At this point only time will tell.

What we can say for certain is, that if the breach is very minor in nature, convening a Court to hear your matter may be very difficult. Courts are currently prioritising urgent parenting matters only. However, that is not to say that all avenues for dispute resolution are to be abandoned.

There is an array of alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediation, arbitration, round table conferences, or even good old fashioned family dispute resolution with a qualified counsellor.

If you find yourself in a similar situation, and would like advice on whether your orders have been contravened as a result of a reasonable excuse, you are welcome to get in touch with our family law lawyers for some immediate advice on the issue.



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Maltese Spoken



We have provided you with an overview of the topic above but you should consult a professional for advice specific to your circumstances.

Il-ħajja mal-maqfulin fi żmien il-pandemija

Mhuwiex daqshekk important li ngħid-
ilkom kemm **Lawrence Dimech**

għandi żmien imma eġja ngħidu li jien u marti ahna fl-età vulnerabbli, jiġifieri xjuħ. Il-pandemija COVID-19 aktar haqret lil nies f'età avvanzata, kif hafna drabi, wara kollox jiġi wkoll b'mard ieħor.

Konna fost l-ewwel nies li qalulna, daqshekk, tohorgux barra iżjed; kuntatt ta' xejn mat-tfal, man-neputijiet, jew mal-ħbieb. Imsomma iżolazzjoni assoluta, sentenza krudili. Diġà ahna mgħobbijin bil-komplikazzjonijiet li ġgib magħha x-xjuħija u issa ġejna wiċċ ma' wiċċ mal-COVID-19. Xi trid tgħamel!

Ma nistax nikteb dwar haddieħor iżda bħala anġan, ħajti diġà kienet ristretta, il-giri lil-hemm u lil-hawn m'għadux in-norma; kollox hu ippanat biex inaqqas l-istrapazz żejjed. Bejn minn għandu dia-betè, kolesterol, xi wġieħ fil-ġogi, jekk mhux ukoll fil-qalb, imsomma, il-ġisem beda jgħejja. Għalhekk meta qafuna ġew-wa, konna tista' tgħid, diġà drajna l-ħajja trankwilla f'darna.

Imbagħad ibbumbardjawn b'ħafna tagħrif u regoli. Anzi ahna li m'ahniex diletanti tal-Facebook għax il-ħajja tagħna mimlija b'aktar suġġetti ta' interess, ġejna meħlusin minn qabda esagerazzjonijiet, kliem fil-vojt u tagħrif żbaljat.

Grazzi għat-televiżjoni u anke għar-radju, li fil-fatt huma bzonnjużi, kultant iktar

iħawwduna milli jgħadulna tagħrif ċar. Gazzetti ma stajniex naqraw jekk mhux *online*, u mhux kulhadd ħabib tal-kompjuter.

Kif se nieklu? Kienu hafna li offrew l-għajjuna u hawn rajna tassew kemm quddiem sunami ssib hafna b'qalbhom tajba. Jien u marti xorta bqajna mmorru s-supermarket, forsi mhux kull ġimgħa iżda għall-inqas kull ġimagħtejn, bil-maskra u anke bl-ing-wanti. Sibna organizzazzjoni maħsuba u li osservat kull direzzjoni. Hassejna protezzjoni, l-istess għand it-tabib, l-ispiżar u l-bank. Inqdejna kull darba.

Kellna rasna mistrieħa li l-Gvern u l-awtoritajiet ta' Sahħa Pubblika kienu qegħdin jagħmlu dak kollu possibbli, kemm fil-pajjiż li addottana, l-Awsralja, kif koll f'pajjiżna Malta fejn għad għandna membri tal-familja u ħbieb. Ma kienx żmien ta' kritika; kien żmien fejn ilkoll flimkien ninsabu f'dgħajsa wahda. M'hemmx agenda

mohbija, m'hemmx politika partiġġjana jew kummenti sarkastiċi.

Meta d-dinja tigi milquta minn pandemija bħal din, mhux possibbli teħles minnha malajr. Trid tkun imhejji biex ittaffi t-tixrid u l-fatalitajiet. Ir-riżultat finali jitkejjel mill-għadd ta' dawk li fiequ; kemm imexxielek twaqqaf imwiet. Kemm kont imhejji bis-sodod, makkinarju, ventilaturi, infermiera, tobbia eċċ. Kemm kont aħjar minn l-Amerika, l-Ingilterra, l-Italja u Spanja.

Fl-aħħar, ahna li nqfilna ġewwa niftakru żmienijiet aghar jew inqas aghar. L-esperjenza tal-ħajja lestina għal kull eventwalità. Flimkien b'rieda tajba naċċettaw il-koronavirus bħal sfida oħra fil-ħajja mqallba tagħna.

Inħarsu 'l quddiem u niftakru li wara l-maltemp dejjem jiġi l-bnazzi.



Jibdew jillaxkaw il-miżuri tal-COVID-19

Nhar il-Ġimgħa 22 ta' Mejju f'Malta illaxkaw għadd ta' miżuri tal-koronavirus meta bdew jinfethu għadd ta' stabbilimenti fis-settur turistikali jinkludu ristoranti, pixxini u postijiet pubbliċi oħrajn, bħall-bajjiet, li madankollu jinhtiegħom isegwu protokollu ċari li ġew imfassla b'rispett assolut lejn is-saħħa tal-konsumatur.

Bdew ukoll jiffunzjonaw mill-ġdid il-ħwienet tal-hairdressers (il-parrukkiera) u stabbilimenti tas-sbuhija u d-difrejn. IMMA taht miżuri stretti li jidher li ġew milqugħa kemm minn sidien tal-ħwienet, kif ukoll il-klijenti.

Safanittant, waqt konferenza tal-aħbarijiet flimkien mal-Awtorità Maltija għat-Turizmu, il-Ministru għat-Turizmu u l-Protezzjoni tal-Konsumatur Julia Farrugia Portelli laqgħet b'sodis-

fazzjon l-illaxkar ta' stabbilimenti konnessi mat-turizmu, għalkemm għaliha għad mhux permess li jinfetħu il-mitjar gal wasliet ta' turisti fil-gzira Maltija.

Il-Ministru Farrugia Portelli saħqet li l-ikbar branding ta' Malta hu li Malta hi destinazzjoni sikura, u sostniet l-ewwel magna li se tkun qed terġa' tiftaħ hija dik tat-turizmu intern, dak lejn Għawdex jew viċi-versa fejn il-familji jistgħu jistgħu jmorru jieklu f'postijiet aktar sikuri minn qatt qabel.

Fejn għandhom x'jaqs, u l-bajjiet hemm għadd ta' protokollu ċari ta' distanza ta' żewġ metri minn familja għall-oħra, u bi gwida ċara ta' tindif fuq il-bajja, id-deckchairs, u r-reċipjenti tal-iskart, fost l-oħrajn.

Fejn għandhom x'jaqsmu r-ristoranti, dawn l-istabbilimenti li għandhom kemm ġewwa u wkoll barra bdew jagħmlu użu biss mill-parti ta' barra, u d-distanza bejn mejda u oħra trid tkun dik ta' żewġ metri. L-istabbilimenti tal-ikel li għandhom ġewwa biss, ngħataw permess jarmaw ġewwa biss, imma l-imwejjed qed ikollhom ikunu spazjati b'distanza ta' tliet metri.

Fl-ewwel ġimgħa ta' dawn il-miżuri, għalkemm b'mod kajman, imma s-sidien speċjalment, urew is-sodisfazzjon tagħhom u huma fiduċjużi li aktar ma jmur aktar se jirpiljaw, anke jekk mhux għal kollox. Ta' min jgħid ukoll li qabel jiftaħ għall-pubbliku, kull ristoranti irid jiġi ċċertifikat bħala li jkun sigur u tal-ogħla livelli iġġeniċi.

Ta' min jgħid li dan seta' jseħh minhabba li limxija tal-COVID-19 qed sa ċertu punt tiġi mrażżna.



More changes to Civic Park and the Maltese Monument

“There is a very close relationship between Holroyd/Cumberland Council and the Maltese Community. We are the pioneers of this district. Pendle Hill, Wentworthville, and Greystanes are known as “Little Malta”, Miriam Friggieri the energetic secretary of the Maltese Community Council of NSW told *The Voice of the Maltese* as we met near the Australian-Maltese Bi-Centennial Monument at Civic Park, Pendle Hill NSW.

The Bi-Centenary Monument shows the symbolic four arms of the eight-pointed Maltese cross, with a bronze plaque on each arm telling the story of those that left Malta to settle in Australia. The monument was erected in 1988 to commemorate the 200th year of colonial occupation in Australia.

It was officially opened by Hon JRA Dowd, Attorney General and H.E Victor J. Gauci, High Commissioner for Malta in Australia on Sunday, December 18, 1988.

The symbolic eight-pointed cross etched in the pavement at the foot of the monument marks a buried historical time-capsule containing written material about the community. It was placed there on April 9, 1989. It will be opened in 2039.

Civic Park is located near the Pendle Hill railway station. It is also used for commuter parking and was surrounded by



Miriam Friggieri



Civic Park with the monument in the background. The pergola has since been roofed

older homes. Nowadays, the emphasis is on high-rise flats. Gone are the adjacent Catholic Club and the Scouts Hall.

The Voice of the Maltese caught up with Ahmed Mehio, the landscape architect for Cumberland Council. He told us that Cumberland City

Council is consulting the local community to find out how Civic Park is being utilised to form a Draft Landscape Masterplan.

Based on the feedback, the Council has drafted a concept plan that details the revitalisation of the park and the adjacent Pendle Creek wetland area.

The concept design intends to upgrade and rationalise the park with spaces and uses for passive recreation, play, and so-

cial gathering, and to revitalise the creek area and waterway to provide respite from the urban surrounds.

No doubt, any changes to the park directly involves the Maltese monument. It is anticipated that the wall at the back would be lowered, flagpoles could be shifted and the paved area to be enlarged to accommodate more people during functions associated with the Maltese Monument.

There are also plans to open another entrance to the park from where the Scouts Hall used to be as this will be an extension to the parking area.

According to the architect, these changes will take some time to complete, however, with the celebration of June 7, 2020, in doubt due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maltese community has no events planned at this site in the near future.



The Council's plans for the park. No 10 is where the monument is situated

The monument is also a major attraction for visitors from Malta. Then President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca visited the monument when she made her official visit to Australia in 2016.

In 2011 the then President George Abela also visited. The same can be said of President Dr Eddie Fenech Adami in 2009.

In 2007 Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi also visited. So too, in 2010, the then PL Leader Joseph Muscat, accompanied by Dr George Vella and Dr. Charles Buhagiar. Bishop of Gozo Mario Grech visited in 2011.

The current Speaker in Malta's Parliament, Anglu Farrugia paid a visit in 2017 and Archbishop Paul Cremona in 2008. MP Simon Busuttil in 2013 and Minister Helena Dalli in 2018, also made a tour of the place.

Church restrictions in NSW eased

Call to ease restrictions on church gatherings heeded following petition

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has thanked the tens of thousands of people across the state that signed a petition asking the New South Wales Government to scrap "unfair" COVID-19 restrictions on churches.

From June 1, up to 50 people are being allowed to attend Mass or private prayer in a church – in line with clubs, restaurants, pubs and other venues.

The new rules had previously been discriminatory as hospitality venues had been allowed up to 50 customers, but religious gatherings and places of worship could only have up to 10 in attendance.

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) had called on the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian to grant religious gatherings equal treatment to other public spaces under eased COVID-19 restrictions.

ACL NSW director Kieren Jackson said, that Christians and adherents to other faiths were eager to be with each other again while exercising social distancing, and that worship centres offer a free service supporting the spiritual, emotional and mental health of their adherents.

"Faith-based gatherings are also likely to involve the same people every week, making the tracing of any outbreaks far easier than with random customers in pubs, cafes and restaurants," he said.

He pointed out that wellbeing would be



Inside St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

enhanced by granting places of worship an equal footing with eating and drinking venues as Man does not live on bread alone.

