



The Voice of the Maltese

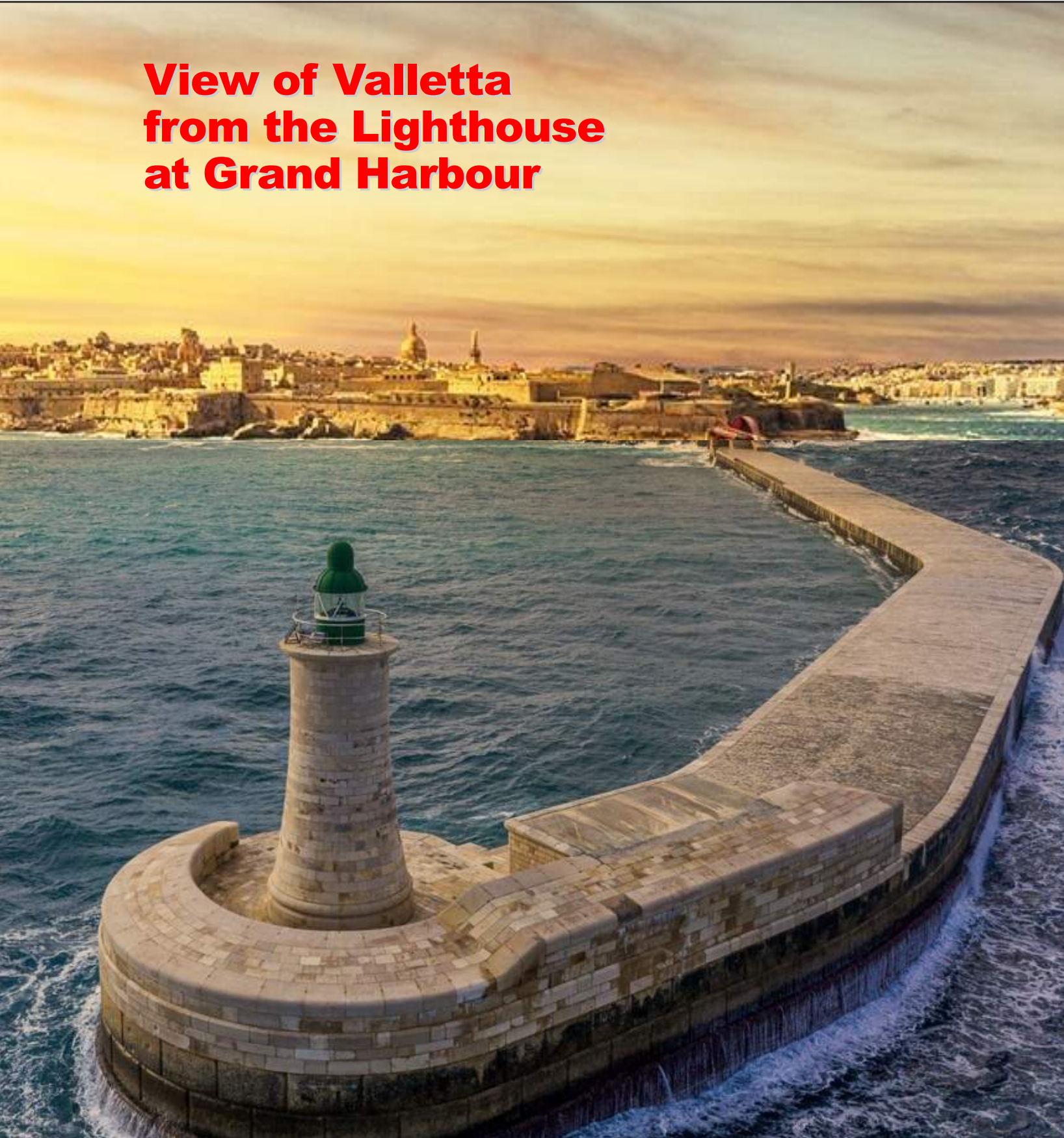
(We are for the Greater Malta)

Issue
248

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March 9, 2020

View of Valletta from the Lighthouse at Grand Harbour



Kummentarju: *Kriżi serja klerikali*

L-abbandunati

Meta ż-żmien jidhol sewwa, meta tibda tmajna, thoss dieqa meta tiftakar li dawk li tant irrispettajt, dak it-twelmin nistrani li sar parti mill-kultura tiegħek tant li għarrejtu f'qalbek meta emigrajt; dawk li ħabbejt bħala r-rgħajja tiegħek fi triqtek lejn il-ħajja eterna, illum abbandunawk.

X'għamilt? Għaliex abbandunajt? Hekk nitlob għarkuptejja kull filgħaxija. Kien haqqni hekk meta tant osservajt, anzi obdejt dak li ppridkajtu?

Illum nixtieq nisma' quddiesha bil-Malti, inqerr bil-lingwa tiegħi, niftaħ qalbi ma' dak li jista' jifhem il-kultura nistranija tiegħi u dak li rridu hdejjja meta nagħlaq għajnejja għall-aħhar darba. Dawn issa kollha saru illużjoni?

Meta emigrajna lejn l-Awstralja għamilna hekk bil-barka asso-luta tal-Knisja Maltija tant li l-Arcisqof ta' dak iż-żmien ftaħar li l-emigrazzjoni hija s-soluzzjoni għall-Malta (*Malta's safety-valve*) wara li għall-sekli shaħ il-knisja qattlana biex nipproduċu, biex inwelldu u ma nużwx kontraċettivi. U l-popolazzjoni splodiet, familji b'għaxar ulied jew aktar. Qalftuna 'l barra lejn l-Awstralja!

Mal-vapuri li għarrewna, ħafna minnhom vapuri mfissra bħala "rust buckets" sa kellna saċerdoti jakkumpanjawna. Sa għet imwaqqfa soċjeta religjuza, l-MSSP speċjali biex tiehu ħsieb il-Maltin li jemigraw lejn pajjizi bogħod biex isibu gejjieni aħjar għax dak iż-żmien f'Malta kien hemm il-faqar u l-guħ.

Monsinjur Guzeppi De Piro kien inħobbom lill-emigranti u qatt ma xtaq jabbandunahom.

Meta thares lejn madwar 60 sena ta' emigrazzjoni, u sa anke f'Malta għandna l-Kummissjoni Emigranti b'centru hdejn il-bieb tal-Barrakka ta' Fuq, ma nistax nifhem kif l-awtoritajiet tal-knisja Maltija għadhom mhux certi għaliex għandna bżonn saċerdot b'kultura Maltija fostna.

Nafu li l-vokazzjonijiet naqsu. Jgħidulna li f'Malta, fejn hemm knisja kull kantuniera m'għandhomx biżżejjed saċerdoti għalihom. Forsi b'maniġġar aħjar, u fejn it-talba naqset b'mod allarmanti, hemm ħtieġa għal daqstant knejjes?

Għaliex il-komunitajiet tal-emigranti fl-Awstralja mhumie x magħduda bħala missjonijiet? Fejn hu l-aħjar, fejn li l-Maltin



avvanzati fl-età jgħidli l-fidi tagħhom, jew is-saċerdoti jmorru l-Peru jew l-Afrika jikkonvertu meta niesna jinsabu abbandunati? X'inhi l-prijorita' tal-kapijiet tal-knisja Maltija?

Niftakar iż-żmien meta f'Għawdex kien hemm is-sistema li saċerdoti godda kellhom jgħixu barra minn Malta għal perjodu taż-żmien bħala edukazzjoni fil-qasam pastorali.

Jista' jkun hemm strategija ta' bidla kull sitt xhur/sena li taqdi ħafna aspetti. Hadd mhu qed jitlob spustar jew ċaqliq radikali għal ħafna snin kif kien isir qabel.

X'qed nistennew? Li jsiru protesti quddiem il-kappelli/knejjes b'kartelluni li jimbarazzaw lid-dirigenti tal-knisja Maltija meta dawn jiġu jagħmlu xi żjara ta' btala (għal xhur shaħ) fl-ibliet kapitali jew meta jiġu hawn għal xi okkażjoni speċjali?

Inħolqot sitwazzjoni kerha li ilha gejjja snin twal. Tefgħuha taħt it-tapit. Illum tinsab ma' wicċhom. Iridu jsovvuha jew isofru l-konsegwenzi quddiem Alla!



Ritratt meħud fi NSW
meta l-komunitá Maltija
kienet servuta xi aħjar

Q. My mother has just moved into aged care. We paid off the RAD in full with the proceeds received from her home and now have around \$420,000 left to invest. We considered leaving it in a term deposit but interest rates are very low. Is there anything else we could look at which would be safe yet work harder for her?

A. If it has been less than 90 days since your mother settled on the sale of her home, she has the opportunity of investing \$300,000 of the surplus funds in superannuation and then commence an account-based pension. These funds could be invested in superannuation quite defensively and should earn much more than current interest rates. You should visit a financial planner and they should be able to give you proper advice to suit her needs, as you would be able to provide them with all the details concerning her situation.

Q. I am 47 years of age. I am a single mum living in my own home. I have a mortgage of \$220,000 on my home. I have a good job but as my children are only 12 and 9, I worry that something could happen to me and I would not be able to work. I was thinking of taking up some income protection insurance but it is very costly. What should I do?

A. I believe that you should certainly consider income protection insurance. If anything was to happen to you being a single mum with young children and a mortgage, you could find yourself in trouble. However, there are things to consider prior to taking income protec-

tion cover that could help you reduce the amount of premium you need to pay.

Look at the amount of sick leave you have. You can then take the cover with a longer waiting period. You can also have a small portion paid through your super fund and the rest paid with money out of super. All these options help to reduce the amount of money that you have to pay to have this cover. Visit an adviser that advises on personal insurance, as he would be able to find the most appropriate cover to suit your needs.

Q. I have had a financial planner for about four years. He has never asked to review my situation but has always answered my queries whenever I contacted him. I do not feel comfortable with him. Would it be appropriate for me to find another adviser?

A. You need to feel comfortable with your financial planner as he needs to play a good part in your current and future financial situation. You may ask him to review your situation yourself by having a face-to-face visit. You can then see

This is a monthly service offered by The Voice of the Maltese in which Marie Louise Muscat from the Fiducian Financial Services helps our readers understand the complexities associated with financial planning. If you need more advice send an email to Marie Louise via: maltesevoice@gmail.com.



whether you have restored your faith in him, but if you still feel uncomfortable you should look for someone else.

Q. I am 64 years old. I have just retired from the work force. I have a superannuation fund of \$750,000 and wish to withdraw \$180,000 to pay off a mortgage on my investment property. Am I able to make contributions into superannuation at some future date now that I am retired?

A. As you are retired and over 60 years of age the \$180,000 that you withdraw from super will all be tax-free. Once you start building up your cash reserves you are still in a position of making contributions of \$100,000 per annum between the ages of 65 and 67. Once you turn 67 you cannot make further contributions into superannuation unless you pass the work test of 40 hours over a 30-day period anytime during that financial year.

Q. I am 59 years of age and selling my residential home. I have been living in it for 15 years. Can I use the downsizing strategy of investing \$300,000 in superannuation?

A. The downsizing strategy is for people over age pension age who have no opportunity of making contributions into super. You however, if you have not made any non-concessional contributions into super over the last three years can still invest \$300,000 into superannuation. You will be using the "Bring forward cap" not the downsizing strategy.

If you make the \$300,000 contribution in superannuation now, you will not be able to make any further non-concessional contributions for 3 years or until you turn 62.

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Malta's link with Gibraltar

Joseph Cutajar

When we talk about the Maltese living abroad we normally set our sights on nationals who emigrated and sought pastures new in countries such as Australia, Canada, the UK and the United States. However, Maltese communities have been to several countries. In the last issue we featured the Association of Maltese Communities of Egypt, that originated in Alexandria in 1854.

Egypt was not the only Arab country to host a Maltese community. Several other Maltese also settled permanently in other Arab countries, such as Libya and Tunisia, on the Greek island in the Ionian Sea, Corfu, and even in South Africa and other African countries, and Latin America. We also know of other Maltese spread in other countries, that not many readers know they even exist

One such, is a reader of *The Voice of the Maltese* in St Kitts-Nevis, an island country in the West Indies, Mrs Victoria O'Flaherty (nee Borg). She currently occupies the position of Director of the country's National Archives.

The National archivist and historian and mother of three kids, settled on this island

in 1981 after marrying a local. The 269 sq km island with less than 60,000 inhabitants is similar to Malta when it comes to its tourist attractions, they are its beaches, scenery and a warm, sunny climate. There is no Maltese community on St Kitts-Nevis. For all I know, Mrs O'Flaherty is only Maltese there.