Archbishop Fisher welcomed the new decision, saying that he was pleased the Government had listened to reasonable pleas from tens of thousands of people of faith across the state.

"The closure of our churches and indeed of all places of worship has been deeply distressing for many people of faith in our community," Archbishop Fisher said.

"It added to the isolation and anxiety that so many were feeling. With restrictions easing, many were concerned that the churches were being left behind, and wanted to make their voices heard.

"People of faith weren't asking for special treatment, but wanted to be treated equally".

He was grateful to those who signed the petition expressing their desire to return to

church, and I looked forward to welcoming them back.

"We know that people cling to their faith in difficult times, and I am grateful that they will have this opportunity to find hope and solace in their place of worship.

"We will continue to abide by Government health directives, and continue to pray for an end to the pandemic and all those affected by it," the Archbishop said.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian said places of worship would need to abide by the four-square metre rule and people must maintain social distancing.

"We know how important these services are to individuals and families, but as we ease restrictions further, we must remember to keep one another safe," Ms Berejiklian said.

"It is crucial that worshippers remember to follow health advice. This is particularly important for people with co-morbidities aged over 65 and people aged over 70."

NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant said places of worship would be asked to find alternatives to practices like group singing, sharing books and passing around the collection plate to reduce infection risks.

These restrictions are applicable to the State of NSW (capital Sydney). Other States and Territories in Australia may have different restrictions.



Coronavirus is the biggest challenge to small business In Parramatta In our lifetimes.

This list of services may help your business navigate the crisis. Things are changing rapidly and I encourage you to sign up for my regular small business bulletin so I can keep you updated:
julieowens.com.au/take-action/bulletin-sign-up

Stay safe, follow the guidelines and wash your hands regularly.

Julie Owens MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PARRAMATTA

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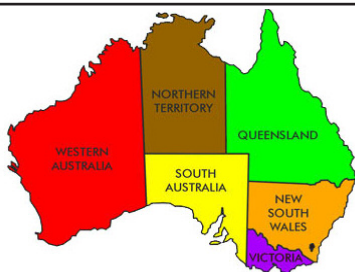
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Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

fortnightly magazine

This is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly magazine that specifically targets all Maltese living abroad with emphasis on the Australian and Maltese scenes.

The magazine can also be read in flipbook format online. A pdf copy is also sent via email on request.

If you require a printed copy we can also oblige.

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Letters for publication in *The Voice* magazine, either in Maltese or English should include name, e-mail address and residence of the writer, and be e-mailed to: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



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Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

Malta has a lot to be proud of

Paul Calleja from Bolton, UK writes:

I am unable to understand the Maltese English language media (or rather most of the so-called independent news portals), that I avidly can follow day in and day out so far emanating from my beloved country of birth.

International organisations keep giving this tiny island flourishing results in most of the important sectors, in particular in economy and health. However, not a day passes without some know-all tries to belittle the island's achievements with disparaging remarks or comments on the news portals.

For a country to get the reports that Malta has, by the International Monetary Fund (especially), and the three biggest rating agencies, Fitch, Standard & Poor's (S&P), and Moody's, and now even Germany's Scope is something any Maltese living in Malta or abroad, should be proud of.

Not so, however, a few opinion writers on

the island who all seem to have one objective in mind and the same agenda between them, which is, to tarnish Malta's image because they don't favour the legitimate government.

For example, they cannot find one good example of good governance and then make it a point to air their views in the international media.

Without mentioning the names of these media, I must add that many of them seem happy to just print anything that comes their way, even if it is duplicated. I would never have believed it, but some have become copy printers as they publish cut and paste articles so long as it is in line with their targets.

That is why there are so many people that have lost their trust in newspaper publishers and news portals. For them, fake news has become the order of the day, losing credibility. No wonder they also keep losing their readership.

We are in this together, or are we?

Toni Bajada from Pendle Hill NSW writes:

How many times do we hear the phrase, "we are in this together", referring to the coronavirus pandemic? We listen to it repeatedly on TV, radio and in the streets.

Yes, in times of war, and significant tragedies, our national pride takes over. It comes to the fore. That's how it should be unless we put party politics above our love for the country.

It is indeed a pity that we cannot say thank you to the government in time of a national crisis. Indeed we have freedom of speech but that too comes with some responsibility.

Spreading fear and uncertainty is not on.

Kummenti dubjużi

George Cardona Plumpton minn NSW jikteb:

Pajjiżna Malta hejja tajjeb għall-pandemija tal-coronavirus. Imm'issa qed naraw lil xi talin jippruvaw idahhlu dubji fl-għexieren ta' hbiebhom fuq facebook bla ma jagħtu l-fatti kollha.

Minghand dawn l-istess nies la smajna u wisq inqas nisimghu kummenti biex ifahhru meta l-affarijiet ikunu qeghdin fit-triq it-tajba.

Mhux kemm joħorġu każijiet pozittivi izda jekk il-pajjiż u l-awtoritajiet tas-Saħha għandhomx il-kapaċitajiet li jiehdu hsieb u jfejju li dawk li jkunnu nfettati u mhux ihal-luhom imutu fit-toroq kif sar fl-Italja u Spanja u kif qed isehh fl-Istati Uniti u fil-Brazil, fost oħrajn.

Why I like theVoM

Michael Gatt from St Albans writes:

Among the reasons why I eagerly await the publication of *The Voice of the Maltese* every fortnight is, that beside the good number of interesting, exclusive and well researched features it contains, I also like reading the way you present your news from Malta. It is always current.

Most of the magazines I subscribe to (not Maltese), give little, or no importance to news features, which is understandable as when they are published news becomes stale or outdated. Not so *The Voice*. Therefore I look forward to it. Thanks.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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L-akbar festa folkloristika fil-gzejjer Maltin: L-Imnarja

Bla dubju li l-akbar festa folkloristika matul is-sena fil-gzejjer Maltin hija dik tal-Imnarja, il-festa ta' San Pietru u San Pawl, li ssir kull sena fid-29 ta' Ġunju. Għal din il-festa popolari hafna mal-Maltin, f'it li xejn sar tibdil fiha minn tal-antik. Hija wkoll marbuta mal-ewwel jiem tal-istagun saffi.

L-Imnarja hi mifruxa fi tnejn, dik reliġjuża li ssir fil-Katidral tal-Imdina, u l-festi ta' barra mifruxa fil-Buskett u r-Rabat. Għall-festi ta' ġewwa fil-Katidral tal-Imdina l-attendenzi naqsu hafna, iżda dawk ta' barra, fil-ġonna tal-Buskett baqgħu qawwija, anke mal-barranin li jkunu fuq iżjara f'Malta.

L-eċċezzjoni se tkun din is-sena minħabba r-restrizzjonijiet kaġun tal-pandemija tal-koronavirus li mhemmx ċans li dis-sena ssir.

Il-festa tal-Imnarja tmur lura fis-snin imbiegħda. Kienet waħda mill-aqwa festi ta' żmien il-Kavallieri. Il-festa ħadet isimha mill-'mixegħla' - 'Luminarja' (qrib hafna tal-kelma Mnarja). Dari fiha kienu jinxtegħlu l-fjakkli fuq il-Katidral u s-swar tal-Imdina - Luminarja (mixegħla). Minn din il-kelma jidher li hareġ l-isem tal-festa.

Mal-festa tal-Imnarja hemm marbuta wkoll il-palġijiet li jfakkru fit-tigrijiet tal-bhejjem li jsiru fil-jum tal-festa wara nofsinhar fit-triq tal-Plieri, dik li tgħaqqad ir-Rabat mas-Siggiewi.

Din l-attività tant kienet akkanita li saħansitra l-Gran Mas-tru kien joħroġ twissijiet, permezz tal-qari tal-bandu, għal waqt dawn it-tigrijiet, halli kulhadd igib ruħu sew.

Imma għal hafna, l-Imnarja hija l-akar marbuta mal-Buskett fejn f'lejlitha tinfetaħ il-wirja tal-ħxejjex, il-frott, it-tjur u l-bhejjem li ilha ssir mill-1854 fuq inizjattiva tal-Gvernatur Sir William Reid.

Il-wirja tibqa' miftuħa sa jum l-Imnarja f'nofsinhar meta jitqassmu l-premijiet lil dawk li kellhom jesebixxu l-aħjar prodotti u hwejjeġ oħra fil-wirja. Illum il-premijiet jitqassmu mill-President ta' Malta.

Izda l-pjaċir ta' hafna huwa l-lejl tal-Imnarja fil-Buskett fejn taħt is-sigħar tal-laring ikun għaddej l-ghana, akkumpanjat mill-ikel tal-fniek moqlija u xi legliga ta' naqra nbid.

Sa qabel dis-sena l-ghana, li jkompli għaddej sal-ghada fil-ghodu u jintemm ma' nofsinhar f'jum l-Imnarja, kif ukoll l-ikel kienu żdiedu sewwa.

Fl-Imnarja fil-Buskett, id-dilettanti tal-ghana jkunu fl-ogħla sema għax ikunu jistgħu jsegwu l-aqwa għanneja b'ghana varjat bħala spirtu pront, tal-fatt, u la Bormliża.

Għanneja waqt il-festa tal-Imnarja fil-Buskett



Pittura antika tal-brijju fil-Buskett, iddominat fl-isfond bil-Palazz tal-Verdala

Li jkompli jsebbah il-post il-fatt li l-ghana jigu mdawwal u b'hekk tingħata dehra aktar festiva. Ma kinetx tkun haġa kbira li mat-tokki ta' nofsillejl, li jdaħhluna għal nhar l-Imnarja, tinħaraq ukoll xi kaxxa infernali tal-kulur.

Sa qabel dis-sena u l-pandemija, xena tal-imghoddi li kienet baqgħet issir hi dik li tara xi nies li minn lejlet sa nhar l-Imnarja jorqdu taħt is-sigħar tal-Buskett. Imbagħad mas-sebħ ta' nhar il-festa, wara l-quddiesa tal-mattinata jkun il-pjaċir kbir tagħhom jaraw il-bhejjem deħlin f'it għall-wirja.

Għal din il-festa, li hi wkoll dik ta' San Pietru u San Pawl, il-Katidral tal-Imdina jkun imzejjen għall-okkażjoni. Lejlet il-festa ssir it-translazzjoni li kienet qed issir mill-Grotta ta' San Pawl fir-Rabat sal-Katidral u li fiha jieħdu sehem il-monsinjuri tal-Katidral u l-Arcisqof. L-ghada filghodu mabagħad isir il-pontifikal.

Il-festa tagħlaq bi programm mużikali kbir li jibda malli jintemmu t-tigrijiet tal-bhejjem taħt ir-Rabat.

Kull sena l-Banda L'Isle Adam tar-Rabat tesegwixxi programm mużikali li hafna drabi jinkludi fih il-partiċipazzjoni ta' ilgħa solisti u kor. Din mhix xi haġa li kienet issir minn dejjem għax il-banda mhiex antika daqs il-festa tal-Imnarja.

Fil-fatt, il-kittieb folkloristiku Dun Guzepp Farrugia jagħti dehra mill-isbaħ ta' kif kienet tintemm din il-festa.

Kiteb hekk:

"Malli tispicċa l-aħħar tigrija, it-toroq li jagħtu għall-irhula, u fosthom kollha dik li mill-Imdina tieħu għal H'Attard, tarahom maħnuqin b'kull xorta ta' karettuni u karozzini hallata ballata, u kulhadd bl-imħatra min isuq l-aktar imlebbet.

"In-nies tal-irhula, ħomor nar bix-xemx, erħilhom iwad-dbu t-tuffieħ ta' Belludja u jxejru dlonk il-friegħi ħodor tal-qasab u tal-luq, waqt li l-irgħiel jgħannu bl-orgnijiet f'idejhom."

Ta' min jgħid li l-festa ta' San Pietru u San Pawl tigi wkoll iċċelebrata fin-Nadur, Għawdex bħala l-festa annwali tas-sena tar-raħal.

Perspettiva

A version of this series in English may be found in the author's blog at:
<https://ivancauchi.blogspot.com>

Kitba ta' IVAN CAUCHI



L-artiklu tiegħi illum huwa ispirat minn sitwazzjoni li għet irrappurtata xi jiem ilu fl-Awstralja.

Bhal hafna pajjiżi madwar id-dinja, l-Awstralja qiegħda tieħu miżuri straordinarji sabiex l-ekonomija tagħha tkompli tiffunzjona b'xi mod, anke zzappap, waqt li l-burraxxa li qed jikkawża l-virus COVID-19 tkun għadha fl-aqwa tagħha.

Waħda mill-miżuri, imsejha *Jobkeeper*, li ha l-gvern Awstraljan kienet li jissussidja l-pagi tal-haddiema li kienu fuq il-kotba ta' organizzazzjonijiet, kummerċjali u le, sa \$1500 kull hmistax. Din il-miżura, li bdiet f'April u hija intenzjonata li tintemm fl-aħħar ta' Settembru ta' din is-sena, kienet stmata li se jibbenefikaw minnha 6.5 miljun persuna u tiswa lill-kaxxa tal-pajjiż \$130 biljun.

Jew hekk hasbu.

Xi jiem ilu, harġet l-aħbar li kien sar żball fl-istimi originali, u issa huwa stmat li se jibbenefikaw minn din l-iskema 3.5 miljun persuna (biss) u tiġi tiswa madwar \$70 biljun (biss).¹

Il-kritika għal dan ma naqsitx. Per eżempju, il-Kap tal-Op-pożizzjoni Anthony Albanese sqarr li dan kien l-agħar żball fil-kontijiet fl-istorja Awstraljana, u qabbilha ma' skandlu ta' hasil tal-flus ta' wiehed mill-erba' banek il-kbar Awstraljani Westpac.²

L-iżball kien ohxon bla dubju, imma ngħid jien, min iluhom? Immaginaw ftit, li fi ftit jiem tirrealizza li trid malajr malajr twaqqaf il-biċċa l-kbira tal-hajja ta' kuljum ta' pajjiżek, biex tevita li jmutu hafna eluf ta' ċittadini, u biex ittaffihha tieħu deċiżjonijiet finanzjarji mingħajr preċedent fl-istorja ta' pajjiżek.

Waqt li tagħmel dan, se tieħu xi żbalji. Kultant, wara, tagħraf li kellek tagħmel iktar. Drabi ohra, kellek tagħmel inqas. L-affarijiet mhux dejjem joħorġu kif tippjanahom, jew rari jagħmlu dan. B'daqshekk?

Heqq, żball!



Il-Prim Ministru Awstraljan Scott Morrison (lemin) u t-Teżorier tal-Gvern Federali Josh Frydenberg

Jien nara li f'hafna kulturi u soċjetajiet ta' madwar id-dinja, fl-Awstralja u anke meta kont Malta, hemm problema ta' kif nittrattaw l-iżball. Meta xi hadd jammetti xi żball, jew jiġi mikxuf żball, kważi b'garanzija li se jkun hemm min jaqbeż fuq dan il-fatt biex jikkritika bl-aħrax lil min ikun għamlu, u jpingih bħala injorant, in-kompetenti, ma jimpurtahx. eċċ.

Allura li jiġri hu li min jinduna li għamel żball jispiċċa jara kif se jagħmel biex jahbih, jew jiċhad li sar l-iżball, jew jipprova jdawwru b'xi mod biex joħroġ xi aspett pożittiv, imgebbbed kemm jista' jkun imgebbbed.

Forsi l-iktar nies li jdumu jtkawgu biex jevitaw li jammettu żball huma l-poli-

tikanti fil-parlament, li dejjem dak li jkun qed jagħmlu kien ippjanat u studjat. Żbalji? Dawk tan-naha l-ohra jagħmluhom! Mela, ma jmorrux jitolfu l-fidi fina l-partitarji!

Biex ma nsemmix ukoll il-Knisja, li l-liġijiet tagħha gejjin dritt dritt mingħand Alla, mibghuta bil-faks mis-smewwiet lejn il-bniedem. Kif jista' biss ikun hemm żball? Lanqas huwa possibbli.

Kemm nixtieq li nara ftit iktar maturità u spazju mħolli, halli meta wiehed jieħu żball iħossu komdu li jammetti dan minnufih, u fi djalogu miftuħ ma' dawk tal-affarijiet tagħhom, jitgħallmu mill-inċident u jfittxu li jagħmlu aħjar darb'ohra.

Jien ngħid għalija, dan il-prinċipju nemmen bih fis-shih. Mhux aħjar mill-habi u l-gideb, u wara kollox, iż-żejt mhux dejjem jitla' f'wiċċ l-ilma?

Ma jagħmilx żball min ma jippruvax!

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Roundup of News About Malta



Magistrate throws out homicide allegations against PM, AFM Commander, P52 crew

A magisterial inquiry conducted by Magistrate Joe Mifsud threw out allegations of voluntary homicide against the Prime Minister, the AFM commander, and the P52 crew following a criminal complaint filed by the NGO Repubblika alleging that they had sabotaged a migrant vessel and that they were involved in voluntary homicide or the attempted homicide of immigrants.

The magistrate concluded, in a 491-page report that the allegations are not based on any proof and even highlighted, that the crew of P52 vessel were not even

involved in rescue operations as alleged in reports presented to the Police.

After hearing the testimony of 156 witnesses with the assistance of experts and also assistance requested from Libya, it emerged from the Inquiry, that Malta had performed its international obligations. It also noted that there were a number of contrasts with allegations made in the international media, mainly based on tweets and statements made by Alarm Phone.

It also resulted that Repubblika had not even sought any clarification from the Prime Minister, from the Brigadier or the

Armed Forces before making their official report. No clarification had also been sought from the original twitter sources that that even reported them to the international media.

Magistrate Mifsud said despite the return of migrant boat to Libya, government had honoured its international obligations.

The Inquiry further concluded that for there to be real solidarity, EU state members, and also those from the Council of Europe as well as other states should agree on the relocation of immigrants among them.

“Almost 9% of Malta’s population size since 2005, came through irregular migration routes”, Minister Evarist Bartolo

In a message on the irregular migration crisis in the Mediterranean, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo (*right*) said that though Malta is Europe’s smallest state, this has not stopped it from making every effort to save lives at sea, for many years now.

“Every year thousands cross the Mediterranean where we are caught in the middle between North Africa and Europe. Other countries much bigger than us tell us that everyone has migration problems. We know. We are ready to do our part, but it is unfair to leave us on our own to carry this disproportionate burden,” the Minister said.

He pointed out that 1% of the population in Malta are irregular migrants waiting in centres to be processed, and that the migrant centres on the island have double the number they are equipped to accommodate.

He said that since 2005, almost 9% of Malta’s population size came through irregular migration routes, not because it cannot patrol its borders, but because human traffickers and people smugglers have developed a very profitable business activity, with every boat full of people the smugglers send across the Mediterranean earn them thousands upon thousands of euros.

He went on to say, “They do not care what happens to the people they pack on boats to cross the dangerous Mediterranean. Like the people they pack on the boats, we are being left at the mercy of human traffickers and people smugglers.

“We have a reputation of being generous and welcoming. We want to preserve the right of people to seek protection. But we



can only do so much, and we certainly cannot do it alone”.

He said that the European migration problem is a collective responsibility and one needs to find a way to address this challenge together. However, Malta is being left alone. “Words of sympathy are not enough. We need practical help. We need to relocate a number of migrants to other countries,” The Minister said.

Some countries may ask why is Malta complaining now, but what they might not know is that in the first three months of the year, there was a 438% increase in arrivals in the Central Mediterranean route. In April this was three times as much.

He pointed out that so far this year 1,500 irregular migrants have reached Malta – nearly half the total amount it had for the whole of last year, and more arrivals are

expected as summer approaches and the situation in North Africa gets worse. More and more people will cross the Mediterranean as their only hope for a better life.

He said that the bigger the problem grows, the less solidarity Malta gets. Since 2005, only 8% of irregular migrants in Malta have been relocated to other EU member states.

Malta has asked for European solidarity on relocations and for this year, when 1,500 have arrived, only France and Portugal, have pledged to take 36 migrants.

“Malta cannot be expected to carry the weight of the disproportionate burden of migration on its own, when ultimately it is protecting a European external border. We will do our part on migration, but we will not and cannot become Europe’s crisis centre, Minister Bartolo said.

“When Malta joined the European Union, it understood that it joined a group of countries with shared responsibilities, aspirations and values.

“We have always helped in every way, usually with much larger contributions per capita, because we believe in these ideals. We supported neighbours close-by and fellow member states afar in whatever support was requested. Solidarity is something we believe in.”

Minister Evarist Bartolo concluded his message by saying: “We are asking for support and we know that the value of solidarity gave birth to the European Union. We also know that when this value is lacking, we weaken the very soul that is supposed to give life to the European Union.”



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta and Libya sign MoU to set up centres to combat human trafficking

During an official visit to Libya, where he met Prime Minister Fayeze al-Sarraj, Malta's Prime Minister, Robert Abela, the two leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the setting up of two co-ordinating centres in each country to combat human trafficking, and to assist in operations against illegal migration.

The two sides agreed that irregular migration is impacting both Malta and Libya and therefore both sides need to work together as a catalyst towards a much-awaited solution.

The Maltese Prime Minister, who was accompanied by Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo and Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement Byron Camilleri, discussed with Sarraj the unprecedented challenges and disproportionate pressures that irregular migration is creating in the Mediterranean.

Dr Abela reiterated Malta's firm position on the need to address and stop human trafficking. He stated that Malta is facing unprecedented and disproportionate flows and burdens.

Fayeze al-Sarraj said that 800,000 illegal migrants arriving from other countries are



Malta Prime Minister Robert Abela (left) and Libya's Fayeze al-Sarraj

currently in Libya and an effective long-term and holistic approach is very important.

Both leaders spoke about the need to strengthen cooperation to ensure that lives are not lost at sea and to combat human traffickers on the ground and at sea.

Prime Minister Abela maintained that despite its limited resources, Malta has always respected its international obligations on a humanitarian basis. Yet, it cannot carry the burden alone and wants to work with its European partners to support countries in the Mediterranean with the necessary resources to face this challenge.

He reiterated that the solution clearly lies

in concrete action on Libyan shores and its southern border, primarily through addressing and stopping human trafficking, rather than focusing just on relocation of migrants to other countries.

These centres to combat human trafficking are expected to resume operations within the coming weeks.

Malta has also agreed to support Libya in the EU for the provision of financial assistance through the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework, among

other things.

The Maltese delegation also reportedly met with top Libyan officials including Foreign Minister Mohamed Taha Siala and Interior Minister Fathi Bashaga,

Malta all for EU strengthening strategic relations with Rep. of China

Malta expressed its continued support to the strengthening of strategic relations between the European Union and China at a videoconference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU, in which the main point of discussion was China, an important global player, as seen in these last weeks.

Malta is convinced of the importance of EU-China political dialogue on all fronts with all stakeholders, including in areas such as climate change and investment in a consistent commitment to an ever more positive and forward-looking cooperation agenda.

Malta emphasised the importance of further engagement with China in the upcoming virtual Summit in June and the scheduled Leaders' Meeting in Leipzig due in September 2020. It also maintaining a continued dialogue on the basis of the values held closely by the EU, such as the importance of preserving the 'One China – Two Systems' approach.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs also had a brief discussion on the current situation in Afghanistan, and hoped that the ceasefire could be extended further leading to a peace process between the parties involved.

A new project at Ghadira Bay

A new project intended to create new facilities and embellish a part of Malta's natural heritage for a wider community – the national community, has been launched in one of Malta's popular summer destinations, Ghadira Bay.

The first phase of the project, a new parking facility for the area, is being carried out with an investment of more than €800,000 from the Ministry for Tourism and Consumer Protection's eco-contribution scheme. Projects Plus Ltd is carrying out the works.

This parking facility will reduce congestion in the area and reduce issues of double and triple parking.

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg said that the project would include facilities for electric cars and motorcycles, because the Government's vision is inclined towards smaller and more sustainable means of transport.

The rest of the project will then continue to embellish this very popular zone, especially the promenade, which is to be modernised.

Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection Julia Farrugia Portelli said that the project would improve Malta's touristic product, while drastically increasing parking spaces in a place that is very popular with Maltese and Gozitan people as well as tourists.

The parking area, to be built out of a dilapidated site will accommodate more than 300 vehicles. The rest of the project will extend the sand by around 20 metres and to this end Projects Plus has already commissioned a number of environmental and geological studies.

The money for the investment comes from the 50 cents contribution by tourists for every night spent in Malta and Gozo.



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta's growth rate in positive territory

Despite the global pandemic, the Maltese real economic growth for the first quarter of this year has managed to remain in positive territory with a rate of 0.5 per cent. This was learnt from the GDP data just published by the National Statistics Office (NSO). Nominally, GDP grew by 1.9 per cent.

During the same period, compared to the EU and Euro Area averages Malta fared quite well. Indeed, according to Eurostat, during the same period the EU economy shrank by 2.6 per cent while the Euro Area recorded a drop-in growth of 3.2 per cent.

Large EU economies including Germany, Italy, France and Spain recorded significant drops in their GDP.

During the same period, despite the global pandemic, wages and salaries in Malta increased by €78 million, while business profits increased by €36 million. In contrast, net taxation on production and imports decreased by €55 million. This decline reflected the subsidies being given to companies that need to be netted out of the GDP.

The government introduced these new measures as part of a bigger package to support businesses retaining their employees in the context of restrictive measures and reduced work.

Economic growth in the first quarter was fuelled by the increase in

gross value added of €72 million, as most sectors recorded positive nominal growth rates. In fact, growth in gross value added recorded by a number of sectors compensated for the main decreases recorded in the wholesale, retail, accommodation and food service sectors. The government increased investment by €77 million.

Minister for Finance and Financial Services Edward Scicluna said that as predicted by the IMF, the EU and the Credit Rating Agencies, the Maltese economy was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic at a time when it was well diversified, resilient and with enough fiscal space to combat the crises with confidence.

"We augur that we will continue to minimise our inevitable losses. The government is determined to continue to provide the required support to all affected sectors while pushing towards a successful and quick recovery," Minister Scicluna said.

Due to the tax deferrals given to companies, as part of the COVID-19 measures introduced by the government, latest public finance data on a cash basis issued by the NSO showed that revenue for the period of January to April decreased by €220 million, while recurrent expenditure increased by €170 million. Expenditure on interest payments decreased during the January to April period by €4.4 million.

Govt. wage supplement scheme saves 93,580 jobs

Up till now, the Government has distributed €80million through the COVID-19 Wage Supplement scheme saving 93,580 jobs, and in the coming days, a substantial amount of measures will be announced, aimed at stimulating the economy and generating economic activity.

Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses Silvio Schembri said that the strong economic measures soon to be effected would include both short-term and long-term measures. The short-term would

be addressing the supply aspect of the economy, whilst the long-term will focus on attracting and boost investment.

"With our finger firmly on the pulse of businesses, as a Government we will guide businesses through this new phase in order to reduce their burdens as much as possible and safeguard jobs whilst creating new ones, a stance which complements our drive to seek opportunity in adversity and lead the way to re-experience economic growth" Minister Schembri said.

He added that aware of the challenges that the community is facing, the Government would stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the local business community.

He promised that the wage supplement would also be provided for the month of June and that Malta Enterprise would continue with its routinely process in assisting businesses.

Malta Airport to reopen on July 1

Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela announced on Sunday more easing of restrictions post COVID-19, including the re-opening of the Malta International Airport on July 1.

He also revealed that Monday evening he was to announce that the Courts and other establishments, including bars and gymnasiums, would reopen from this coming Friday. He stated that he would be announcing protocols for their operation.

The Prime Minister said that on June 8, the government would also present a special multi-million budget intended to stimulate economic activity for its recovery after the pandemic. This budget will be an addition to next year's, which will be presented in Parliament in October.

Malta's e-passport chosen best ID document of year

Malta's new generation e-passport has been awarded best regional ID document of the year for best new e-passport.

The award recognising the highest levels of achievement among global government passports and ID cards, was awarded to the Identity Malta Agency during the High Security Printing EMEA Conference organised by Reconnaissance International in Portugal.

The Maltese e-passport incorporates cutting-edge technology and new security features that will further prevent the counterfeiting of the document, making it one of the most secure passports in the world.

Welcoming the news, Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship and Communities Alex Muscat said that the award portrays Malta's continuous effort in protecting its citizens' identity through technological advancements, and highlights the agency's commitment to continue working on all fronts.

Karmenu Vella appointed UoM Pro-Chancellor

Former EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella, 70 (on right), has been appointed Pro-Chancellor of the University of Malta for a period of three years.

Mr Vella, an architect by profession, served as European Commissioner for the Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs. Before occupying that office, along the years he also served as a Minister in various cabinets under four different prime ministers.

He was also an MP between 1976 and 2014.

Minister for Education Owen Bonnici said that Mr Vella's international profile would be of immense benefit to the advancement and reputation of the University of Malta.

He said that Mr Vella would bring with him years of invaluable experience to the post.





Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Gużè Camilleri



Il-Mistoqsija hi: nirrillassaw jew le?!!!

Il-mistoqsija fuq fomm hafna f'Malta hi: Issa li għaddejnin il-gimghat u x-xhur mill-bidu tal-pandemija tal-COVID-19... u ma nafux meta se neħilsu minha, il-gvernijiet għandhom inaqqsu l-miżuri stretti li ħadu biex jippruvaw jissieltu u jikkontrollaw il-imxija tal-virus?

Mhux lakemm wiehed iwieġeb, u hafna minn dawk li jfajjru u jiktbu favur jew kontra żgur li ma jpoġġux irwiefhom fis-siggu ta' min jiehu dawn id-deċiżjonijiet li jefettwaw is-saħħa u l-futur tal-pajjiż... u anke sa ċertu punt il-futur politiku tal-individwu, kif ukoll tal-partit li jhaddan.

Id-dilemma li jinsabu fiha l-mexxejja, mhux ta' Malta biss, imma ta' hafna pajjiżi hija kif wiehed jibbillanċja s-saħħa tal-poplu u l-ekonomija tal-pajjiż... l-ekonomija li finalment l-aktar li se tefettwa mhux lil min imexxi, imma lill-poplu.

Dan kollu minhabba li jekk l-ekonomija tmur hażin se jiġi effettwati bi kbir il-pensjonanti, dawk li jtilfu x-xogħol, dawk li jirċievu s-servizzi soċjali u l-istess servizz tas-saħħa, għax fuq kollox dan hu wiehed mill-aktar servizzi li jirrekjedi finanzi.

Jekk irridu li nibqgħu nagħtu s-servizzi li qed jingħataw illum u jekk jista' jkun anke ntejjbuhom żgur li ma jistax ikollna ekonomija mfarrka.

Sfortunatament għandna min qed jimxi bl-attitudni tas-Saħħa kontra l-Ekonomija. Donnu wahda ma tistax b'xi mod taħdem mal-oħra, u allura malli ssir l-iċken ċaqleqqa mill-Gvern biex iħall xi ftit l-is-sikkar, malajr johroġu jgħajjtu li l-Gvern

qed jissagrifika s-saħħa tal-poplu minhabba l-ekonomija.

Attwalment din l-akkuza kienet diġà bdiet tissemma meta l-Gvern mar kontra s-sejha ta' xi kelliema tal-Oppożizz-

Il-koronavirus tibqa' tisraq hafna mix-xena

zjoni u kritiċi tal-Gvern li nsistew li kellna nagħmlu bħal xi pajjiżi barranin, u nagħmlu *lockdown* totali. Il-Gvern irrezista din il-pressjoni u attwalment f'Malta qatt ma kellna *lockdown* totali. Għalhekk ċertu xogħol, inkluż dak tal-konstruzzjoni, ta' ċerti industrij, eċċ baqa' għadde... u sintendi dan għin biex parti mill-ekonomija baqgħet mixja.

Imma malli wara xahrejn il-Gvern habbar li kien se jibda jnaqqas mill-miżuri li kien ħa, reġġu qamu l-irwiefen kollha.

Il-Gvern ġie mixli li kien qed jibaxxi rasu għall-pressjoni minn ta' min iħaddem, mill-industrija tat-turiżmu eċċ., u qed jaqa' u jqum mis-saħħa tal-poplu.

Saħansitra kien hemm min wasal fl-estremità li jhegġeġ li dawk li jmutilhom xi hadd bil-koronavirus biex ifittex personalment għad-danni lill-Prim Ministru li qed jitqies bħala l-mutur wara t-tnaqqis tal-miżuri.

Saret ukoll kritika ħarxa minn diversi għaqdiet tas-saħħa fosthom mill-għaqda tat-Tobba, il-MAM. Għalkemm min-naħa l-oħra kien hemm għaqdiet oħra, fosthom ta' dawk li jhaddmu, tat-turiżmu eċċ li nsistew li, iva għandhom jittiehdu l-miżuri kollha biex titħares is-saħħa tal-poplu, iżda



Bil-mod il-mod il-pubbliku qed jerga' jibda jgawdi l-baħar

ma jfissirx li kollox jibqa' magħluq.

Issa l-Oppożizzjoni tidher li qiegħda aktar kawta u tillimita ruħha li tgħid li m'għandhom jittiehdu l-ebda passi li jistgħu jipperikolaw is-saħħa tal-poplu u li kulma jsir għandu jsir wara l-approvazzjoni tas-settur tas-saħħa.

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Prim Ministru żgura lill-poplu li t-tnaqqis tal-miżuri saru fuq bażi xjentifika u wara konsultazzjoni mal-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa.

Minkejja dan żgur li se nibqgħu b'dawk li jibqgħu jinsistu biex ma ngaġġlux minhabba s-saħħa u oħrajn li jridu li malli jkun vijabbli jitneħħew ir-restrizzjonijiet.

Il-hasra hi li qed jintefgħu dubji li fuq iż-żewġ naħat hemm min għandu interessi personali (ta' negozju, politika, eċċ), għalkemm nemmen li fil-maġġoranza huma ġenwini fil-fehma tagħhom u forsi ma fehmux li jekk wiehed jimxi bil-għaqal jista' jħares kemm is-saħħa, kif ukoll l-ekonomija.

...u l-Politika?

Filwaqt li l-poplu Malti, bħal popli ta' hafna pajjiżi, għandu quddiemu l-isfida tal-koronavirus, imxija li kważi nizzlet saħansitra l-aqwa pajjiżi tad-dinja għarkupptejhom, xorta ma nistgħux ngħidu li warab għal kollox il-politika.

Attwalment ma nafx xi jrid jiġri biex il-politika ma tibqax tiġi b'xi mod imdeffsa. Matul l-aħħar xahrejn, għalkemm il-poplu bi ħgaru ta' kuljum, għall-ħabta tan-nofs siegħa ta' wara nofs inhar, kien jistenna l-aħħar aħbarijiet biex ikun infurmat dwar kemm nies sfaw infettati, kemm fiequ u anke, sfortunatament kemm ħallewna, xorta ma naqsux il-battibekki politiċi fuq il-midja li mhux dejjem kienu limitati għal dak li għandu x'jaqşam mal-imxija.

Biex taqgħad, għal xi raġuni l-Partit Nazjonalista, beda jagħti konferenzi stampi u johroġ stqarrijiet aktar spiss mix-xhur ta' qabel faqqgħet l-imxija. L-istqarrijiet u l-konferenzi stampa mhux dejjem kellhom x'jaqşam mal-kriżi preżenti.

Saħansitra kien hemm min bilkemm ma riedx jgħid li dak li kien qed jagħmel il-PN kien jixbah lil kampanja elettorali mhux ufficjali.

Il-Gvern kien aktar ikkoncentrat fuq l-imxija, u l-kwestjoni tal-immigranti illegali, għalkemm ma nistgħux ngħidu li forsi indirettament, ma rikibx ukoll xi ftit politikament fuq iż-żewġ sitwazzjonijiet.

*ikompli f'paġna 15



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Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

...u l-politika?