However, there is an even smaller country closer to home that used to have a Maltese community, Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory located at the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula, also known as The Rock.

A Maltese community has existed in Gibraltar since shortly after its capture by an Anglo-Dutch fleet in 1704, and by 1885, there were about 1,000 Maltese there attracted by the prosperity that trade with North Africa and the presence of the Royal Navy in the 19th century brought to it. Several inhabitants of Maltese descent, a few of them still live there.

Like Malta and Cyprus, Gibraltar, was another stepping stone whereby Great Britain controlled the Mediterranean and the vital route to the Suez Canal and thence to India.

Following the capture of Gibraltar, most of the existing population elected to leave, leaving behind a small population of around seventy (mainly neutral Genoese people). Immigration from neighbouring Spanish towns soon followed, giving Gibraltar a cosmopolitan population.

Years of coexistence and intermarriage on the Rock soon led to a coalescence of Maltese, Italian and Andalusian culture, preserving the Mediterranean and Catholic uniqueness of Gibraltar despite the centuries of British rule.¹

Early in the 20th century the British undertook vast naval works and the naval base in Gibraltar was to prove its strategic value in the two world wars. Therefore, as expected, and given the common cultural bond between the two countries, some Maltese were lured to it hoping to take advantage of lucrative employment there.

However, Gibraltar's economy was incapable of absorbing a large number of immigrants from Malta and by 1912, the total number of Maltese living there came down to around 700, many of them working in the dockyard, while a few others operated businesses that were mainly ancillary to the dockyard. Several others returned to Malta.

Eventually those who stayed became much involved in the economic and social life in Gibraltar and integrated enough to start a family, and today there are many



Keith Azopardi, a lawyer and since 2017 is the current leader of the Opposition and the Gibraltar Social Democratic party

notable Gibraltarians of Maltese descent, including 54-year-old Keith Azopardi QC, a lawyer and politician, current leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Social Democrats since 2017.

In the years between 1996 and 2000, Azopardi also served as Minister for Environment & Health for the Gibraltar Social Democrats after which he was appointed Deputy Chief Minister of Gibraltar and Minister for Trade and Industry, a position he held until 2003.

In 2003, he stood down from politics, but in June 2006 founded the Progressive Democratic Party and was also involved in the negotiations with the British Government that led to the grant of the new Gibraltar Constitution of 2006.

Three years later Azopardi published the book "Sovereignty and the Stateless Nation: Gibraltar in the Modern Legal Context" in which he discussed the constitutional status of Gibraltar, and proposed ways forward to achieve an enduring settlement to the dispute with Spain.

Just over three years ago, in 2017, he rejoined the Social Democrats, pushed forward his candidature for the party's leadership election, and at the end of November that year became its new leader.

Two other politicians of Maltese descent, were Maurice Xiberras GMH and Sir Peter Caruana QC. Xiberras, who was also a teacher and a trade unionist, was a strong defender of British sovereignty, who believed there was no future for Gibraltar without the continuing close relationship with the United Kingdom.

Later, in 2009, he became one of four recipients of the Gibraltar Medallion of Honour "for his exceptional service to the political interests of Gibraltar and its people" and was therefore recorded in the Gibraltar Roll of Honour. He died in 2017 aged 81.

**Continued on opposite page*



Sir Peter Caruana QC ... a former Chief Minister of Gibraltar and served as leader of the GSD party for 22 years

Interviewing about migration (Part 3)

Recording the memories Working Life



Barry York

I have interviewed migrants of early vintage from the 1910s through to the 1960s. All had to work for a living and were reliable, hard, workers. Their occupations ranged from pick-and-shovel work on road construction through to gathering eucalypt leaves, crushing rocks in quarries, working on the wharves and in mines, cutting sugar cane, and working in tanneries, steel mills and factories.

All these occupations have since been heavily mechanised, with far less need for human labour, so it can be fascinating to learn about the working conditions and processes of long ago, and how they affected the individual workers.

In 1985, I recorded my uncle Joe Meilak who was 81. Joe worked on the Melbourne waterfront from the mid-1920s for about 40 years.

He also worked on road construction in the bush. He was a typical barrel-chested hard-working Gozitan. (My son is named after him).

I have Joe's Meilak's photo working on road construction around Pirron Yallock in the late 1920s. Located about 170 kms inland west from Melbourne.

The area was harsh desolate bush back then. The picture is brought to life by my

uncle's recorded spoken reminiscences.

These are some basic questions I have asked people about 'Working life' (keeping in mind that the answer to a question can often lead to a new question).

- What was your first job outside the home?
- When and how did you get it?
- What jobs have you had over the years? (Please try and list them in order and indicate approximately when you had them).
- Did you regard your first job as permanent?
- Tell me more about your first job. What were the hours? Was the pay good? Were you in a trade union?
- (If applicable:) Why did you change jobs so many times?
- What was the job in which you spent most of your working life?
- Please describe a typical working day in that job.
- What were the working conditions like?
- How did you get on with the other workers?
- Did the workers come from different national backgrounds? If so, which ones?
- Technical nature of work. (If relevant,

ask about the technical side of the job: w
- What was the production process/how was the work done?).

- Were you a union member? Why did (didn't) you join the union?

- Were you ever involved in stop-work meetings or strikes? If so, what were the circumstances?

- Did you ever experience or witness accidents causing injury at work?

- How did you travel to work? How far was it from home?

- Did you used to go straight home after work or did you socialise with your workmates?

- How did working life change you as a person?

- What did you look for in a job? What were the most important things?

- Did you ever obtain work for friends, relatives or acquaintances at your place of work? If so, who?

- Were you ever unemployed? If so, for how long? What were the circumstances? How did it affect you?

- When and why did you retire?

- Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about your experiences in the workforce?

END

Malta's link with Gibraltar/Continued from opposite page

Peter Caruana QC, served as Chief Minister of Gibraltar. from 1996 to 2011. He was also and Leader of the Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD) for 22 years from 1991 to 2013.

Caruana is a barrister by profession and was appointed a Queen's Counsel for Gibraltar in 1998 and elected an Overseas Master of the Bench of Inner Temple in 2011.

In 1990, Caruana became a member of GSD and a year later, became its leader of the party. In May 1991, he gained a seat in the House of Assembly by winning Gibraltar's first contested by-election, and in January 1992, led his party to the position of official opposition by winning seven seats in the House of Assembly.

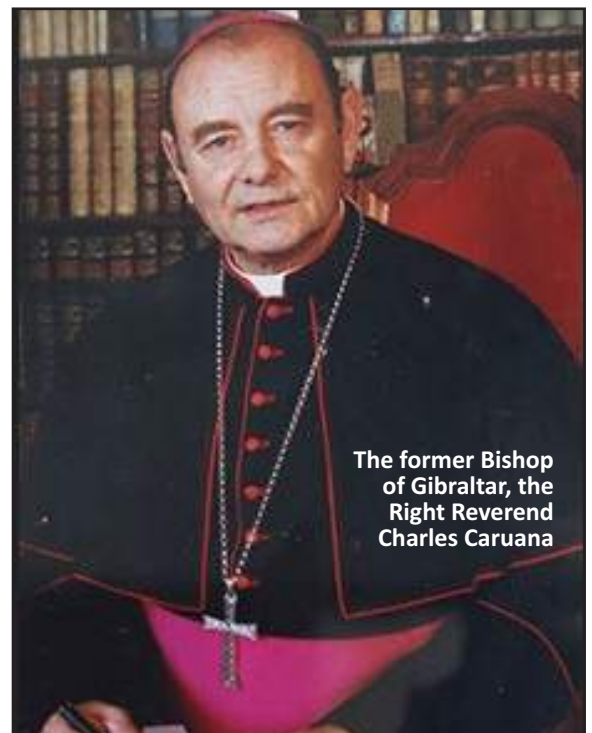
Finally, in May 1996, he led the party to victory and became Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

In November 2007, he was returned to office for a fourth term, and under his leadership, the GSD were narrowly beaten in the 2011 general election. He stood down from the party leadership and as leader of the Opposition at the end of the January 2013.

Gibraltar also had a Roman Catholic bishop of Maltese descent, Charles Caruana CBE. He was appointed sixth Bishop of Gibraltar on February 14, 1998 and ordained on three months later. He retired on March 18, 2010, and died in a hospital in Gibraltar on October 1, 2010 following a bout of ill health.

Reference:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Maltese_in_Gibraltar



The former Bishop of Gibraltar, the Right Reverend Charles Caruana

Recollections of a Maltese octogenarian – My Sixties (continued)

Joseph Lanzon

The birth of Television Malta and other means of entertainment

The 1960s were generally one of the most tumultuous and divisive decades in world history, marked by the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War and antiwar protests, political assassinations and the emerging "generation gap." However, nearer home, in Malta, the young generation especially, also had the chance to divert its thoughts to more pleasant things instead of the doom and gloom.

Television "comes" to Malta

On the 29th September 1962 Malta witnessed the first local TV transmission and the birth of Television Malta (TVM). The first live transmission was beamed directly from the Rediffusion House Studio in Gwardamanga with the late Charles Arrigo, with his distinct voice proudly announcing "Dan huwa l-Malta Television Service."



The opening night's programme included numerous messages delivered on camera by the then Governor, the Prime Minister and the Archbishop. Other messages read out on air were also received from Her Majesty the Queen and Pope John XXIII who also imparted the Apostolic Blessing on the people of the Maltese Islands. News caster Victor Aquilina then read out the news.

The first tv dealer of television sets in Malta was Consiglio D'Amato of Hamrun with his Loewe Opta. He would advertise his Loewe Opta TV sets by switching them on in his showroom at next door to St Gaetan Band Club where Crowds would converge in front of his showroom, including myself to watch.

TV was the most remarkable entertainment development in Malta in modern life. At the outset TVM's transmissions were limited to just four hours daily, between 6 pm – 10 pm.

The first familiar faces we used to watch and looked forward to watching every evening as we sat down in front of our flickering television screens where those of Charles Arrigo, Victor Galdes, Victor Aquilina and Mary Grech whose voices we had been familiar with on Rediffusion.

Besides the limited Maltese channel, we also switched on to Italy's RAI channels to watch various programmes of interest that included the popular quiz shows conducted by Mike Buongiorno and the musical quiz 'Il Musichiere' presented by Mario Riva.

The most popular American and British TV series of the Sixties on local television were 'Leave It to Beaver', 'I Love Lucy', 'Lassie', 'Candid Camera' and 'Happy Days', and later 'The Avengers', 'Bewitched', 'Get Smart', 'Hawai Five-O' and 'Mission Impossible'. They were the most watched.



My favourites were "Lassie", "Get Smart" and "Bewitched". I would not miss them for anything and would not leave home when they were on.

On 20 July 1969, most people were glued to their TV screens throughout the night for the great so-called historic event of the century, the landing on the moon by American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on Apollo 11.

Local tv was still in black and white at the time. Colour TV programming in Malta was introduced 12 years later, on 8 July 1981.

My Love of Literature

I am a bookworm. I have a passion for the written word. My house is filled with books on all sorts. They are my friends not objects. Since childhood, books fascinated me, so did other published materials, especially in English. I loved reading the classics of famous authors and comics like 'Beano', 'Dandy' and 'Eagle'. I also loved reading 'Everybody's' magazine, especially Godfrey Winnie and Beverley Baxter's interesting articles.

Books have given me experiences and adventures I will never forget. They allowed me to play roles in the 1565 Great Siege of Malta, in the Uprising of the Maltese against the French, in the Russian and French revolutions, in World Wars I and II.

I imagined I was a soldier, a fighter pilot, a space traveller, a romantic, a revolutionary, a saint, a detective, a criminal lawyer and a hundred other besides. What experiences! What adventures!

However, then there was writing. Since my teens I had the urge to write on things I felt so strongly about, those that made me happy or sad. I was 17 years old when I had my first article published in an English football magazine for which I was given a six-month free subscription.

Charles Arrigo in TVM's first transmission. Below: Comedian Charles Clews in the first variety programme on the same day



Then, I started writing articles for the *Times of Malta*. I felt proud to see my contributions in print and to be read and be commented upon by readers. To my surprise and elation the then ToM editor, Mr Hedley, used to send me encouraging letters and postal orders of five guineas for every article. He was a great help to me.

I wrote because I loved writing. I also wrote poems, and introduced and edited a literary page in the local fortnightly newspaper where I encouraged others in Bormla to write.