*ikompli minn paġna 14

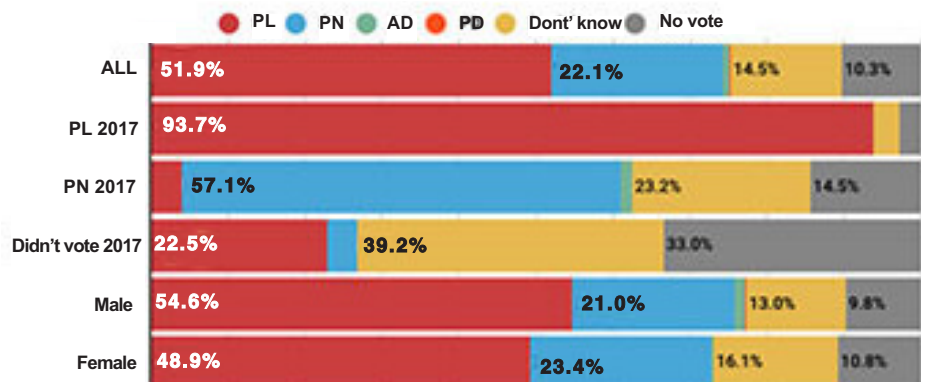
U biex it-ton politiku jibqa' hemm, ma naqasx is-solitu stħarriġ tal-*Malta Today* meta l-Gvern beda jillaxxa xi ftit il-miżuri biex jissielet l-imxija tal-COVID-19.

Mill-istħarriġ li juri s-saħħa tal-partiti politiċi hareġ li għall-Partit Nazzjonalista, ir-riżultat xejn ma kienx dak li stenna.

Infatti skont l-istħarriġ li kellha ssir elezzjoni illum, il-PN kien jikseb biss 22.1% tal-voti, kontra l-51.9%, tal-PL, zieda ta' kważi 3% fuq l-aħħar l-istħarriġ ta' xahar qabel.

Ir-riżultat (*lemin*) ifisser differenza ta' 30% bejn il-partiti, imfissra madwar 90,000 vot.

Which political party would you vote for if a general election were to be held tomorrow?



Ir-reazzjoni tal-PN għall-istħarriġ

Ir-riżultat tal-*Malta Today* għab reazzjoni, l-aktar minn hdan il-Partit Nazzjonalista, bil-deputat tal-PN, Herman Schiavone, meqjus qrib ħafna l-kap Adrian Delia, li għadda nota lil shabu li fiha analizza s-sondaġġ.

Skont il-*Maltatoday*, fin-nota tiegħu, Schiavone wissa li d-distakk bejn il-partiti jfisser 90,000 vot differenza favur il-Partit Laburista Hu bbaża l-analiżi fuq ir-riżultat tal-aħħar elezzjoni ġenerali.

Dan skont hu jfisser li l-PN jista' jitlef seba' siggijiet parlamentari, bil-possibbiltà li jirnexxielu jikseb bejn żewġ u erba' siggijiet meta jiskatta l-mekkanizmu tal-proporzjonalità.

Fl-istess nota, Schiavone talab għal analiżi interna tar-riżultat u li t-tmxixija torganizza laqgħa tal-grupp parlamentari biex tkun diskussa l-materja.

Skont kif gie rrapportat, l-istess Schiavone ma qatax qalbu li l-PN jista' xorta jirbaħ l-elezzjoni li jmiss. Dan għax, kif gie rrapportat li kiteb, jekk l-ekonomija tmur lura u l-poplu jbat, l-istess poplu jwarrab lill-Partit Laburista. Kiteb hekk:

"Colleagues, the economy is crumbling and unemployment will soon reach record levels. In a few months' time people will become disenchanted with Labour but we have to take drastic decisions to make our party electable,"

Min-naha l-oħra, Manwel Delia, l-esponent tal-għaqda Repubblika u wiehed minn-Nazzjonalisti ma jarax għajnejn għal għajnejn mal-kap tal-PN, qal fil-*blogg* tiegħu li fi New Zealand l-Oppożizzjoni biddlet ta' malajr lill-mexxej wara li stħarriġ tal-fehma pubblika wera kemm mhux popolari mqabbel mal-Prim Ministru tal-pajjiż Jacinda Ardern.

Qal li mbagħad f'Malta, sondaġġ tal-*Maltatoday* wera li 51.9% tal-elettorat jafda lill-Partit Laburista, kontra t-22.1% tan-nies li jafdaw lill-Partit Nazzjonalista.

B'botta u messaġġ fin lejn il-mexxej Nazzjonalista, kiteb: *"Fancy that"*.

Dan jista' jwassal biex mill-ġdid jerġa' jiżżeffen fin-nofs il-mexxej tal-Partit u jippuntaw lejha għas-sitwazzjoni li jinsab fiha.

X'johroġ mill-istħarriġ?

Ir-riżultat żgur ma jirriflettix dak li jidher fil-ġurnali ta' kuljum, mitqiesa (għalkemm mhux minn kulhadd), bħala indipendenti. Jiġi ikkritikat għal diversi deċiżjonijiet u anke mixli b'korruzzjoni u stejjer godda li jpingu lill-Gvern f'dell ikrah.

Imma jidher li l-midja ma tantx tippreżenta l-ħsieb tal-poplu, għax kieku r-riżultat tas-sondaġġ kien ikun mod iehor.

Jidher ukoll li l-attitudni negattiva ftit li xejn qed timpresjona lill-poplu, anzi qed tghin fl-appoġġ lill-Gvern. In-nies lanqas ma jidher li hi impressjonata bil-kritika tal-Oppożizzjoni għall-Gvern.

X'Aktarx li lanqas ma ħadmet il-percezzjoni mxerrda minn xi kelliema tal-PN u xi kritiċi li filwaqt li Fearne u l-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa qed jiġbdu għal aktar kawtela u stennija, il-Prim Ministru qed jimbotta l-interessi ekonomiċi u kummerċjali tal-pajjiż skapitu tas-saħħa tal-poplu.

In-nies aktar qed thares lejn il-mod kif l-awtoritajiet qed jikkontrollaw l-imxija tal-pandemija biex ma spicċajnix bħal xi pajjiżi oħra fejn saħansitra anzjani thallew

imutu għax l-isptarijiet ma setghux ilaħhqu.

U biex il-Gvern ikollu r-riħ fil-qala' rrapporti internazzjonali bdew jagħtu krettu tajjeb lill-Gvern għal mod kif mexa tul il-kriżi.

M'hemm dubju li l-istħarriġ gie effettwat ukoll mill-fatt li l-Gvern kien iebes dwar l-immigrazzjoni illegali billi waqt li osserva l-obbligazzjonijiet internazzjonali tiegħu u salva ħajjet l-immigranti fil-periklu żammhom milli jidhlu Malta u poġġihom fuq tliet bastimenti ta' kumpanniji Maltin.

Il-Gvern qal li se iħalli hemm sa-kemm l-Unjoni Ewropeja ssibihom pajjiż/i li jaċċettawhom. Minkejja l-kritika harxa l-Gvern baqa' jżomm iebes.

L-Oppożizzjoni issa qed tagħfas fuq li waqt li m'għandna nhallu lil hadd jitlef ħajtu, għandna nkunu umani. Tat l-impressjoni li ndaħhlu l-immigranti f'Malta mbagħad ninsistu li l-UE ssib soluzzjoni.

Imma l-maġġoranza tal-poplu kienet u għadha mħassba dwar id-dhul ta' daqshekk immigranti. M'hemm fiduċja li l-Unjoni Ewropeja se ssib soluzzjoni jekk l-immigranti jiddaħhlu Malta.

In Memoriam:



Philip Formosa at age 88

It is with sadness to announce the death of Philip Formosa, known as Pinu aged 88. He was born in Zebbug Malta on May 17, 1932 and died in Sydney on the May 9 last.

Pinu was for a long time a director of the Parramatta Melita Eagles FC and prominent in the building of the Melita Stadium.

May he rest in Peace.



A quick glimpse of Australia



Summer Bushfires: RFS gets the lot

The entire \$51.3 million raised by comedian Celeste Barber (*above*) in response to last summer's devastating bushfires must go to the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and Brigades Donation Fund, the NSW Supreme Court has ruled.

The court ruling means that none of the donations can be distributed to other charities or states to support victims of the bushfires directly.

However, the money can be spent to support rural firefighters injured while fighting blazes or the families of firefighters who died. Barber - who boasts 7.1 million followers on Instagram - had nominated the NSW RFS as the beneficiary of the campaign and set a funding target of \$30,000. She raised \$51.3 million, which is the largest charity drive in Facebook's history.

Hours after the ruling, the comedian posted a statement to social media, saying while the money would be in the "very capable, very grateful hands of the NSW

RFS", she had "hoped" it could have been shared more widely.

The NSW RFS had gone to the NSW Supreme Court seeking clarity on the use of the money according to its April 2012 trust deed. Justice Michael Slattery answered their four questions and ordered the parties' legal costs to be paid out of the RFS Fund.

No NBN for Parramatta

NBN Co has recently admitted Parramatta and parts of Rosehill and Harris Park in NSW will not be connected to the NBN until 2022. Parramatta Central Business District (CBD) was slated to be hooked up originally by 2016, then by December 2018 and then 2020.



Julie Owens, Federal Member for Parramatta (*above*), told *The Voice of the Maltese* that she is deeply concerned by the delay. "Parramatta is the second commercial business district in NSW yet we still don't have the NBN," Ms Owens said.

"Access to a reliable high speed internet connection is even more important during the Coronavirus crisis when so many people are working or schooling from home, and businesses are reliant on the online side of their business more than ever.

"While buildings built in the last few years have the NBN, for the rest of us, this pretty much makes Parramatta the last on the list."

Julie Owens has written to the Communications Minister, Paul Fletcher, asking him to intervene immediately to give the people of Parramatta access to the NBN as soon as possible.

The economic cost of underemployment

Unemployment may be high, but underemployment is impacting 20 per cent of Australians who can't look after themselves or their families.

Think tank Per Capita has released a discussion paper looking at the economic cost of underemployment in Australia, before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. It points to the Australian Bureau of Statistics labour force data from April, where the monthly increase of underemployment was 50 per cent or more than 600,000 people.

The labour force underutilisation rate is about 20 per cent, so one in five Australians does not have sufficient work to support themselves and

their families. The report says that there was a crisis of insecure work before COVID-19, with wages and productivity being suppressed by slack in the labour market.

Australia's 20 per cent youth underemployment was among the highest of any advanced economy before coronavirus. It's now at more than 27 per cent, with more than a quarter of young people in the labour market unable to find enough hours.

Per Capita says eliminating underemployment could inject more than \$24 billion in wages into the economy each year while providing the government with billions in tax revenue.

A resolution for a review into the global response to coronavirus has passed at the World Health Assembly. The WHO resolution commits to an impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation of the international response to the pandemic. It was led by the European Union and co-sponsored by more than 130 World Health Organisation member states.

In a joint statement, Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne and Health Minister Greg Hunt said the government welcomed the adoption of the "landmark resolution". "Australia will continue to be a consistent and constructive voice in the international community to advance and protect our national interest and the global interest."

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus welcomed the call for a review, stressing that he would "initiate such an evaluation at the earliest appropriate moment".

Landmark resolution

China also agreed to support an investigation after more than 110 countries co-sponsored the motion at the WHA. Chinese President Xi Jinping also backed the WHO-led review, saying his government had acted with openness, transparency and responsibility all along.

He promised China would stump up \$3.1 billion over the next two years to help deal with the disease.

Australia's relations with China have come under further strain after Beijing slapped an 80 per cent tariff on barley imports and banned beef imports from four abattoirs.



Marise Payne and Greg Hunt



A quick glimpse of Australia

Support scheme grossly overstated

The number of Australians receiving JobKeeper support payments during the coronavirus pandemic has been revised down after Treasury, and the Tax Office noted that the allowances had been grossly overstated.

This massive error means the estimated cost of the scheme has been reduced from \$130 billion to \$70 billion.

About 1,000 businesses made "significant errors" when reporting the number of employees estimated to receive help. The most common error was reporting the amount of assistance they expected to receive rather than the number of employees expected to be eligible.