Entertainment: The Cinema

During the early Sixties my entertainment consisted of the cinema, football at the Empire Stadium in Gzira and roller-skating at the Rockyvale in St. Julian's.

It was the era of the cinema and of the film stars, because there was no other entertainment available. "Let us go to the 'talkies'" we used to say. I frequented the Embassy and the Savoy in Valetta and the Empire, Viceroy and the Tivoli in Pawla to watch several films during the weekends.

**Continued on opposite page*

Il-Villagġ tas-Snajja' f'Ta' Qali b'centru

Sa tmiem din is-sena, se jkun tlesta l-Villagġ Artigjanali f'Ta' Qali li jilqa' fih aktar minn 70 artigjan li bil-hila u s-sengha tagħhom mhux biss jaqilghu hobżhom, imma wkoll jagħtu hajja lill-post li fi żmienijiet normali huwa wkoll attrazzjoni għat-turisti li mhux biss iżuruh imma wkoll ikollhom iċ-ċans li jixru xi tifkira taż-żjara tagħhom f'Malta.

Biex jitlestu minn kollox, permezz ta' INDIS Malta l-gvern se għin fil-bini tiegħu wara li għal għadd ta' raġunijiet, fosthom minhabba l-pandemija, ix-xogħol li kellu jsir mis-sidien tal-binjiet tal-artipjani waqa' lura.

Permezz tas-sostenn tal-gvern se jsir pass ieħor importanti lejn it-tlestija tar-riġenerazzjoni tal-villagġ, b'mod li jkun ambjent aktar xieraq għall-artigjanani u fl-istess hin jattira iktar viżitaturi lejha.

Skont il-Ministru għall-Ekonomija u l-Industrija Silvio Schembri li taħt ir-responsabbiltà tiegħu jaqa' l-proġett, permezz ta' INDIS Malta, se jintervjeni u anke jittiehu inizjattivi biex titwitta t-triq għall-qawmien mill-ġdid ta' dan is-settur.

Dan il-Ministru habbru meta kien qed iżur l-andament tax-xogħol u l-bidla notevoli li saret s'issa fil-villagġ. Hu spjega li filwaqt li x-xogħlijiet fuq il-komponenti ewlenin tal-infrastruttura komuni tlestew, il-gvern hass li għandu jagħti l-għajnuna biex jithaff aktar.

Għalhekk tnieda qafas ta' ftehim li permezz tiegħu se jkun ngagġati kuntratturi b'rati stabbiliti minn qabel, biex jagħmlu x-xogħol tal-bini, imbagħad fuq perjodu miftiehem ta' snin l-artigjanani jhallsu lura l-ispejjeż lil INDIS Malta. Il-kostruzzjoni fuq il-bçejjec ta' art kollha li għad fadal jiġu rinovati se jibda f'Gunju.

Ix-xogħol se jinqasam f'erba' zoni li se jinbnew fl-istess hin minn kuntratturi differenti, u b'hekk jithaff il-proċess, b'kull zona bir-responsabbiltà ta' 10 artigjanani. S'issa, 19-il artigjan minn 70, lestew il-bin-

turistiku sal-aħħar tas-sena



Il-bini li qed isir biex sa tmiem is-sena f'Malta jkun hawn il-Villagġ tas-Snajja kif imwiegħed

jiet tagħhom u qed joperaw, tmienja bdeu xi xogħol, filwaqt li 43 għadhom lura hafna.

Il-hsieb għall-Villagġ hu li jiġu wkoll inkluzi spazji miftuħa biex jitgawdew mill-familji, fosthom bandli, parkeġġ, kumditajiet pubbliċi u spazji miftuħa biex ikun zona turistika li tiġġenera attività ekonomika.

Se jkun hemm qawmien mill-ġdid tas-settur billi tinbena wkoll attrazzjoni għall-viżitaturi, li biha u eluf ta' nies jiġu mhegga jżuru r-raħal artigjanali, biex tiġi ġġenerata

attività addizzjonali fiż-żona għall-benefiċċju tal-artigjanani. Se mahsub ukoll spazju miftuħ kbir li jkun jista' jintuza għal fieri artigjanali kbar, wirjiet tal-familja, u avvenimenti kulturali.

Hafna mill-artigjanani huma tal-fehma li minkejja l-proċessi industri-

jali hađu post hafna snajja, madankollu l-artigjanat għadu apprezzat, forsi aktar mill-barranin milli mill-Maltin, u hawn min jaqla' l-hobza ta' kuljum bil-hila artigjanali tiegħu.

Minkejja li x-xogħol fuq il-villagġ għadu f'tit lura, hafna diġà li donno innew li dan il-villagġ tas-snajja beda bl-artigjanani jahdmu fl-hekk magħrufa bhala nissen huts ta' żmien is-servizzi Ingizi li kienu jintużaw fiż-żmien meta Ta' Qali kien anke jintuza bhala mitjar għall-ajurpani waqt it-Tieni Gwerra dinjija.

Recollections:

The Sixties years

**continued from opposite page*

The 'Capitol' in Valletta and the 'Tivoli' in Pawla specialised in showing Italian films. These were generally real tear jerks, like 'I Figli Di Nessuno' with Amadeo Nazzari and Yvonne Sansone in the leading roles. Malta had several Cinema theatres in those days with almost every town and village had its own. Valetta, Sliema, Zabbar, Pawla, Hamrun and others had more than one.

Female film stars Doris Day, Audrey Hepburn, June Allyson, Chyd Charisse, Jane Russell, Kim Novak and Elizabeth Taylor and male stars Rock Hudson, Robert Taylor, Paul Newman, Jack Palance, Victor Mature, Edward G. Robinson and Vincent Price were the most popular

I liked the colourful musicals and remember the pre-film shorts before the main feature film showing 'Pathe News' and the funny 'Three Stooges', 'Mr Magoo' 'Tom and Jerry' and others.

Then the wide Cinemascope screens arrived, and after that, the realistic 3D films for which one was given special spectacles to watch that had to be returned them at the end of the film. The system made the audience feel even more part of the plot with the characters seemingly coming out of the screen. We used to buy packets of crisps to munch during the picture or during the interval.

Westerns were also popular depicting cowboys with guns blazing, becoming heroes by killing hundreds of Red Indians. Some of these films were award-winning ones. Who can forget such films such as 'Rio Bravo' with John Wayne and Dean Martin? Or 'High Noon' with Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly, to name but a few?

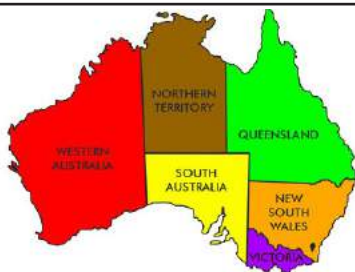
The Italian film industry tried to imitate the Americans by producing their own cowboy films that became known as 'Spaghetti Western'. They did not catch up especially outside Italy.

(to be continued in the next issue)



Xi nissan huts minn fejn kienu jahdmu l-artigjanani f'Ta' Qali

Have your say/Xi trid tqhid?



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 be read in flip-book or PDF format online. A pdf copy is sent via email on request.

Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

Editors:

Malta: Joseph Cutajar

Australia:

Lawrence Dimech: MOM,
OAM, JP Rt

email address:

maltesevoice@gmail.com

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 ...

It is that Australian Hall issue again!

Len Mamo from Regents Park NSW writes:

From time to time and at times for ulterior motives, Australia Hall in Pembroke Malta raises its head. The building is a remnant of the colonial era.

Built by the Brits to service the thousands of servicemen convalescing in Malta during the war, it became a thorny political issue after they left Malta. For twenty odd years it was left to deteriorate.

Australia Hall and the surrounds were part of a clever barter by then PM and Leader of the MLP Dom Mintoff for the party's headquarters in Marsa, that at the time was urgently needed by Malta Ship-building.

Australia Hall was never recognised by the Australian authorities and as far as I can tell, it is not even mentioned in Canberra.

The area has recently been sold to the Chinese Government for the building of their new embassy. The transaction was approved by both the major political parties in Malta.

It would be fantastic if it were to be re-

stored to the original site. However, it is up to the Australian and UK governments to show that they are interested and willingness in its restoration. After all, it was built as a rest and recreation centre for their soldiers, not to accommodate the Maltese people.

Joe's recollections... what nostalgia!

Eugene Calleja from Perth WA writes:

I have been closely following the interesting articles by Joseph Lanzon on *The Voice of the Maltese*, about his recollections during different decades in Malta. What nostalgia!

I too have lived through some of those years in the Cottonera area. I come from Senglea. I am sorry to say that some of my recollections are not that pleasant, especially mourning relatives, in particular two uncles, but some have given me so much pleasure to remember. They were happy times that I loved sharing with other kids of my own age.

I am still in my early seventies, therefore I am not that familiar with most of Joseph's recollections during the forties, but the fifties years and the sixties are still fresh in my mind. In particular I was happy to read about Kellinu, the character he mentioned in the last issue and described as a tramp and a genius.

Kellinu did not care much about his appearance and his choice of dress left much to be desired, but the man was truly a genius. He was kind-hearted and loved by all those who had the good fortune of listening to him as he impaired his knowledge to whomever wanted to listen.

Thank you Joseph. I look forward to more of your recollections. Thank you also *The Voice* for your choice of articles and writers.

The Curia had been warned 54 years ago

Jim Gatt from Birkirkara, Malta writes:

I am aware of the Maltese community's plight for more Maltese priests in Australia. As I was conducting my research, I came across this heading in the 6th August 1967 issue on the Maltese Sunday weekly *It-Torca*: Need for more priests for the Maltese in Australia (B'zonn ta' aktar qassisin għall-Maltin fl-Awstralja).

That is ample proof that the Curia had been warned, not yesterday but around 54 years ago of the looming problem. What have they done? Look at the situation we are in today.

Dr Hugh McDermott MP State Member for Prospect

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Mail at a snail's pace

Joe Abela from Airlie Beach Qld writes:

The postal service is back to the dark ages. Most of the time letters posted in Malta take two whole months to arrive in Australia. Christmas cards have become obsolete, but who cares? We now have Facebook and social media.

I know we are in the midst of a pandemic, however, COVID or no COVID we still have to pay full postage price for a letter. We deserve a better service, especially as postage is not cheap anymore. Hopefully, our so-called leaders will keep an eye on these deficiencies.

HC confirms Chirelle Ellul Sciberras' appointment as Melbourne's new CG

The High Commission for the Republic of Malta in Canberra has confirmed the exclusive news published in the 26 Jan. 2021 issue of *The Voice of the Maltese* (right) of the appointment of Ms Chirelle Ellul Sciberras as new Consul-General in Melbourne. She is to take up the position from May 2021.

In a release, the High Commission also gave details of Ms Ellul Sciberras' diplomatic career. She joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 2011 and was posted as Consul at the Malta High Commission in London, in August 2013.

During her tenure in London, she was responsible for various consular matters including the Maltese diaspora and patients travelling to the UK for treatment.

In 2017 Ms Ellul Sciberras returned to Malta to cover issues within the International Development, Economic Affairs



and European Institutions Directorate. Two years later, she was promoted to a grade of Counsellor within the Diplomatic Corps and carried on working within the same directorate.

The Voice, its readers and the Maltese community in Australia join the HC in Canberra and the Consulates General in Melbourne and Sydney, in welcoming Ms Ellul Sciberras to her new job.

After leaving Maltese husband, Aussie-born wife wants kids to be returned to Australia

A mother of two girls - aged four and six - is reportedly stranded in Malta, as she fights a bitter custody dispute with her husband for the return of her children to Australia.

A story run by Australia's ABC penned by Mario Christodoulou and published on its website said that three weeks after arriving in Malta, Alana's Malta-born husband, Matthew said if she left him, he wanted to keep the children there.

The two girls are currently living with their father in Malta, as their mother, who travelled to Malta with her husband Matthew in August 2019 fights for their return to Australia.

According to the report, Alana was hav-

ing marital problems and considered living in Malta, but said the plan was to return if it did not work out.

She told ABC, "At any point, if we weren't happy, we weren't settling in, it was my understanding that we were always free to come home with the girls back to Australia."

Matthew disputes this and says the plan was always to move to Malta permanently.

Within three weeks of arriving in Malta, Matthew hired a lawyer and gave Alana notice that if she pursued a separation from him he would seek to keep the children in Malta.

Both children are Australian citizens and were raised in Australia. Alana made an application to have the children returned to Australia under international law.

Right now, she has access to her children one day a week after negotiating an agreement with Matthew.

She told ABC that she could not have imagined in a mil-

lion years that she and her girls would have been in this position.

With international travel restrictions, last year it was difficult for parents like Alana who are dealing with international custody disputes. She feared that if she had ever left Malta, she would be unable to return.

She had no guarantee she was going to come back. "Where would that leave me with my children," she said. "We're not Malta's problem, we are Australia's problem."

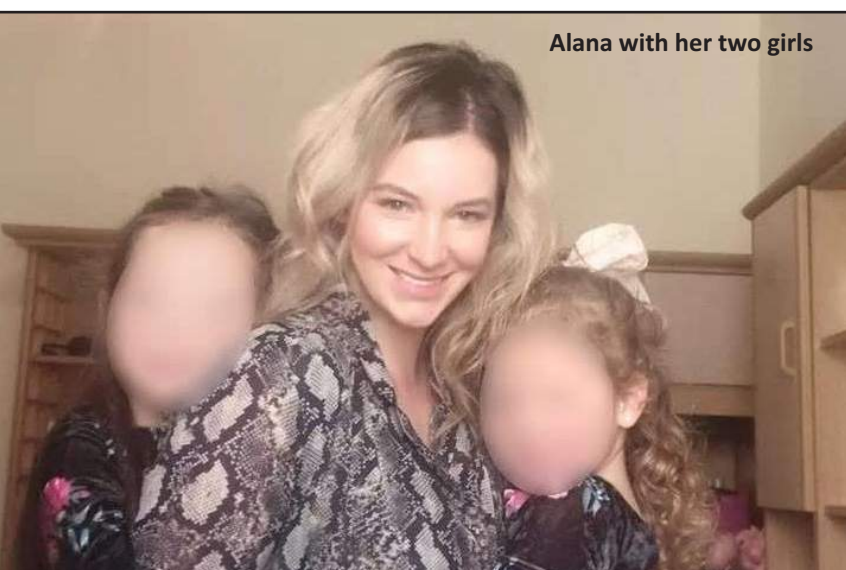
Matthew worked for a vending machine company in Australia and was an undischarged bankrupt when he left for Malta. Through his lawyer he told the ABC correspondent that the family plan was always to settle in his home country.

After receiving the legal letter, Alana said she was uncomfortable living with Matthew and felt compelled to leave.

The children remained with him and he insists that he put no pressure on her to leave. He said Alana left the "matrimonial home" and her daughters, without genuinely trying to fix the marriage.

The dispute has also exposed differences in how Australian and Maltese authorities interpret the laws.

Meanwhile, citing privacy reasons the Australian Central Authority has been quoted as saying that it would not comment on the case. While the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said Alana had been offered consular assistance.



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**



Parir għaqli – iva jew le?

Ghadu kif qajjem kjass il-Kap tad-Difiża Awstraljana, il-Ġeneral Angus Campbell, meta ndirizza l-kadetti godda fl-akkademja tad-difiża f'Canberra, meta tahom il-parir li sabiex jevitaw li jkunu priża għal xi predator sesswali, għandhom jevitaw l-alkohol, li jkunu barra wara nofsillejl, wahedhom u attraenti.

Mallewwel kien hemm hafna reazzjonijiet, speċjalment mingħand hafna persuni li jaqbzu għad-drittijiet tan-nisa, li jaraw lil dan il-kumment bħala wieħed li jkompli jwahhal fil-vittmi femminili għall-abbuż sesswali li jistgħu jsofru.¹

Qabel ma nikkummenta dwar il-parir kontroversjali ta' Campbell, se nagħmel żewġ osservazzjonijiet.

L-ewwel hija li l-abbuż sesswali inkluz l-istupru huwa aġir aborrenti mwettaq, predominament, mill-irġiel, u huwa abbuż tal-poter li s-soċjetà ġeneralment għadha thallilhom (billi għadha sal-lum tpoġġihom f'pożizzjonijiet ta' poter soċjali, politiku u l-bqija ġeneralment iktar għolja minn dik tan-nisa), u anke abbuż ta' poter fiżiku (minhabba li l-irġiel ġeneralment huma fiżikament iktar b'saħħithom min-nisa).

It-tieni hija li meta twahhal fil-vittmi ta' dan l-abbuż meta jsir, tkun qiegħed tiddevja l-attenzjoni mit-twettiq tal-abbuż u jnaqqas ir-responsabbiltà tal-aggressor.

Issa niġu għall-parir ta' Campbell.

Jien ma narahx li qiegħed iwahhal fil-vittmi tal-abbuż. L-ewwel haġa, Campbell kien qiegħed ikellem kadetti kemm irġiel u kemm nisa.

It-tieni, l-abbuż fil-każ ta' dawn il-kadetti għadu ma sarx, u għalhekk inqis li l-Ġeneral Campbell qiegħed ihegġeġ lill-kadetti jiehdu prekawzjonijiet biex l-abbuż jekk jista' jkun ma jsehhx.

Huwa fatt tad-dieqa li predaturi sesswali jeżistu, imma huwa fatt tal-ħajja jew le li xi predaturi jirnexxilhom jattakkaw lil xi vittma innoċenti?

Kemm hu aħjar kieku l-predaturi ma jeżistux, u li kulhadd, kbar u żgħar, ikunu jistgħu joħorġu fi xhin iridu u jiddevertu mingħajr il-ħsieb jew biża' li hemm xi hadd malinn li diġà mmarkahom għal wara.



Il-Ġeneral Angus Campbell ... għadu kif gie kkritikat minhabba kummenti lill-kadetti l-godda

Dan il-post jeżisti – il-ġenna, nassumi. Hawnhekk il-ġenna?

Il-ġlieda kontra l-abbuż sesswali trid issir, tissaħħaħ, tinfirex u tkun bla heda. Hawn xi hadd minnkomm li għandu jew għandha xi illużjoni li din il-ġlieda se twassal biex dan il-ħażin se jiġi eliminat totalment?

Jekk tiehu prekawzjoni, tkun qiegħed tieqaf jew tnaqqas mil-ġlieda kontra l-abbuż?

Jekk tmur il-bank biex tirtira balla flus, tixhethom fil-but u mbagħad tgħaddi mill-monti, hemm iċ-ċans li meta titlaq issib li l-but ħfiefle anke jekk ma xtrajt xejn. Jekk jinqabad il-halliel, dan ma jehilx tal-att kriminali tiegħu, għax kellek il-flus fil-but? Iva jehel (jekk jinqabad), imma mhux aħjar titfa' l-flus f'portafoll u taħbi għol-gakketta qabel ma tintilef fil-folla?

Jekk hemm prekawzjoni li tista' tiehu, mhux aħjar għalik jekk tehodha? Biex inkunu ċari, prekawzjoni ma tiggerantix li l-ħażin ma jsehhx, imma jnaqqas ir-riskju li jsehh.

Jien persważ li hemm min fostkom li ma jaqbilx mal-parir ta' Campbell. X'nista' ngħidilkom, lil uliedkom tuhom parir biex jiehdu l-alkohol, joqogħdu barra wara nofsillejl, meta jkunu wahedhom u attraenti..

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Il-marċi funebri ta' dari – kienu jpaxxu l-qalb u l-widna

Ftit tal-jiem oħra nidhlu għall-Gimgha Mqaddsa biex fit-2 ta' April il-knijsa tfakkar il-Gimgha l-Kbira. Nistqarr li għaliya fost il-jiem kollha tas-sena, dawn il-jiem huma gawhra ta' espressjoni mużikali, mhux għax il-mużika hija arti marbuta biss mal-Passjoni ta' Kristu imma għax naf li l-mużika sagra għandha sehem importanti fir-repertorju ta' diversi kompożituri. Minhabba f'hekk, il-mużika faċilment taddatta ruħha b'mod l-aktar naturali f'dawn il-jiem.

Nillimita ruhi għal fergħa waħda mużikali li hi hafna għal qalb il-Maltin, il-marċi funebri li f'għadd ta' rhula f'Malta u Għawdex iżejnu l-purċissjonijiet tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa. Għalkemm ngħiduha, il-marċi funebri ma jindaqqux biss f'dawn il-jiem. Hemm għadd a' okkażjonijiet oħra, l-akar f'xi funeral statali, u oħrajn.

Dan l-interess bandistik tal-marċi funebri naħseb li daħal fija minhabba li nunnuwi, Mikiel Ciantar li kien l-ewwel surmast u fundatur tal-banda Lourdes tal-Qrendi. Warajh kompla missieri Karmenu li żerġhu fija din l-imhabba, għal dan il-generu mużikali.

Fl-imghoddi l-iskeda tar-radju fil-jiem tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa kienet tkun mimlija b'dokumentarji mibnijn fuq drawwiet u riflessjonijiet tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa. F'dan iż-żmien il-mużika ta' swied il-qalb kienet tkun fl-aqwa tagħha.

Fl-istazzjon tar-Rediffusion ma' Sibt il-Għid, kien jiegaf kollox u aktar tard, b'sinjal ta' luttu, flimkien mal-Cable Radio kienu jinżammu magħluqa l-jum kollu.

Meta d-dipartiment tar-reklami ta s-sinjal li l-istazzjon ma setax jibqa' magħluq minhabba t-telf tar-reklami, Victor Aquilina, dak iż-żmien il-Kap tal-Programmi Radju, kien jgħidli biex nagħzel mużika xierqa għal Sibt il-Għid, u wkoll li nistgħu nibqgħu għaddejnin bil-marċi funebri għall-inqas sa nofsinhar.

Għaqda Każini tal-Banda

Fl-imghoddi aktar mil-lum, il-marċi funebri kienu għal qalb il-Maltin. Allura fil-programmi tiegħi kelli spazju biex nit-trasmetti anki aktar minn 20 banda ta' programmi ta' marċi funebri. Kien ifisser 20 siegħa jew aktar – xalata – għad-dilettanti, Hadd il-Palm sa Sibt il-Għid filgħodu.

Il-hin li fih il-baned kienu jidgawdew ma kienx waqt il-hin tal-purċissjoni, jiġifieri nhar Gimgha l-Kbira bejn is-sitta u l-għaxra ta' billejl, iżda dawn kienu jinżlu għasel mal-morda u anzjani jisimgħuhom mid-dar fuq ir-Rediffusion.

Naturalment l-għażla u l-hinijiet tal-programmi kienu jkun f'it diffiċli, allura biex nasal fi ftehim mal-baned kont daħħalt l-għajjnuna tal-Għaqda Każini tal-Banda daħħalna 'il-polza' quddiem ir-rappreżentanti kollha tal-baned li kienu interessati, jiġifieri kważi kulhadd.

Immedjatament wara l-Karnival kont nistieden rappreżentanti tal-baned biex bi qbil mal-għaqda, jiġu fl-istudjows biex



jingħataw il-hin u l-jum tat-trasmissjoni.

Konna nibdew bl-ewwel 'polza' li kienet tinkludi biss rekords godda. Min jitle' kien jagħzel l-aħjar hin, li generalment kien ikun nhar Gimgha l-Kbira filgħodu. Wara konna ngħaddu għat-tieni polza li tigbor fiha baned ta' repetizzjoni, li jkun xxandru snin qabel. Min ma jinstablux post kien jiġi mwieghed li jkun minn ta' quddiem is-sena ta' wara.

Kelli problemi biż-żewġ baned tal-Belt u dik ta' Bormla għax dak iż-żmien ma kinux fl-Għaqda Każini tal-Baned, imma xorta kellhom id-dritt li l-marċi funebri tagħhom jixxandru. B'mod jew iehor konna solvejna din ukoll.

L-istazzjonijiet radjofoniċi

Dak iż-żmien kellna żewġ stazzjonijiet radjofoniċi, għalhekk l-iskeda tal-programmi ta' marċi funebri konna għamilnieha b'mod li meta tispicċa banda minn fuq stazzjoni wiehed, immedjatament kienet tibda oħra fuq stazzjon iehor. Din l-iskeda ta' marċi funebri kont nagħtiha pubbliċità qawwija u kont nasal, għax konna waħedna: l-istazzjonijiet l-oħra kienu għadhom ma nfethux.

Dan kollu juri l-hegħa kbira li kien hawn lejn għall-marċi funebri mill-baned lokali. Dawn il-marċi huma tassew sbieħ u jpaxxu l-qalb u l-widna. Marċ bħal 'Cipresso' ta' Melilli huwa wiehed mill-aktar magħrufa. Fi żmieni wkoll kien il-marċ l-aktar popolari mal-baned Maltin.