Labor Party leader, Anthony Albanese said the government should have had in place basic mechanisms to check on the forms that were coming in, "This is a mistake you could have seen from space. This a government that couldn't run a bath, let alone be good economic managers," he said.

(see also Ivan Cauchi's comments in Maltese on page 10)

During the pandemic – citizenships on hold

More than 16,800 people have received Australian citizenship via virtual ceremonies during the pandemic, with figures from the Department of Home Affairs showing that 75 per cent of applications for citizenship by conferral now take 23 months - up from 16 months last June.

Ninety per cent of these applications are completed in 25 months compared to 20 months a year ago.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all face-to-face citizenship appointments, such as interviews and citizenship tests, have been placed on hold. This has meant an increase in overall processing times.

"The department will recommence in-person interviews and citizenship tests when it is safe to do so," they said, adding that new applications are still being accepted.

During the year 2019-20, up to May 22 this year, 175,304 people were granted Australian citizenship - up 56 per cent on the same period last year. The latest backlog figure is now 123,727 applications, compared to 221,695 a year ago.



20 years ago ...Corroboree 2000

About 250,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge on May 28, 2000, to show their support for meaningful reconciliation between Australia's Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

The thick stream of bodies took almost six hours to flow across the bridge, with the National Museum of Australia later describing it as the "largest political demonstration ever held in Australia".

The Bridge Walk for Reconciliation was an integral part of the landmark Corroboree 2000 event held during that year's Reconciliation Week.

It followed an Opera House meeting of high-profile Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders where two documents were presented with the centenary of Federation in 2001 in mind: the Australian Declaration Towards Reconciliation and the Roadmap for Reconciliation.

Part of the declaration stated: "Our hope is for a united Australia that respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage; and provides justice and equality for all".

Similar events to the bridge walk took place in towns and cities around Australia in the weeks that followed. About 60,000 people walked together across the William Jolly Bridge in Brisbane, before 300,000 people marched in the streets of Melbourne.

On the backburner

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has flagged delays in crucial elements of his pre-coronavirus agenda, saying Cabinet has shelved discussion on religious freedom legislation.

He also declared the timetable for a referendum on the constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians. It depends on whether "consensus can be achieved for it to be successful".

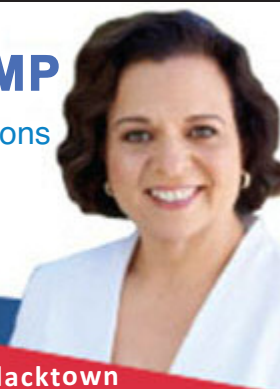
"We haven't had the opportunity to revisit (those proposals) because of the crisis, and it's not something the Cabinet has considered now for some time," he told the media in Canberra.

"When it comes to the Indigenous recognition, what the Minister for Indigenous Australians (Ken Wyatt) has continued to do is conduct his process."



Michelle Rowland MP

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Federal Member for Greenway



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Tagħrif dwar il-kitba Maltija u dawk li matul is-sekli ħadmu għall-iżvilupp tal-ilsien Malti

Il-kunjom Mifsud Bonnici f'Malta hu forsi magħruf l-aktar għall-ghadd ta' politiċi, fosthom uħud li servew, f'ghadd ta' gvernijiet. Kellna anke Prim Ministru. Kien hemm oħrajn li servew ta' Ministri u wħud li kienu u għadhom iservu bħala Membri Parlamentari.

Imma dan il-kunjom huwa wkoll magħruf fost il-kittieba li żejjnu l-letteratura Maltija. Fil-fatt hemm mil-inqas ħamsa li baqqu magħrufa għas-sehem tagħhom, fosthom ukoll mill-istess familja. Fost dawn hemm Ganni li se nittrattaw fil-ħarġa tal-lum.

GANNI MIFSUD BONNICI – Fost il-ftit b'ebda konnessjoni mal-politika

Kważi kważi wiehed jaasal jahseb li l-akbar konnessjoni tal-Mifsud Bonnicijiet hija ta' politiċi mal-Kottonera, l-aktar Bormla. Imma Ganni Mifsud Bonnici la kien politiku u lanqas mill-Kottonera. Huwa twieled f'Hal Qormi fl-1856, bin it-tabib tar-raħal Dr Felice, u Luisa mwielda Inglott. Nannuh kien Dr Clemente, li jingħad li kien l-ewwel wiehed tar-razza bil-kunjom Mifsud Bonnici. Zijuh min-naħa t'ommu kien Sir Ferdinand Inglott.

Interessanti l-fatt li l-imħabba għall-kitba bil-Malti fil-familja ta' Ganni nxterdet ukoll fost żewġ ħutu oħra, Pietru Pawl u Klement.

Wara l-iskola Primarja hu ssokta l-edukazzjoni tiegħu fil-Liċeo minn fejn baqa' javvanza u sar għalliem. Il-hila u l-imħabba li kellu għat-tagħlim wassluh jilhaq assistent surmast fl-iskejjel tal-Gvern.

B'danakollu ma damx wisq fil-professjoni għax studja u mnexxielu jikseb il-

warrant ta' Pizatur. Wara ftit ġie anke mahatur pizatur tad-Dwana. Huwa żżewweġ lil Teresa mwielda Bondin u bejniethom welldu disat itfal, fosthom lil Gużè, il-kbir fost id-disgħa li konna ktibna dwar il-ħarġa Nru. 223 (magħruf għall-poeżiji ibbażati fuq ir-realtà, u l-awtur tad-Dizzjunarju Bijo-Bibliografiku Nazzjonali.

Ganni kien ukoll poeta u l-aktar li kiteb kienu poeziji fuq suġġetti sagri, għalkemm anke fuq suġġetti oħra differenti. Kien anke ittraduċa poeziji klassiċi bħač-5 *Maggio* tal-poeta Taljan Alessandro Manzoni, u *Il Cantico di Frate Sole* ta' San Frangisk d'Assisi li kien ġie miktub fl-1224. Dan fi-fatt hu l-aktar test poetiku tal-letteratura Taljana, u oħrajn.

F'kitba dwar il-kittieb fir-rivista Frangiskana *L-Anglu tal-Paċi* ntqal dwar Mifsud Bonnici: *"Is-Sur Gann kien wiehed mill-ftit pajżani tagħna li jhobbu l-ilsien Malti u li huma tassew poeti; il-poeziji tiegħu sew fl-ilsien u sew fl-estru poetiku meta jittratta l-Ewkaristija, il-Qalb Imqaddsa ta' Ġesù u l-kobor ta' Ommna Marija, il-kitba kienet dejjem ta' fejda tar-ruħ u tal-moħħ; kien ċajtjer, idahhan il-pipa, jikellem u jikteb"*.

F'Settembru tal-1913, Ganni kien rebah il-Konkurs ta' Poeziji għall-Milied imxandar mill-ġurnal *"Il-Ħabib"* tat-13 ta' Ottubru, 1912. Fir-rapport tar-rebħa tiegħu fl-istess ġurnal intqal, *"Lilu mela l-feħ u t-tifhir tagħna lkoll"*. L-istess kliem



tniżżel ukoll f'parċmina illustrata u ffirmata mill-poeta nazzjonali Dun Karm Psaila u l-Poeta Albert Cesareo, u l-ġudikani tal-konkurs, il-Kav. Gużè Muscat Azzopardi Direttur ta' *"Il-Ħabib"* u l-Komm. Antonio Lanzon President ta' l-Unione Cattolica.

Ganni Mifsud Bonnici miet fid-9 ta' Janar tal-1934 fl-età ta' 78 sena. Huwa jinsab midfun fiz-zuntier tat-Terzjarji ta' San Frangisk fl-Addolorata flimkien ma' martu u bintu Maria Pia, filwaqt li f'Ħaz-Żebbuġ hemm triq imsemmija għalih.

A special Thank you

Many thanks for your response to our campaign to attract more subscribers. During the COVID-19 period, we have received many applications for subscriptions to start receiving a hard copy of The Voice of the Maltese magazine. We are the ONLY printed (and digital) Maltese magazine in Australia, and therefore we provide such subscriptions.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our readers were unable to purchase a copy of the magazine from their usual sources. However, we can provide any back numbers on demand.

We guarantee delivery by post in an enclosed envelope to anywhere in Australia and beyond. Thank you for your support during these difficult times especially for the magazine.

The Voice of the Maltese respects the intelligence of our readers from across the globe. We provide news, views and opinions without fear or favour. That is why we are read and respected. Our large circulation is our shield of honour.



Maltese Funerals

In conjunction with Hills Family Funerals.



Richard Spiteri
0407 202 167
(02) 9659 0900

**Castle Hill
Seven Hills
Windsor and
all suburbs**

**"Let Our Family
Help You Through"**

**—
Halli l-familja
tagħna tgħin lill-
familja tiegħek**

Gieh lill-belt kapitali Maltija, Valletta

(L-ewwel parti)



Kitba ta' Victor Scerri

Dis-sena ma stajniex minhabba l-pandemija tal-koronavirus, imma jkun tajjeb li kull sena, fit-28 ta' Marzu, meta nfakkru Jum Valletta, apparti li nikkollaboraw u niehdu sehem fl-attivitajiet kollha li jsiru biex jonoraw lil din il-Belt, inharsu wkoll fit lejn l-istorja antika, rikka u kkulurita ta' Valletta.

Il-fondazzjonijiet ta' din l-opra Barokka tqieghdu mill-Granmastru tal-Kavallieri ta' l-Ordni ta' San Gwann ta' Gherusalem Jean Parisot de la Valette fuq il-penisola Xiberras fil-25 ta' Marzu 1566.

Din il-belt kienet mahsuba bhala zieda mal-infrastruttura ta' difiza militari tal-Ordni u segwiet is-suċċess fir-rebha mdejmija li l-istess Ordni kellha fit-taqbida kontra l-Ottomani meta dawn attackkaw lil Malta f'dak li baqa' maghruf u msejjaħ bhala l-Assedju l-Kbir tal-1565.

Ghalhekk tajjeb li niftakru fil-qalbiena kollha ta' dik il-grajja u wkoll f'dawk li ċarċru demmhom għal art twelidna.

Il-vizjoni ta' La Valette kienet tmur lil hinn minn semplicement fortifikazzjoni. Dan il-Gran Mastru ried li Valletta tkun ċentru Ewropew grandjuż tal-kultura u l-kummerċ, u minkejja li hu miet ftit qabel it-tkomplija, Valletta ssoktat isservi bhala l-Belt Kapitali sal-preżent, jigifieri hafna snin wara t-tluq tal-Kavallieri fl-1798 meta mbagħad Napuljun ħakem gżirirta.

Perjodi komplew jigglorifikaw lil Valletta

Hawn min li l-istorja ddejjqu. Forsi jghidlek: jiena illum qed ngħix. X'jimpurtani x'gara tlieta/erbgha/ħames mitt sena ilu? X'jimpurtani x'għamlu ta' qabilna? X'naqa' u nqum mill-eroj u mill-viljakkji?

Fil-fehma tiegħi min jirraguna b'dan il-mod, huwa midfun ħaj. Għax biex tifhem illum, bilfors trid thares lejn il-bierah. Kif tista' tgħid li thobb lil Valletta, jekk qajla tinteressak l-istorja ta' tagħha?

Meta nitkellmu dwar il-kapitali Maltija ma nkunux qed infakkru biss biċċa art li nbni għal ftit familji, jew xi erba' ġebliet igri u suq għax sebaħ. Lanqas ma nkunu qed infakkru dellijiet fl-astratt.

F'idejna għandna storja ta' belt kbira u mifruxa, belt tan-nies u għan-nies, ġrajja, imlewwna u mżewwqa. Din belt ta' palazzi, bereg, swieq kummerċjali, djar, monumenti, knejjes... u aktar.

Valletta kienet iddisinjata mill-arkitett maghruf Taljan, Francesco Laparelli li kien assistent ta' l-artist famuż, ġenju Michelangelo.