Kien hemm baned li kellhom marċi funebri li jtkantaw minn kor ta' tfal li kienu jakkumpanjaw il-banda fil-purċissjoni. Kienet l-għaxxa tiegħi li waqt li jkun għaddej dan il-kant hlejj, inħares lejn wiċċ Kristu Msallab. Għaliya din kienet tkun l-aqwa riflessjoni.

Niftakar li l-Banda La Valette kellha aktar minn sett wiehed ta' marċi funebri. Kellha erbgħa libretti u kull sena kienet iddoqq sett minnhom. Kienu ta' surmastrijiet li kienu jafu jhaddmu l-pinna mużikali tagħhom.

Ma kinux marċi popolari u kont tismagħhom biss mill-banda La Valette għax din il-banda kienet tixtieq li l-marċi funebri tagħha jindaqqu biss mill-banda tagħha. Jidher li kienet tagħmilha kundizzjoni mal-kompożituri tal-marċi.

Anke l-baned tal-Kottonera kienu (u naħseb li għadhom) dilettanti tal-marċi funebri u kellhom għadd mhux hażin tagħhom, fosthom hafna ta' kompożituri barranin minhabba li dawn il-baned tal-Kottonera kellhom surmastrijiet barranin li fl-imghoddi kellhom f'idejhom id-direzzjoni tal-banda.

Dari ma kienx faċli li tikkomponi marċi funebri, għall-fatt li dan ikun se jibqa' jindaqq mill-banda ... allura trid thalli l-aħjar. L-antiki kienu jafuha din u fl-imghoddi hafna surmastrijiet kitbu wiehed jew tnejn u mhux aktar. Kienu jkun marċi funebri tajbin u li joħorġu mill-qlub, imsawra b'melodija u armonija sempliċi iżda effettiva u f'postha.

Għadni sal-lum nitgħaxxaq nisma' marċi funebri antiki.



Marċ funebri waqt purċissjoni tal-Gimgha l-Kbira f'Għawdex



Roundup of News About Malta



Malta President satisfied with first Conference for National Unity

At the end of the Conference for National Unity, a platform for a mature discussion recently held on the initiative of the President of Malta, the President expressed his satisfaction at the good and respectful way

the discussion had taken place, with no subject being treated as taboo.

The conference was organised through a hybrid event, at the historic Verdala Palace in Buskett and through social media.

The President promised that this process, which was not stifled by political parties, would continue in one form or another. He said he was convinced that we all love our country and want to see it better than it is today, as such, if his invitation for everybody to work together is accepted, the country would be better than it is today.

The discussion was organised through a hybrid event, at the historic Verdala Palace in Buskett and through social media. It was driven by personalities from various walks of life, individuals and representatives from non-governmental organisations and entities.

President George Vella expressed his satisfaction that even the very announcement of this initiative had sparked a public discussion.

He described the conference as the beginning of a process designed, primarily, "to enable us to reveal and discover all issues that divide us, to discuss this openly without prejudice and constructively," and that it would be a space where everyone can have their say.



The first National Unity Conference in progress at the Verdala Palace in Buskett

He expressed his wish that the conference leads to an agreement on the issues so that the second step would be to be humble enough to agree on how "we can do our best together to address the situation."

President George Vella pointed out that having national unity does not mean agreeing on everything, but there are factors without which unity would never be possible. However, one can make up for it by looking for, and finding, what unites us, and strengthening that bond.

He said it worried him that it seemed that people had lost trust in each other and

in all institutions. "The first step is always hard. Therefore, we must work together on this project", President George Vella said.

Hopefully, there will also be a follow up.

MIA classifies among Europe's best airports

For the third year running, last year, Malta's International Airport (MIA) again classified among Europe's best airports by the Council for International Airports in the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) awards.

The Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection Clayton Bartolo welcomed the award and expressed his satisfaction at the news. He explained that MIA received the award among more than 340 other airports around the world in the category of its size.

He said that compared with results obtained in the previous year (2019), MIA registered an improvement in most indicators and obtained points by visitors that even exceeded the European average.

He pointed out that MIA registered the highest results in cleanliness and security, showing that it remains an important stakeholder in the Government's efforts to strengthen the connectivity of the country with the rest of the world.

February marks record €350.7m worth of signed promises of sale of property

During February a record 1,600 promises of sale of property were signed in Malta, valued at around €351 million, an increase of 462 in number on the corresponding month last year when there were 1,138 promises of sale valued at €241.7m.

Opportunities for ICT students

Launching the MITA Student Placement Programme, 2021, the Minister for Economy and Investment Silvio Schembri announced an investment of €800,000 for job placement opportunities for Maltese ICT students, which will enable them to hone their skills and practice their academically acquired knowledge.

The increase has been attributed to the reduction in stamp duty, from 5% to 1.5% launched last June by the government in its economic regeneration plan.

In spite of the emergence of the pandemic in the Maltese Islands, property sector agents expect the same strong level of promises of sales in the coming months resulting from the government's extension of tax reduction from the end of March until the end of June.

In his reaction, Prime Minister Robert Abela welcomed the figures. He said that the regeneration plan has proven to be truly effective with transactions up by nearly half the number of previous promises of sale.



Roundup of News About Malta



Combatting COVID-19 New measures, more financial assistance

At a time when Malta is well ahead of other EU states in the inoculation of the vaccine to combat COVID-19 and is also expected to increase its vaccination programme, the authorities are also concerned with the increase in the escalation of positive cases during the current wave in the past week. Therefore, new measures are to be enforced to combat the pandemic.

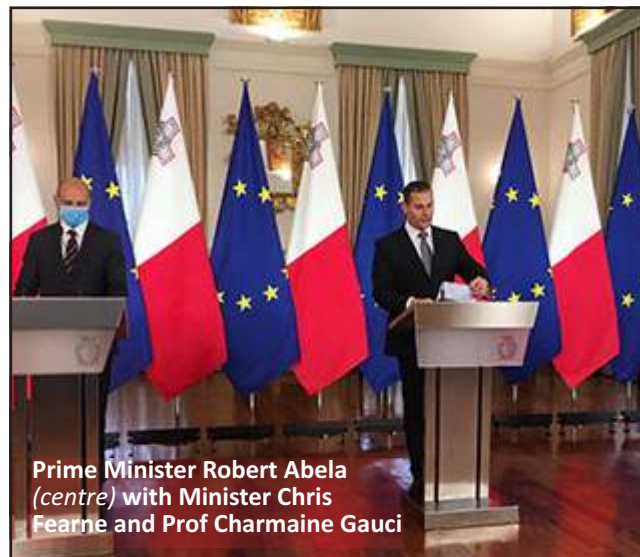
Flanked by Health Minister Chris Fearné and the Superintendent for Public Health, Charmaine Gauci at a news conference, Prime Minister Robert Abela announced several measures intended to stifle the pandemic and the help to be extended to those most hit.

One of the most important measures is the closing of all restaurants, until April 11. Restaurants, kiosks and snack bars can only serve takeaway food, while restaurants in hotels and guest houses can only serve residents. Nightclubs, bars, and local band clubs remain closed.

However, while pointing out that the gov-

ernment is handing out €30 million every month and that over €360 million have been distributed in wage supplements and for quarantine leave to those hit by the pandemic, the Prime Minister also announced more financial help to those worst hit.

The wage supplement is to be extended for businesses, up to June. Assistance is being given to restaurants wishing to go online, with restaurants, snack bars and kiosks again going on full wage supplement.



Prime Minister Robert Abela (centre) with Minister Chris Fearné and Prof Charmaine Gauci

Events for the masses will remain prohibited, except for weddings and religious activities and in the case of private activities in homes, only persons from a maximum of four households can be invited.

The Prime Minister stated that with effect from Monday March 8 a directive will come into force for government and public workers to work via Telework.

COVID has so far claimed 334 lives.

First phase of Grand Harbour Clean Air Project well underway

A €50 million investment that will improve air quality for 17,000 families living in the Grand Harbour area is nearing completion. It will reduce more than 90% of the air pollution caused by cruise and other ships in the area. The project consists of the laying of underground electricity cables that would distribute electricity from Enemalta's primary substation to the docks of the Grand Harbour, Marsa and Senglea.

More than eight kilometres of network have been laid and put

in place. It will connect Enemalta's existing substation with the Deep Water Quay, where Infrastructure Malta will build one of the two frequency converter stations.

The second stretch of cables would be directed towards Bridge Wharf and Church Wharf in Marsa. From here, submarine cables will extend the network to Coal Wharf in Corradino and subsequently to Boiler Wharf, in Senglea.

Studies indicate that through this investment, within 20 years, Malta will save up to €375 million in costs related to the consequences that arise from air pollution, such as health impacts, natural environment, infrastructure and agriculture.

In a visit, the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Ian Borg made to the project with the Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, he pointed out that through these health and environmental benefits, this project would be one of the biggest contributors to improved air quality in Malta, which is the government's holistic vision, that is that it favours a better quality of life for all Maltese and Gozitans.

Zrinzo said the project, being funded with €21.9 million from the EU's Connecting Europe Facility, would not only help achieve Malta's environmental goals, but it also complements the EU's policy on climate change and the environment.



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

SOLUZZJONI?

Wara snin twal ta' stennija, fl-aħħar il-Gvern iddeċieda li jipprova jsołvi l-problema tal-kirjiet ta' qabel l-1995 li ktibt dwarha fil-harġa li għaddiet.

Fil-qosor il-Gvern qed jipproponi li s-sidien tal-binjiet jew appartamenti jin-għataw il-fakultà' li jgħollu l-kera biex tkun 2% tal-valur preżenti tal-binja. Imma billi b'dan il-kirjiet mistennija li joghlew bil-kbir, se ikollhom effett qawwi fuq il-kerreġja, tant li aktarx ikun hemm min ma jiflaħx iħallashom.

Biex jilqa' għal din il-problema li tołqot lil madwar 10,000 familja - 1,440 fil-Kotonera u madwar 2,000 proprjetà fil-belt Valletta biss - il-Gvern haseb biex fil-każ tal-pensjonanti jassorbi ż-żieda fil-kirja kollha sa massimu ta' €10,000 kull sena.

Għal dawk li jinsabu f'kirja simili imma qegħdin f'impjeg se jiġi aċċertat li l-kirja l-għdida stipulata mill-Bord tal-Kera ma tkunx oghla minn 25% tad-dħul tagħhom, mill-għdid sa massimu ta' €10,000.

Is-sid ma jistax jaqbad u jkeċċi lill-inkwilin.

"Dawn huma riformi kuragġużi li jaċċertaw saqaf fuq ras kulhadd," sostna l-Ministru għall-Akkomodazzjoni Soċjali Roderick Galdes, li qal li issa din il-liġi se

tkun qed tmur għad-djalogu quddiem il-Parlament.

Kien hemm reazzjoni pożittiva minn diversi bnadi għal din l-inizjattiva, fosthom mill-Kamra tal-Kummerċ, għalkemm qalet li se tkun qed tiċċara partijiet mir-riforma mal-Ministru responsabbli.

L-*editur* ta' *The Times* taht it-titlu: *Rent law reform breakthrough* kiteb, "After decades of inertia on the part of various administrations, a breakthrough in reforms now seems imminent".

Il-Partit Laburista qal li din l-inizjattiva hija "prova oħra ċara ta kemm Gvern Laburista, bil-fatti, jaġixxi fl-aqwa interessi tal-poplu ... issa eluf ta' familji jistgħu jkomplu b'ħajjithom, rashom mistrieħa u b'aktar flus f'buthom."

Mhux hekk il-Partit Nazzjonalista li sostna li bil-proposti tiegħu l-Gvern kien, f'it wisq, tard wisq u b'żar fl-għajnejn qabel elezzjoni. Il-kelliemi Nazzjonalista Ivan Bartolo qal: "Dawn il-bidliet mhuma xejn hlief b'żar fl-għajnejn f'it xhur qabel elezzjoni generali u fl-aħjar sitwazzjoni se jkollhom l-effett li jipposponu l-problema għal min jiġi wara Robert Abela."

Din l-istqarrija gābet diversi kummenti.



Il-Ministru Roderick Galdes (tjieni xellug) fil-laqgħa mal-kamra tal-periti u l-Awtorità tad-Djar

Intqal li ma stennewx reazzjoni bħal din minn partit li f'25 sena fil-gvern ma għamel kważi xejn li isolv l-problema, u issa, għax il-Gvern preżenti qed jagħmel xi haġa, qed isostni li din qed issir tard wisq.

Sadanittant, waqt laqgħa mal-Kamra tal-Periti (KTP) u rappreżentanti tal-Awtorità tad-Djar, il-Ministru Roderick Galdes stqarr li l-gustizzja fil-qasam tal-kirjiet tista' ssir biss meta l-kera mħallsa tkun marbuta mal-valur reali tal-proprjetà.

Dan hu wieħed mill-aspetti ewlenin li r-riforma tal-kirjiet protetti se tkun qed tindirizza.

Min-naħa tal-periti, il-president tagħha Andre Pizzuto qal li laqgħu b'sodisfazzjon ir-riforma proposta. Hu qal li l-KTP se tieħu rwol proattiv f'din ir-riforma billi tassisti l-professionisti tagħha fil-valutazzjoni tal-proprjetà biex dawn ikunu uni-formi u gusti.



€42,930.

Dan Muscat kien ilu jitlob li jingħata l-Mahfra tal-President biex jikxef mhux biss dwar il-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia, imma wkoll sensiela ta' atti kriminali oħra. It-talba tiegħu kull darba giet miċħuda. Izda fl-aħħar mill-aħħar jidher li wasal fi ftehim mal-Awtoritajiet.

Filwaqt ma nġhatax mahfra presidenzjali fuq il-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia, ingħata din fuq qtil ieħor li jidher li Muscat kien involut fih, tal-Avukat Carmel Chircop li kien inqatel f'Ottubru tal-2015, bil-patt li jikxef dak li jaf, mhux biss dwar dan il-qtil imma wkoll ta' Caruana Galizia, u xi atti kriminali oħra.

Żvilupp mhux mistenni?

Min meta ltqajna l-aħħar permezz ta' *The Voice*, sar żvilupp li xejn ma kien mistenni fil-każ tal-qtil tal-ġurnalista Daphne Caruana Galizia. Dan meta ħabta u sabta wieħed mill-mixlija bil-qtil, Vince Muscat magħruf bħala "l-Kohħu" (*xellug*), ammetta l-involvement tiegħu u gie kkundannat 15-il sena ħabs u mġieghel iħallas spejjeż kollha relatati mal-Qorti għal total ta'

Fil-Qorti ntqal li l-Muscat kien lest jikxef kolloxx dwar seba' omiċidji. Kolloxx hlief s-serqa mill-kwartieri tal-HSBC (10 snin ilu), li fil-fatt kien mixli li wkoll kien imdahhal fiha.

Sintendi dan il-fatt gāb reazzjonijiet, li sfortunatament bħas-soltu, uhud minnhom, kienu f'it jew xejn politikament influwenzati.

Wara l-ammissjoni ta' Muscat li kien involut fl-assassinju tal-ġurnalista il-familja tagħha fakkru li Muscat ċaħħdilha d-dritt tal-ħajja. "Ċaħħilha d-dritt għall-ħajja tagħha u ċaħħilha d-dritt li tgawdi l-familja u n-neputijiet tagħha li twieldu wara li nqatlet."

Madanakollu l-familja laqgħet pożittivament dan l-iżvilupp u espresmet it-tama li dan il-pass jibda jwassal għal gustizzja shiħa għall-assassinata b'karozza bomba.

Min-naħa tiegħu, il-Prim Ministru Robert Abela stqarr li dan juri li pajjiżna għandu gvern li jappoġġja l-istituzzjonijiet u li verament jemmen fis-saltna tad-dritt. Jikkonferma wkoll kemm pajjiżna mhux biss jitkellem dwar istituzzjonijiet li jahdmu, iżda jagħti r-riżorsi biex dawn jahdmu b'mod effettiv u jagħtu r-riżultati.

Abela sahaq li s'issa ma jirriżultax li hemm xi persuni li huma jew kienu konnessi mal-politika u li kienu marbutin mal-assassinju ta' DCG. "Il-Gvern li mmexxi jien huwa forza favur is-sewwa. Pass ieħor lejn il-gustizzja shiħa mal-familja Caruana Galizia u magħha stess," qal Abela filwaqt li sostna li kien se jibqa' jahdem biex il-pajjiż jagħlaq il-ferita tal-qtil darba għal dejjem.

"Dak li seħħ juri li dan hu pajjiż fejn tirrenja s-Saltna tad-Dritt. Jgħarralu minn f'dan il-pajjiż jahseb li jista' jgawdi minn impunità," sostna l-Prim Ministru.

(*Għal paġna 15)

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

‘Vittma’ fil-qasam politiku ...

Il-qtil ta' Caruana Galizia halla vittma ohra fil-qasam politiku. Ghalkemm ma għandu x'jaqsam xejn direttament mal-qtil tal-ġurnalista, imma kien imdeffes fih, Jorgen Fenech li qed il-mixli bħala l-mandant tad-delitt.

Is-Sunday Times allegat li s-Segretarju Parlamentari Rosianne Cutajar, flimkien mal-assistent tagħha Charles Farrugia dahhlet €46,500 fi flus (senserja) mhux dikjarati minn bejgħ ta' proprjetà fl-Imdina lil Fenech li hu mixli bil-qtil ta' DCG.

Aktar tard l-istess gazzetta allegat li Cutajar hadet total ta' €9,000 minn Fenech wara li din talbitu għajna fin-nanzjarja biex tagħmel sħarriġ fuq id-distrett tagħha.

Cutajar (li tidher fuq) dejjem ċahdet li hadet flus minn senserija u sostniet li wara li Fenech kien mixli bil-qtil ta'



Daphne Caruana Galizia qatgħet il-kuntatti kollha minn miegħu.

L-akkużi wasslu għat-talba tar-riżenja jew it-tkeċċija tagħha mill-Prim Ministru, li iżda nsista li ma kienx se jiehwa passi qabel il-Kummissarju tal-Istandards jtemm l-istħarriġ tiegħu dwarha.

Madankollu Cutajar irriżenjat temporanjament minn jhedda minn Segretarju Parlamentari, mhux minn membru tal-Parlament sakemm tnaddaf ismha. Xi haġa li ma ssodisfatx lil min kien qed jitolbu r-riżenja tagħha anke minn membru tal-Parlament.

Kif wiehed stenna, l-istess nies ikkritikaw ukoll lill-Prim Ministru li ma neħhiex lil Cutajar hu imma li kienet hi li rreżenjat.

Żvilupp bla mistenni?

(*minn paġna 14)

Intant, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni u l-PN qal li l-pajjiż “sofra hafna b'dan id-delitt ... Mhux biss bil-mod makabru li ġurnalista, omm u Maltija bħalna nqatlet quddiem id-dar tagħha stess, imma anke b'dak kollu li sirna nafu dwar l-involviment ta' uffiċjali għolja fil-Gvern Laburista f'dan il-każ.”

Żied li “kellna konferma li kieku l-istituzzjonijiet ta' pajjiżna thallew jahdmu, kieku Daphne Caruana Galizia għadha haġja”.

Min-naħa l-oħra l-Kummissarju Ewropew għall-Ġustizzja Didier Reynders, f'laqgħa virtwali li kellu mal-Ministru għall-Ġustizzja, Edward Zammit Lewis fahhar il-progress li sar fl-investigazzjonijiet tal-qtil ta' DCG.

Min-naħa tiegħu il-Kummissarju tal-Pulizija qal li kull persuna fil-qtil ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia, mill-mandant sa min wettaq id-delitt issa huma arrestati, kif ukoll li s'issa ma jirriżultax li hemm politiki jew eks politiki involuti fil-każ, jew tagħha jew ta' Carmel Chircop.

Dan wara li t-tliet irġiel suspettati li pprovdew il-bomba li ntużat biex inqatlet DCG ġew arrestati.

Dak li qal il-prim Ministru u repetut mill-Kummissarju tal-Pulizija għab reazzjoni min-naħa tal-Partit Nazzjonalista u xi kummentaturi oħra li nsistew li kien hemm nies oħra nvoluti fil-qtil: fosthom dawk li bin-nuqqas ta' azzjoni li hađu, fosthom dwar il-korruzzjoni wasslu għall-qtil. Sostnew li mhux minnu li m'hemm politiki nvoluti, anke jekk mhux direttament, imma tal-inqas, indirettament huma hatja li bin-nuqqas ta' azzjoni tagħhom wasslu għal dan il-qtil.



... minn Festival Malta

Il-qarrejja, l-aktar dawk li huma diletanti tal-kanzunetta Maltija huma mhegga biex tul tlett ijiem, 18-20 ta' Marzu, isibu l-hin li jew b'mod dirett (streaming), inkella on demand, isegwu l-festival bla udjenza imma b'mod virtwali, Muzika Muzika li fih se jiehdu schem l-aqwa kantanti u kmpożituri Maltin. It-trasmissjonijiet se jixxandru fid-9.00 p.m. fuq TVM.

Minbarra d-diletanti li jipxaxew jismgħu, f'Malta hawn stennija kbira mill-kantanti li se jkollhom iċ-ċans li fuq palk spetakolari li se jospita l-aqwa artisti lokali, se jesprimu hilitom akkumpanjati minn orchestra “haġja”, dik Filarmonika Nazzjonali ta' Malta, xi haġa li tant ilhom jxtiequ.

L-artisti Maltin se jkun fuq palk mghamar bl-aħhar teknoloġija awdjoviziva li se jakkomoda madwar 50 mużiċist li bejniethom se tinzamm id-distanza adagwata skont il-protokoll.

Min ikun irid jikseb tagħrif dwar l-attività jista' jżur www.muzikamuzika.org, Instagram u Facebook. Fost kollox, hawnhekk wiehed isib l-isem tal-kantanti, tal-kompożituri u l-ismijiet tal-kanzunetti.

L-ispettaklu se jkun organizzat minn Festivals Malta

Qal li kien qalulu: Tefgħu dell fuq Cardona

Biex aktar is-sitwazzjoni tiġi mħawwda l-gazzetta The Times harget tgħid li fl-istqarrijiet tiegħu mal-Pulizija Vince Muscat “kien qal, li kien qalulu” li fl-2015 Chris Cardona, eks-Ministru u eks-Deputat Kap tal-Partit Laburista, kien il-mohħ wara attentat tal-qtil ta' DCG, liema pjan ġie mbagħad imħassar.

Sahansitra ġie allegat u li Cardona kellu

b'xi mod x'jaqsam ukoll mal-qtil attwali. Cardona ċahad dawn l-akkużi bl-akbar qawwa

Imma sadanittant, wara dawn ir-rapporti, il-pulizija baġtet għal Cardona fejn ġie interogant. Cardona nnifsu kkonferma dan, imma qal li la kien qiegħed fuq police bail u lanqas ma jinsab taħt xi investigazzjoni kriminali.



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A quick glimpse at Australia

Aged care Royal Commission report

After two years of harrowing evidence at hearings across the nation, the aged care royal commission has handed its final report to the Morrison Government. The two-year inquiry was told countless tales of abuse and neglect, with its 2019 interim paper calling for a complete overhaul of a “woefully inadequate” system.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his Government is pledging \$452 million to fix Australia’s aged care system as part of a first step in responding to the royal commission into the sector. He said the inquiry’s final report has set out a roadmap that will establish “generational change” in Australia’s aged care sector.

The commission’s interim report found pay and conditions for staff were poor, workloads heavy and severe difficulties existed in recruitment and retention.

It also found there was an overuse of drugs to “restrain” aged care residents, while younger people with disabilities were stuck in aged care.

Lawyers assisting the commission have



PM Scott Morrison with the report

made 124 recommendations, including for mandated staffing ratios, increased regulator powers and new laws to protect the rights of elderly people.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said \$18 million would go towards tougher oversight of the government’s home care packages, which allow older Australians to continue

living at home with extra support.

Some \$32 million will go to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and more regulation on the use of restraints in care. Nearly \$190 million will go to residential care providers and \$90 million is set to create a fund to help facilities facing financial challenges.

Structural reforms needed in homecare



Two out of every five people in Australian aged care homes experience abuse, research finds.

CEO of Councils on the Ageing Ian Yates (*pictured left*) said the governance of the aged care system starts with the government, not with aged care providers, and that the Morrison Government needed to make structural reforms to ensure the recommendations can be implemented as quickly as possible.

“When it comes to the crisis consuming our aged care system, the royal commissioners are unanimous in identifying the issues of neglect, abuse, indifference and poor leadership,” Mr Yates said in a statement.

“It’s now the federal government’s job to map out the structural reforms needed to build a safer, accessible and transparent system in an accountable way.”

Mr Yates said the government would need to boost staffing levels at the department level and “performance measures” would be needed to hold departmental heads accountable.