Laparelli kien intbagħat Malta mill-Papa Piju V, li kien anke il-finanzjatur ta' parti mill-kostruzzjoni tal-belt Valletta.

Għall-bidu xogħol Laparelli kien li jistħarreg u jhejji rapport dwar l-istat tal-fortifikazzjonijiet attwali biex isir maghruf f'liema stat kienu wara l-Assedju l-Kbir ta' l-1565. Ir-rapport tiegħu kien allura jinkludi rakkomandazzjoni li minflok jerggħu jinbnew il-fortifikazzjonijiet f'partijiet oħrajn ta' Malta, kien ikun ferm aktar ekonomiku u prattiku li tinbena belt fortifikata ġdida fuq il-penisola Xiberras. Hekk inbniet Valletta.

Holma li sehhet

Valletta riedet tkun Belt: mill-Ġentlomi għall-Ġentlomi. Dan il-motto ma jfisser xejn ħlief li din il-belt mibnija min-nies kellha tibqa' belt in-nies. U nies ta' gieh: haddiema u familji sewwa li jghammru fiha.

Sa mill-bidunett tagħha hekk kellha tkun Valletta... u nemmen li hekk baqgħet tassew kif ikompli jixhed l-iżvilupp strutturali u loġistiku tagħha.

Illum Valletta saret belt kbira, b'ħafna progress fiha li jixhed il-bżulija tal-haddiema Maltin u r-rieda tat-tmexxija ċentrali, il-Gvern, li jkompli jk-abbar, iġedded u jsebbah lilha u lill-madwar.

(It-tieni parti fil-ħarġa li jmiss)

Illum sirna naħsbu li dak li għandna, qisu li kellna xi dritt għalih minn dejjem. Niftaħru, u sewwa nagħmlu b'art twelidna. Niftaħru, u sewwa nagħmlu bil-belt kapitali Maltija Valletta. Nuru lill-barranin x'għandna u x'm'għandniex. Dan nagħmuh, imma qajla nieqfu naħsbu ftit ħalli napprezzaw dak li ta' qabilna għamlu għalina. Qajla nirriflettux xi żmien għexu fih, u x'qanqalhom biex jibnu belt u jdawwruha bis-swar. F'dan l-artiklu maqsum fuq żewġ ħargiet, se nagħtu ħarsa lejn dak li wassal biex Malta għandha kapitali ta' daqs-tant kalibru mogħnija b'dak kollu li jagħmel lil Valletta belt li l-Maltin tant għandhom għax ikunu kburin biha.



L-Ukren Volodymyr Kuchma (xellug) fuq hidma volontarja mal-ERRC

L-ERRC jghinu lill-awtoritajiet waqt il-pandemija COVID-19

Voluntiera u impjegati mill-Emergency Response & Rescue Corps (ERRC), l-organizzazzjoni volontarja, karitatevoli u bla skop ta' profitt ibbażata f'Għawdex li għandha l-ghan li tipprevjeni u taffi sitwazzjonijiet ta' emerġenza li jinvolvu nies f'riskju, ilhom jghinu lill-awtoritajiet lokali fl-isfidi li nqalghu waqt il-pandemija Covid-19 f'Għawdex.

L-ghajnuna diversa tagħhom tikkonsisti fost l-ohrajn fi trasport ta' pazjenti sintomatiċi li ma jkollhomx trasport mir-residenza tagħhom jew minn djar tal-anzjani għaċ-ċentru tas-swabbing fix-Xewkija. Huma jghinu wkoll fil-logistika fl-operazzjonijiet fiċ-ċentru ta' swabbing fix-Xewkija rigward xogħol fl-uffiċċju u thejji biex isir is-swabbing kuljum.

L-ERRC jikkontrollaw ukoll, u jagħtu direzzjoni lill-pazjenti fil-kju ta' karożzi fiċ-ċentru tas-swabbing fix-Xewkija bi thejji halli jittihdihom kampjun; użu ta' ambulanzi tal-ERRC minn diversi lokalitajiet madwar Għawdex lejn l-im-semmi ċentru, kif ukoll skrinjar tal-pubbliku in ġenerali f'diversi lokalitajiet madwar Għawdex. Huma jqassmu wkoll provvisti ta' ikel iffinanzjati mill-Istat lil familji vul-

Nomini godda fid-Djoċesi

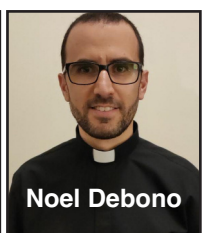
Id-Djoċesi ta' Għawdex għadha kif innominat xi saċerdoti f'xogħol pastorali għid.

Dun Samuel Grech mill-Parroċċa t'Għajnsielem, ġie maħtur Viċi/Rettur tas-Seminarju Maġġuri tal-Qalb ta' Ġesù. Huwa jservi fil-Parroċċa tal-Għarb u hu *Religious Counselor* fl-Iskola Sekondarja tas-Seminarju Minuri.

Dun Noel Debono, mill-Parroċċa tan-Nadur, inhatar Prefett tal-Istudji fl-istess Seminarju. Huwa jservi fil-Parroċċa tal-Qala u hu wkoll Direttur Djoċesan tal-Vokazzjonijiet, filwaqt li l-Kan. Edward Vella, mill-Parroċċa tal-Għarb, ġie maħtur Vigarju Parrokkjali fil-Parroċċa ta' Kerċem.



Samuel Grech



Noel Debono



Edward Vella

Mill-Gżira Għawdxija

Charles Spiteri



Jinfetaħ it-taraġ

Minhabba x-xogħol ta' tisbih li qed isir fuq wahda mill-pjazez ewlenin tal-Belt Victoria, Pjazza San Franġisk, minkejja li għadu mhux lest, it-taraġ li jgħaqqad l-imsemija pjazza ma' Triq Salvatore Psaila, il-venda tal-karożzi tal-linja u l-parkeġġ ewleni tal-lokalità infetħa temporanjament għall-aċċess tal-pubbliku.

It-taraġ, se jelimina il-periklu tat-Triq Taħt Putirjal, li hi triq raffikuża u dejqa hafna, li sallum il-pubbliku kien jużaha biex imur lejn il-parkeġġ jew il-venda.

Il-figuri tal-możajk fit-taraġ (*taħt*) jirrap-prezentaw is-sebat'jiem tal-holqien, ispirat mill-mill-ktieb tal-Ġenesi dwar il-holqien tad-dinja. Ix-xogħol li sar miċ-Ċentru tal-Arti Eikon taħt it-tmexxija tad-direttur Dun Roberto Gauci.

Il-figuri jirrap-prezentaw l-ispażju u d-dawl, l-atmosfera, l-art u l-pjanti, ix-xemx, il-qamar u l-istilel, il-baħar u l-kreaturi li jtitru, l-art, l-annimali u fl-aħħar il-bniedem. Ix-xogħol tal-możajk hu magħmul minn biċċiet żgħar ta' rham ta' kull lewn u għamla li tpoġġew flimkien b'teknika u hila artistika li holqu figuri u xeni mill-isbah ta' daqs kemxejn kbir.

Il-proġett fir-Rabat se jikkumpla menta wkoll iċ-Ċentru tas-Sahha l-għdid li qed isir fil-binja ta' hdejn it-taraġ (*taħt*).



What at-home learning has taught Australians

In April and May 2020, 608 Australian primary school parents were asked a series of questions about home learning – how much time they devote to daily support, the types of work their child has received and how homeschooling has affected them.

Almost 60 per cent of primary school parents agree that their work and/or career has been impacted due to their child learning at home, according to new research from Cluey Learning. Private school parents are significantly more likely to believe their career has “suffered”.

When it comes to quality of life, 29 per cent of primary school parents admit at-home learning has negatively impacted them while 21 per cent have experienced a positive impact.

As school restrictions start to ease across Australia, online tutoring company Cluey Learning is releasing the results of its research series that details the impact of home schooling in a time of COVID-19.

Primary school parents also revealed:

- They **better understand how their child learns** as a result of at-home learning (over 65%)
- Almost **one third believe their child’s learning has suffered** during this period
- **Lack of peer-to-peer learning** has been the **biggest educational challenge** for their child (47%)
- Their child likes or even **loves online learning** (48%)

Cluey Chief Learning Officer, Dr Selina Samuels said: “We often hear from parents that they turn to tutors or seek out extra educational support when they’ve been blindsided by their child’s report card, exam results or received unexpected teacher feedback.

Grant for the Maltese Club in Cringila

The Voice of the Maltese is pleased to announce that the George Cross Falcons Club of Cringila NSW, (established 1951) was approved for a \$5000 grant under the 2018 Community Building Partnership (CBP) programme.

The grant was successful due to the intervention of State Member for Wollongong, Paul Scully MP, who is well known for his work amongst multicultural groups in his constituency. The GCFC does a lot of good work for the Maltese community in the area.

The 2020 CBP programme is now also open for applications <https://www.nsw.gov.au/projects/community-building-partnership>



“While this period has presented many challenges, it’s given parents a much deeper insight into what their child is learning at school and their learning gaps. Parents now have a lot of observations to draw on to support their child’s learning moving forward.”

Cluey’s research also revealed that remote learning experiences vary across Australia:

- **Metropolitan students** are **significantly more likely** to receive **live online classroom sessions** compared to regional/rural students
- **Public school students** are **significantly more likely** to receive **worksheets** as their main learning method (vs. pre-recorded or live classes) compared to students in private schools
- **Private school parents** are **significantly more likely** to have been **offered time with their child’s teacher** to discuss their learning progress compared to students in public and Catholic schools

“Technology can and should bolster real time interactions between students and teachers. Yet only some children have been lucky enough to experience this during this period of isolation. Remote learning has heightened educational inequities across Australia,” says Dr Samuels.

Earlier in May, Cluey released the first wave of primary parent research results which are available here: <https://clueylearning.com.au/blog/research-into-impact-of-home-learning/>. The research covered the types of interactions students had with their teachers, the time commitment parents made to support their child’s learning and the ways this affected their careers.

For further research insights and guidance on maintaining continuity of learning, follow <https://clueylearning.com.au/blog/>



MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW

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Our trained and experienced teachers are qualified in language teaching and have Maltese study credentials.

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Classes are held at Horsley Park Public School

Saturday mornings 9.00 – 11.15 am.

(Due to the isolation restrictions lessons are currently given online)

Maltese Language Teachers also required

For more information email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com

Mobile: 0416 119 100

Record number of deaths in US

The United States has recorded more than 100,000 deaths from Covid-19, moving past a grim milestone even as many states relax mitigation measures to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The US has recorded more deaths from the disease than any other country in the pandemic.

This all means that the virus has killed more Americans than the Vietnam and Korean wars and the conflict in Iraq combined. At the time of writing, the death toll is approaching that of the first world war, when more than 116,000 Americans died in combat.

The number of fatalities in the US is still climbing, and federal officials warn that the likely actual toll from the coronavirus is even higher than the official figure.

COVID-19: What is the 'R rate'?

In their "Stay Alert" messages concerning COVID-19, most Governments keep reminding us of the importance of "controlling the R rate" to save lives. They keep basing their lockdown release strategy on the reproduction, or 'R' rate. But what exactly does the R rate mean?

We found an explanation and analyses of the impact of the 'R' rate that seems very plausible.

The reproduction, or 'R' rate, is the number of people that a single infected person will go on to infect, but how is it calculated, and is it reliable?

Anything above one means that each person will be passing the virus on to more than one person allowing the epidemic to grow exponentially.

For example an 'R' rate of 1.5 would mean every 10 people who became infected, would infect 15 more people. Those 15, would, in turn, infect 22.5 people who would then pass the disease on to 33.7.

The opposite is true if the 'R' rate is below one. For example in Malta, after announcing, a few weeks ago that the 'R' rate was 1.3, in the last few days the media authorities announced that it is now somewhere between 0.7 and 1.

Scientists cannot be completely accurate because different models are used to come up with the figures and they do not often agree.



If it is at the lower end of the estimate, 0.7, then every 10 people will infect seven others. Those seven will infect 4.8, who will go on to infect 3.4.

If the 'R' rate is at the higher end of one, then the disease has plateaued, so 10 people would infect 10 others, and the epidemic would neither increase nor decline.