Federal opposition leader Anthony Albanese has previously criticised the Morrison Government over spending cuts, huge waitlists and chronic understaffing, malnutrition and neglect in the aged care sector.

He lambasted the government for treating aged care like a political problem, saying its announcements following the final report didn’t “create confidence”.

“This isn’t how you create confidence that you actually want to fix aged care,” Mr Albanese tweeted.

“They’re still treating this like a political problem. It’s not. This is about decency and respect. Older Australians and those who love them deserve nothing less.”

Australia does not depend on EU vaccines

Italy blocked a shipment of more than 1250,000 doses to Australia of AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine in the first such export ban under an EU vaccine monitoring scheme.

The Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said, “We’d always anticipated that these sorts of problems could arise. And that’s why we’ve done a number of things, the most significant of which is to ensure that we have our own domestically produced vaccine.”

“We’re one of a few countries that have done that. That means that has given us sovereignty over our vaccination programme, which I think is incredibly important,” he added.

Australia Health Dept confirmed that 50 million AstraZeneca doses are to be produced in the State of Victoria and would be administered by March 22.

Meanwhile, despite initial bumps in progress, Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt expects Australians to receive their first dose of a coronavirus vaccine by October.

He said that it is a progressive rollout, which will ramp up. “It’s been done that way for reasons of safety and security,” he told reporters in Sydney



A quick glimpse at Australia



David Attenborough on screen addressing virtual meeting about climate change

Biggest security threat ever

British naturalist David Attenborough warned that climate change is the biggest security threat that modern humans have ever faced, telling the UN Security Council: "I don't envy you the responsibility that this places on all of you."

Mr Attenborough, the world's most influential wildlife broadcaster, addressed a virtual meeting of the 15-member council on climate-related risks to international

peace and security, chaired by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"If we continue on our current path, we will face the collapse of everything that gives us our security: food production, access to fresh water, habitable ambient temperature and ocean food chains," Mr Attenborough said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pushed countries, companies, cities and financial institutions to make ambitious commitments to cut global emissions. China and the United States are the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases.

"We still have a long way to go, and we look to the major emitters to lead by example in the coming months," Mr Guterres told the council.

"This is a credibility test of their commitment to people and planet. It is the only way we will keep the 1.5-degree goal within reach."

Parliament House sexual allegations

Former political staffer Brittany Higgins' distressing rape allegation has shocked Australia by revealing how women are treated within politics and how sexual assault complaints are dealt with.

Ms Higgins alleges that in March 2019 a male colleague in a government minister's office inside Parliament House raped her.

Since Ms Higgins' went public, three more women have come forward to accuse the same man of sexual assault or harassment.



AG Christian Porter

One woman came forward on 20 February, alleging she was raped last year by the man after the pair had dinner and drinks. Two days later, a second woman, an election volunteer, alleged the man too sexually assaulted her in 2016.

A fourth woman has also shared her account to the ABC accusing the man of unwanted advances and stroking her thigh under the table at a Canberra bar in 2017.

An allegation involving the rape of a woman 33 years ago by a current cabinet minister – now identified as Christian Porter, the Attorney General also surfaced. The MP strongly rejects the allegations. He will not be standing down from his position.

"If I stand down from my position as Attorney-General because of an allegation about something that simply did not happen, then any person in Australia can lose their career, their job, their life's work, based on nothing more than an accusation that appears in print," he said.

Mass from Wollongong

Mass has been broadcast on free-to-air television for decades, providing spiritual nourishment for people who are not able to attend Mass in person. With COVID-19 restrictions dramatically increasing the number of people in this situation, the need for virtually accessible worship services has never been greater.

Wollongong Bishop Brian Mascord said the diocese was very excited to be entrusted with producing Mass for people who are homebound, without internet, or in prison, aged care facilities and hospitals, as well as those flicking through the channels on a Sunday morning.

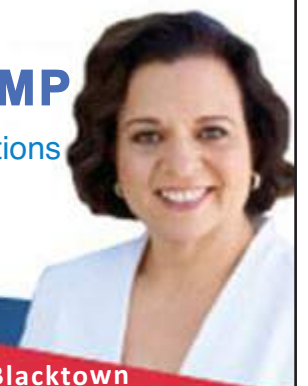
"In parishes across the country, people are trying their best to make the celebration of the Mass something that is beautiful, prayerful and a source of strength," Bishop Mascord said.

"Those principles, which sound simple and yet are profound, will be the motivation for our team's production, which will seek to deliver an experience that comforts, inspires and uplifts people."



Michelle Rowland MP

Shadow Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway



Level 1. Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown

PO Box 8525, Blacktown NSW 2148

(02) 9671 4780

Michelle.Rowland.MP@aph.gov.au

MRRowlandMP

www.michellerowland.com.au

Tagħrif dwar kitba bil-Malti



Il-parroċċi mhumie x tal-lum: Bħalissa f'Malta hawn 81, fl-1436 kien hemm 10

Hafta drabi, l-irhula u l-ibliet Maltin, l-aktar fejn għandha x'taqsam ir-reliġjon, għalkemm mhux biss, jiġu msejja parroċċi. Minn dawn illum fil-Gżejjer Maltin hawn 84 parroċċa, 71 f'Malta u 15 f'Għawdex.

Kull lokalità għandha l-parroċċa tagħha, minbarra dik tax-Xgħajra li tagħmel mal-parroċċa ta' Haż-Żabbar. Il-parroċċi f'Malta mhumie x xi haġa ta' dawn iż-żminijiet għax fl-1436 diġà kien hawn għaxra.

L-ewwel parroċċa kienet tal-Katidral tal-Imdina. Kien qisha l-Kurja tal-lum għax minn hemm kien joħroġ dak li kellu jsir f'kull parti tal-Gżejjer Maltin. It-tieni parroċċa tal-Birgu, imwaqqfa fis-seklu 12.

L-Isqof ta' Malta fl-1436, Senatore de Mello de Noto, skopra li f'Malta diġà kien hemm għaxar parroċċi differenti, b'kull waħda minnhom tiegħu hsieb il-knejjes u n-nies tal-inhaw partikulari. L-ewwel għaxar parroċċi minbarra tal-Imdina u tal-Birgu, twaqqfu fl-irhula tan-Naxxar, Birkirkara, Hal Qormi, Bir Miftuh (il-Gudja, tal-lum), Santa Katarina (illum iż-Żejtun), Is-Sigġiewi, Haż-Żebbuġ, Iz-Żurrieq, Santa Dminka (illum Had-Dingli) u l-Mellieha.

Dawn il-Parroċċi kienu jiehdu hsieb l-irhula msemija hawn taht u li hafna minnhom lanqas biss għadom jeżistu llum, inkella nbidilhom isimhom.

Il-Parroċċa tan-Naxxar: Il-Mosta, Hal



L-Imdina kienet l-ewwel parroċċa u minn hemm kienu joħroġu d-direttivi

Għarghur, Hal-Sammut, Hal-Kallejja, Hal-Ger, Hal-Muselmet, Hal-Dgħejf, Hal-Sir, il-Mellieha u San Pawl Il-Baħar).

Il-Parroċċa ta' Birkirkara: H'Attard, Hal-Lija, Hal-Balzan, Hal-Bordi, Hal-Mann, Hal-Kaprat, Msida, Hal-Tigan, Has-Sajjied, Tas-Sliema u San Ġiljan.

Il-Parroċċa ta' Hal Qormi: L-Gholja Xiberras (illum Valletta u l-Furjana), Il-Hamrun, parti minn Tal-Pietà, parti minn Santa Venera, parti minn Fleur de Lys u l-Marsa.

Il-Parroċċa ta' Bir Miftuh: Gudja, Hal-Saflieni, Hal-Għallun, Hal-Tarxien (Santa Lucija u parti mill-Fgura), Hal-Luqa, Hal-Far-rug, L-Imqabba, Hal-Kirkop, Hal-Safi, Hal-Resqun, Hal-Qadi.

Il-Parroċċa ta' Santa Katarina (Iż-Żejtun): Bisqallin, Biżbud, Hal-Gwann, Hal-Għaxaq, Haż-

Żabbar, Hal-Tmim Assant, Has-Sajd, Bidni, Has-Saptan, Hal-Hellul, Hal-Fuqani, Hal-Bajda u Hal-Harrat.

Il-Parroċċa tas-Sigġiewi: Hal-Kbir, Hax-Xluq, Hal-Qdieri, Hal-Tabuni, Hal-Masur.

Il-Parroċċa ta' Haż-Żebbuġ: Hal-Muxi, Hal-Mula, Hal-Dwin.

Il-Parroċċa iż-Żurrieq: Qrendi, Hal-Millieri, Hal-Lew, Bubaqra, Baqqari, Hlantun, Hal-Niklusi, Has-Sejjieh, Hal-Far, Hal-Qadim, Hal-Arrig, Hal-Gawhar, Hal-Għabdirzaq.

Il-Parroċċa ta' Santa Dminka: Had-Dingli, Hal-Tartarni, Go-merina.

Il-Parroċċa tal-Mellieha: Hal-Dragu, Ġebel Għazara, Ġebel Manikatu (illum il-Wardija), Hal-Pessa, Hal-Dmigh.

Glossarju ta' termini matematiċi

Qed jittejjja glossarju bilingwi, b'gabra komprensiva ta' termini matematiċi bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż halli jingħata lill-għalliema biex ikunu jistgħu jużawh fl-iskejjel tas-snin bikrin u tal-prijmarja.

Are there seniors in your community who need help at home?



Our local Home Care team help seniors to live independently at home.

 **CCareline 131819**
CatholicCare.org

Il-Maltese Cultural Association ta' NSW

se tikkommemora l-Via Sagra bl-istil tal-għana Malti u kant bl-Ingliż nhar it-Tlieta 23 ta' Marzu fis-7 p.m. fil-knisja tal-Our Lady Queen of Peace ta' Greystanes bil-partecipazzjoni tal-kor tal-għaqda.

Kullhadd hu mistieden li jattendi.

Għal iktar tagħrif ċemplu lil-Mary Ramundi fuq 0416 441 432.





Mix-xellug: Michael Galea (V/President), Joseph Borg (President), Daniel Borg (Kap Eżekuttiv) u Anthony Bezzina (Teżorier) tal-Kamra tan-Negożju Għawdxija

Mill-Gżira
Għawdxija



Charles Spiteri

Elenkat hidmet il-Kamra tan-Negożju

Waqt il-laqqha penerali annwali tal-Kamra tan-Negożju għal Għawdex dan l-aħhar, il-Kap Eżekuttiv Daniel Borg, sahaq dwar l-importanza tal-Kamra waqt il-pandemija biex tissokta tindirizza l-htigijiet tan-negożji Għawdxin li fl-2020 kien karatterizzat minn hidma ntensiva li involviet laqgħat kontinwi u konsultazzjoni ma' diversi ministri, u entitajiet governattivi.

Fuq dan l-isfond elenka l-hidma fir-rapport amministrattiv, li nqara matul l-istess laqgħa. Il-viċi president Michael Galea qara l-minuti fil-waqt li t-teżorier, Anthony Bezzina ippreżenta r-rapport finanzjarju.

Il-laqgħa kienet indirizzata wkoll miċ-Cer-

men tal-Bank of Valletta, Dr Gordon Cordina li semma l-isfidi ta' Għawdex bhala gżira u sahaq dwar kif il-pandemija aċċelerat ċerti riformi li kien ilhom meħtieġa.

COVID-19 offriet sfidi kbar għan-negożji, li jew jirrifurmaw l-operat tagħhom jew inkella jmutu. F'dan il-kuntest Għawdex jista' jkun gżira ta' opportunità. Għawdex għandu jiżviluppa r-reġjonalità distintiva' tiegħu billi joħloq niċeċ ekonomiċi godda li jkun sostenibbli u jikkrejaw il-gid.

Il-laqgħa giet indirizzata wkoll mill-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri li sahaq dwar l-inizjattivi li ha il-Gvern biex isostni n-negożji, u fahħar lin-negożji

Għawdxin għad-dedikazzjoni tagħhom lejn Għawdex. Hu rimarka li hemm djalogu kontinwu u effettiv bejn il-Kamra u l-Ministeru.

Qabel għeluq il-laqgħa li saret fl-Awditorju tal-Queens Mary University of London Campus f'Għawdex, Joseph Borg, il-president tal-Kamra semma l-importanza li Għawdex jiddiversifika l-ekonomija tiegħu, u kif il-Kamra qed tħares lejn mudell sostenibbli għall-ekonomija Għawdxija.