The 'R' rate is calculated by The Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Modelling (SPI-M), a sub-group of Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (Sage).

However it is only estimation and it is usually out of date because it relies on testing, admissions and death data. So there will always be a 14 to 21 day lag because people are infected weeks before they

enter hospital, or die.

Contact pattern surveys are also used to calculate how much people move around but these also tend to have a lag of around a week and are open to bias because they rely on self-reported behaviour.

The current 'R' rate reflects the situation in Malta last week. It is also crucial to look at the 'R' value alongside the actual number of people infected.

The 'R' rate can vary not just regionally, but also by subsections of the population. Experts say that nobody catches COVID-19 by passing someone on the street. That isn't how you get it.

There are fears that reopening schools will have a big impact on transmissions, potentially sending the 'R' rate above one again, but there is little evidence to show that will happen.

It is no secret that loosening restrictions all over, mostly depends on 'R' being below 1.

MCCV's services to the Maltese community

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria (MCCV) recently expanded its services to provide additional assistance to the Maltese Community members who are over 65 and reside in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne.

These include: **Domestic Assistance:** This programme is here to assist with daily tasks that one might find difficult to keep up with. The MCCV can send a Maltese speaking person to one's home to help out with: *Cleaning, Dish washing, Ironing, Clothes washing, Shopping for food or other items, other household tasks.*

These services are very flexible and can be adapted, as one's needs change. We will discuss which day or days you prefer to have someone come to your home to assist you. You can also have short term assistance if you are not feeling well or come home from hospital and need some time to get back on your feet.

Centre Based Respite: This is designed for people who have a carer who may need to complete chores, go to appointments or attend to other things in their lives. The MCCV offers a welcoming environment with qualified staff that can assist with one's personal needs.

There are many fun activities planned so that everyone can join in. Whether it be sitting and having a chat over a cup of tea, playing cards, learning to use an iPad, gentle exercise, arts and crafts and even Zumba dancing.

The MCCV provides delicious morning tea and lunch and can also organise transport to and from its centre if one needs it.

Fees: There is a fee involved with provision of these services and this depends on which service you require and how often these services are delivered. All fees will be discussed with you before you start our programs.

How to access these services

To access any of the services, you need to be referred via My Aged Care and have an assessment by the Regional Assessment Service by calling on 1800 200 422 or by logging to <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/>

You can call My Aged Care or if you prefer, a referral can be made by your doctor, someone who already provides a home care service to you, or a family member or carer. When contacting My Aged Care, let them know you wish to use the MCCV services.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some services will be delayed or modified to adhere social distancing laws and Government restrictions. Please note that this is a temporary arrangement and as soon as restrictions are eased or lifted, services will progressively return to normal.

CMLA:

New appointments

The Voice of the Maltese can reveal that the Government has officially re-appointed two members of the Council of Maltese Abroad for the term of three years. They are Dr JosAnn Cutajar (Malta-based) to replace Joseph A. Xerri who is now the secretary of the CMLA and Alexander Grima representing the EU after the resignation of the delegate for that region.

For the first time since its inception, the Malta Emigrants Commission is not represented.

The scheduled meeting of the CMLA set for October 2020 in Valletta is very much in doubt although the airports would have been opened for five months.

The Convention held every five years scheduled for October 2020 has already been cancelled. No date has been officially announced as to when it would be held. Indications are that it could be held in October 2021. An announcement is expected soon. e circulation is our shield of honour.

Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

Some Radio stations may be off air due to covid-19 restrictions

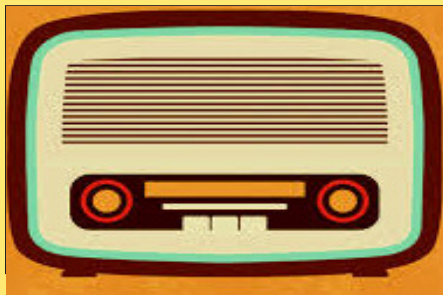
MELBOURNE: on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5-6 pm, Fridays 5-6 pm and Saturdays 10-11am.

MELBOURNE: on 98.9 North West FM, every Friday 6.00 - 7.00p.m. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

On SBS Radio

Day Time Analogue and Digital Tuesdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS 2.

To tune into digital radio you need a receiver or device with a DAB+ chip. Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard via digital TV.



SYDNEY: listen to the MCC radio programmes on 2GLF FM 89.3. Isma' l-programm tar-radju bil-Malti mill-Kunsill Malti ta' NSW minn fuq l-istazzjon 2GLF 89.3FM. Also *On Demand* on l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au

On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-aħħar aħbarijiet minn Malta, mużika, tagħrif, kultura, avvizi u suġġetti ta' interess.

SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38. Programmes can be accessed online (live/catch up) at: sbs.com.au/maltese (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

For television news from Malta - **SBS2 TV 32** (Viceland) on Thurs-

days and Sundays at 8am.

VIVA MALTA on COAST FM 96.3 Community Radio in Gosford Central Coast NSW. Aired on Thursdays every fortnight from 6 pm -7 pm. Presenter: Nathalie Gatt. Web streaming: www.coastfm.org.au

SBS MALTESE NEWS: L-Aħbarijiet are now on SBSTV Viceland HD Channel 32 every Sunday at 8.00 a.m. and on Thursday at 8.00 a.m.

BRISBANE listen to the Maltese Programme on 4EB on Tuesdays 6.00 - 8.15am; Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm.

Maltese Community Radio Adelaide: Maltese Programmes on 5EBI 103.1fm: **Sunday:** 7.30am; **Monday:** 8.00 am; **Monday:** 6.00pm. Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

97.9 FM Melton Tuesday Maltese Programme: 6.00 To 8.00 pm Presenter Miriam Vella



Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

L-MCCV qed jilqa' applikazzjonijiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a part-time tal-ilsien Malti fil-binja tagħhom f'14 Watt Street, Sunshine, Victoria.

L-applikanti għandu jkollhom għarfien sew tal-Malti kemm miktub kif ukoll mitkellem.

Ibghat applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademiċi lill:

admin@mccv.org.au

Għal tagħrif iehor cempel fuq: **0412 115 919**. Halli n-numru tat-telefon u nċemplulek lura.

Important Notice

If you are unable to buy the next issues of *The Voice* from the usual sources, you can inquire about our subscription at: maltesevoice@gmail.com

We will deliver *The Voice* by mail to your address anywhere in Australia.

Avviż lill-qarrejja

Tixtieq li jkollok kopja f'idejk ta' The Voice?

Infakkru lill-qarrejja li *The Voice of the Maltese*, mhux biss magazine online, iżda wkoll l-uniku tax-xorta tiegħu fl-Awstralja li wkoll jiġi ippubblikat. Huma ħafna dawk li ilhom li approfittaw ruħhom minn dan u abbonaw biex anke jibdwu jirċevu kopja pprintjata bil-posta d-dar bi ħlas.

Dawk kollha li jixtiequ li jibdwu jirċevu kopja pprintjata tal-magazine kull darba li johroġ biex ikunu jistgħu jzommuha f'idejhom, huma mhegga li jabbonaw għal sena halli jagħmlu żgur mill-kopja

Biex dan isir wiehded l-ewwel jibghat email lil maltesevoice@gmail.com fejn jitlob tagħrif dwar il-ħlas ta' abbonament għal sena fl-istat fejn jgħix. Imbagħad jekk ikun irid jissieheb ma' dawk kollha li mhumiex kuntenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu, jgħarrafna u jkunu moqdijin.

Għall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja

Qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar xi suġġett huma mhegga ma jhallux għall-aħħar. Jekk tridu tibagħtu l-emails indirizza-whom maltesevoice@gmail.com. L-ittri għall-pubblikazzjoni indikawhom: *Letters to the editor*.

Please Note:

If interested in advertising on *The Voice of the Maltese* magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese diaspora is requested to write for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com



Events for 2020

Sunday July 5

Lejla fil-Buskett

Sunday October 18

Fete

Saturday November 14

Dinner Dance

Sunday December 6

Festa San Nikola



Floriana

CHAMPIONS 26

THE 26 LEAGUE TITLES

1909/10	1950/51
1911/12	1951/52
1912/13	1952/53
1920/21	1954/55
1921/22	1957/58
1924/25	1961/62
1926/27	1967/68
1927/28	1969/70
1928/29	1972/73
1930/31	1974/75
1934/35	1976/77
1936/37	1992/93
1949/50	2019/20

Floriana declared Champions for 2019/20

Floriana have been declared Malta's Premier League Champions for 2019/20. The award, the Greens' 26th, was made by the MFA Council that voted on a proposal that the teams lying at the top of their respective leagues before the termination of the league would be declared champions.

Floriana had been leading the league ladder throughout the campaign until Match Day 20 when the COVID-19 outbreak forced the termination. As leaders before the stoppage, 47 Council members voted in favour of the proposal to award them the title; 18 voted against, and six abstained.

Floriana won their last title 27 years ago – in season 1992/93. They looked well equipped and looked on the way to

achieving their goal again at the end of the 2019/20 season.

The MFA Executive had earlier confirmed Floriana as Malta's representatives in the UEFA Champions League. Valletta, Hibernians, and Sirens (for their debut in a European club completion), next in line, will play in the UEFA Europa League.

Żejtun Corinthians were awarded the Division I title for their debut in the Premier League. Lija Athletic were also promoted. Marsa (Division I) and Attard (Division II) were declared Champions in the respective leagues and promoted. Marsaxlokk and San Gwann were promoted to Division I, to be re-

named Challenge League.

There will be no relegation, therefore Tarxien, who had a most disappointing campaign in the Premier retained their place.

Back to some normality

Covid-19, threw the world into a type of chaos many had not experienced. This also refers to sports and now, with a number of competitions in various disciplines soon to resume while adhering to some restrictions for the sake of safety, it almost seems nostalgic to look back on the way they had been run.

The lost time has caused an unprecedented logistical scourge for the remainder of the season, while football clubs struggle to minimize the financial impact from revenue loss and high-running operational costs.

Most fans will have to rely now more than ever, on television coverage of the respective competitions. But for the moment this has to be enough.

When it comes to football, some countries decided to wrap up their 2019/20 leagues without finishing their expected schedules. However, a number of Europe's top championships would resume their league commitments by the end of the month of June.

Others could follow in July, but by the end of August all competitions must come to an end to prepare for the 2020/21 campaign.

Germany's Bundesliga was the first of Europe's elite leagues to return to action after the coronavirus outbreak, on May 16, and it has been under the spotlight ever since.

As organisers of Spain's La Liga want to finish the season on the weekend of 18-19 July 18-19 "depending on the evolution" of coronavirus, play resumes on July 8 or 11. They have also set the date of September 12 for the start of the next season.

The English Premier League will resume on June 17, while the Italian football season will resume with the final stages of the Coppa Italia before the Serie A gets under way on June 20.

The French season will not resume, with Paris St-Germain being awarded the title. The Netherlands and Belgium's Pro-League cancelled their seasons.

Proposed restart plan to A-League season with 32 games in 35 days

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has confirmed that the Hyundai A-League clubs and Professional Footballers Australia (PFA) have reached agreement on a comprehensive plan for the re-start of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 season.

They are now looking forward to the agreement of their broadcast partner, Fox Sports, to their fixture proposal and timings. The plan incorporates best practice health protocols for players and officials and provides a schedule that will bring a constant stream of 32 matches over a 35-day programme.

Mid-June is considered as the time that players could return to training, allowing them to reach the required elite level of fitness for competitive matches to commence by mid-July, and for the Hyundai A-League Finals Series to be completed by mid-August.

It is unlikely that fans would be able to attend any of these matches, although that could change if government restrictions and guidelines are eased.



NRL first sport to return into action

The National Rugby League (NRL) in Australia season made its much-anticipated return following its coronavirus-enforced suspension last Thursday, with Parramatta posting a 34-6 win over the Broncos in Brisbane.

This was NRL's first match since March 22 following the coronavirus shutdown. It was played without any spectators present, but the NRL is confident it would have spectators attending matches later in the season.