Hu semma wkoll it-twaqqif tal-Awtorità għall-Iżvilupp Reġjonali ta' Għawdex bhala pass mill-aktar pożittiv.

Ix-Xaghra Scout Group fil-pandemija

Il-pandemija COVID-19 harbtet hafna minn dak li wiehed kien imdorri jagħmel. Il-istess gara lix-Xaghra Scout Group. Qabel l-avventuri li dawn kienu jagħmlu flimkien kienu jseħhu meta jiltaqgħu b'mod fiżiku fil-kwartieri tagħhom jew f'siti ohra fil-berah. Imma din id-darba ż-żgħażaġh flimkien mal-mexxejja tagħhom biddlu l-laqgħat fiżiċi għal dawk virtwali.

Minhabba l-pandemija ma jistgħux jiltaqgħu fi gruppi kbar, imma xorta baqgħu jiltaqgħu b'mod differenti, fosthom b'mixja li bdiet mill-pjazza ta' Kerċem, lejn il-pjazza ta' Santa Luċija għal passaġġi fl-għelieqi, lejn l-Għarb, Ta' Pinu, u l-gholja ta' Għammar.

Wara li rhewla lejn ir-rah tal-Għasri u l-Għolja ta' Ġordan, fejn hemm il-famuż Fanal ta' Ġordan, waqfu jsajru u jiehdu sehem f'xi logħob.

Il-mixja ta' 13-il km li kien ilhom jistennew intemmet fil-pjazza tal-Għasri f'am-bjent u atmosfera mill-isbah, f'xemx tisreġ u tapiti ta' hduira fil-kumpanija.

Xi membri tal-iscouts fuq l-Għolja t'Għammar fuq ir-riħ tas-Santwarju tal-Madonna ta' Pinu kuntenti jiehdu li jistgħu mill-pandemija waqt il-mixja



Wahda mill-iscouts
waqt il-mixja fir-
rahal tal-Għarb



Great work, great commitment and much greater dedication, the essence of education

At a ceremony during which, for the first time, individuals or companies that have excelled in vocational or applied teaching or training, the Minister for Education, Justyne Caruana presented the Malta VET Awards. In doing so she said, "Great work, great commitment and much greater dedication, is the essence of our education."

Every year, the European Commission and member states organise a week of events to celebrate and give visibility to

initiatives and skills that are developed through the great efforts that each country makes on vocational education. Malta has joined other member states in strengthening the commitment and support of all those working in this sector, including students, teachers, lecturers, partners in the industry, as well as administrators.

Minister Caruana pointed out that this ceremony values human resources. "We

- education Minister says

should find a way to bring out every individual's skills, but we also need to orient them according to their

personal skills, as well as the economic needs of our country. Education is a journey, and here we are talking about 'My Journey', which we are proud of, and which has an element of vocational training," she said.

The Minister added that through education, one brings out all the different elements and skills of the students. It is also a journey that brings together the student, the educator, as well as the employment sector.

Three VET awards were presented, the Applied Student Award, the Applied Lecturer/Teacher/Trainer Award, and the Training at Work Award.

Australia passes law forcing Google, Facebook to pay for news content

Australia has passed a new law, hailed as 'a big win for the news business' that will force tech companies to pay publishers for news content, setting the stage for potential, similar action in other countries.

The legislation had been fiercely opposed by the US tech giants, with Facebook blocking all news content to Australians over the row. Facebook agreed to reverse its decision after robust negotiations with the government, which led to changes to the law to address some of their concerns.

In a statement Australian Treas-

urer Josh Frydenberg said the new code, which the Australian parliament has approved, "will ensure that news media businesses are fairly remunerated for the content they generate."

The country's unprecedented new law had been hotly debated in recent months. Facebook (FB) and Google (GOOGL) had opposed the initial version of the legislation, which would have allowed media outlets to bargain either individually or collectively with them — and to enter binding arbitration if the parties couldn't reach an agreement.

The Catholic Breakfast Group on the move

Paul Zammit OAM FAICD, has informed *The Voice of the Maltese* that the Catholic Breakfast Group had several requests to hold its next breakfast in different parts of Sydney. However, the consensus has been that the activity should continue to be held at the Parliament House venue.

Mr Zammit, the Group's co-ordinator said they are appreciative of those kind offers, but they would stick to the Parliament House venue as it is close to transport and most of their friends and supporters are comfortable with the familiar surroundings.

The Breakfast group has been in constant contact with the Director of Parliament House Catering who informed them that social distancing requirements are stringent, and that until these rules are relaxed, the largest number of attendees that are allowed is limited to just 22 people.

That being the case, and to not disappoint anyone by excluding any of their friends and supporters due to the seating limitations, the Group has decided to put future breakfasts on hold until there is a change in the regulations.

Mr Paul Zammit said that the database of the Group is now in the vicinity of 250 individuals and organisations; however, they are happy to expand those numbers, and those wishing to be included in its database, that continues to be on a strictly confidential basis are encouraged to do so.

For further information one should contact:

Paul Zammit OAM FAICD at Suite 601/Level 6, 300 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000; M: +61 (0)419 444 135; T: +61 2 9223 4300. E: paulz@zamsal.com.au; W: www.catholicbreakfastgroup.org.au; W: www.zammitpromotionalproducts.com.au; NZ: <http://zammit-promocups.co.nz/>



Ministers Justyn Caruana and Chris Fearné at the presentation

National Book Council donation of books to Malta's frontliners

On the occasion marking International Mother Language Day, the Minister for Education Justyne Caruana, on behalf of the National Book Council presented 13,000 books in the Maltese language and published in Malta in the past five years to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Chris Fearné to be distributed to COVID-19 healthcare frontliners in Malta and Gozo.

Minister Caruana said the gesture was in appreciation of the valuable work performed by the carers, nurses, doctors, and all hospital staff to ensure the safety and quality of care of their patients.

Dr Chris Fearné thanked Minister Caruana and the National Book Council for the initiative of the books that include acclaimed National Book Prize-winning novels, short-story and poetry collections, literary translations, and works of non-fiction

Imut Gorg tal-Muzew L-Għannej tal-Mulej

Diffiċli hafna f'Malta li hemm xi hadd li ma semax b'dak magħruf bħala l-Għannej tal-Mulej (Gorg Agius), għalhekk wiehed jista' jifhem id-dispjaċir li nhass meta nhar it-Tnejn l-1 ta' Marzu thabbret il-mewt ta' dak li hafna wkoll kienu jafuh bħala Gorg tal-Muzew, fl-età ta' 94 sena miexi għal 95.

Kull min xi darba kien pazjent fl-isptar ta' San Luqa jew aktar fil-qrib il-Mater Dei, għalkemm anke fi sptarijiet oħra, żgur li xi darba jew oħra, u ġeneralment aktar minn darba, gie mgħejjun jinsa d-dwejjaq tiegħu minn Gorg li darbtejn kull jum kien idur is-swali tal-isptar, kemm jekk fihom il-pazjenti u wkoll oħrajn fejn kien ikun hemm nies qed jisennnew biex jattendu għal xi vista minn tabib.

Gorg kien mogħni bid-don li għalkemm ma kienx ta' xi skola, kellu l-ħila johloq taqbiliet, b'mod spontanju, li bihom ġeneralment kien ifahħar lil Alla, imma wkoll kien kapaċi jgħaddi battuti umoristiċi f'temp ta' ftit sekondi. Fl-aħħar kien jispiċċa billi jistieden lil min ikun hdejh li jagħmlu xi talba flimkien. Kellu l-ħila jgib tbissima fuq fomm kull minn jisimghu.

Gorg tweled fit-28 ta' Lulju 1926 fil-Birgu t-tieni wild minn familja ta' 13. Uħud minn hutu għadhom haġġin. Wiehed minnhom kien emigra lejn l-Awstralja. Ma kellux xi haġġa faċli u dejjem kellu jistinka biex jgħix hu u l-bqija ta' familja.

Fi tfulitu kien imur ma' missieru jbiegħu l-ħaxix bil-ħmara. Fi żmien it-tieni gwerra dinjija kien sab post ma' oħrajn jaqtgħu l-gebel, iħaffru x-xelters f'għadd ta' nhawi f'Malta. Waqt xi attakk mill-ajru kien jistieden lill-ġirien għar-rużarju u jfer-rahhom bit-taqbiliet tiegħu.

Wara l-gwerra mar jaħdem ix-xatt fil-Port il-Kbir jgħabbi l-merkanzija. Hawn dam sakemm irtira fl-età tal-pensjoni. Anke meta kien jhadem, qabel jibdwex ix-xogħol fit-8.00 a.m. kien jiġbor lill-haddiema sha-bu biex flimkien jgħidu xi talba. Anke jekk kien hemm min ma tantx kien japprezzah, tant li darba minnhom haddiem siehbu garalu qalziet f'wiċċu. Haseb li Gorg ma kienx se jinduna bih.

Dak il-ħin Gorg ma tax kas u xorta baqa'

jitlob. Imbagħad meta spiċċa mit-talb mar fuq siehbu u newwillu l-qalziet lura.

Wara dan l-inċident kulhadd kien jibqa' sieket meta George kien jagħmel xi talba. Sakemm kien għadu jiflah kien baqa' jżur lill-haddiema fil-port u jiġborhom għal mument ta' riflessjoni.

Gorg għamel żmien twil jgħix ma' żewġ hutu bniet xebbiet, Kar-mena u Ġuża, li wkoll kienet membru attiv tal-Mu-żew. Ma kienx iżur biss l-isptarijiet, imma wkoll djar tal-anzjani, ħwienet tax-xorb (barijiet), mhux biex jixrob, u klabbijiet. Għal xi żmien kien anke jagħti sehmu fit-tindif u ż-żamma taċ-Ċimiterju ta' San Lawrenz fil-Birgu.

Kien jgħid li għalkemm hu ma kienx jaf skola, b'danakollu l-kobor t'Alla ntwerja billi xorta nqeda b'nies bħalu biex iwassal il-messaġġ.

Kien jirrakkonta wkoll li darba ltaqa' ma' raġel li qallu li kieku tghallem l-iskola kien jilhaq avukat. Gorg wiehbu: "issa suppost kont avukat u jkollu żewġ vilel, mhux xorta fuq soda waħda kont norqod? Mela aħjar hekk. Jiena lanqas karozza m'għandi, inqas inkwiet, u aktar kuntent. Min ikun dejjem inkwetat isir qisu maltem-pata bir-ragħad."

Messaġġ li wkoll kien dejjem jispiċċa bih meta jitkellem man-nies kien: "Naġħmlu t-tajjeb u naharbu b'heffa l-ħazin, halli



sew lil Gorg tal-Muzew kien hemm haħib kbir tiegħu, bħalu mill-Birgu, l-istoriku u għalliem Lino Buġeja, li illum ukoll m'għadux magħna. Dan kien jirrakkonta li darba f'jum mill-aktar shun hu u Gorg marru passiġġata fil-kampanja fl-inħawi tal-Fawwara.

Waqt il-mixja tagħhom Gorg qabdu għatx kbir. F'daqqa waħda ġew qrib siġra tal-lumi u Gorg tefa' għajnejh fuq lumija li kienet misjura sew. Bil-għatx li kellu ma setax jissapporti aktar, għalhekk qatagħha mis-siġra u minflok poġġa tliet soldi fuq iz-zokk, bħala ħlas lil sid l-għalqa.

Fl-aħħar tliet snin Gorg kien qed jgħix fid-dar tal-anzjani f'San Vincenz. L-aħħar tislma nġhatatlu fil-Kollegġjata ta' San Lawrenz fil-Birgu nhar l-Erbgħa li għadda b'quddiesa mill-Arċisqof Charles J. Scicluna. Wara sar il-funeral li għalih attendiet folla kbira ta' nies.

Fi tweet indirizzat lejn Gorg, l-Arċisqof Charles J. Scicluna qal, "Għannej bil-kliem u b'haġtek; għannejt lill-proxxmu tiegħek. Id-daħka ħelwa fakkrtna fil-jafu mill-qrib. Għażiż Gorg, Għannej tal-Mulej, strieh fil-ħniena u l-hena tal-Feddej!"

◀ Gorg tal-Muzaw jidher jiċċajta mal-Arċisqof Scicluna



Proġett intensiv ta' restawr fl-Isla

Wara li fl-Isla ntemmet l-ewwel fażi tal-proġett li kienet tikkonsisti fir-restawr u t-tisbiħ tal-Bieb ta' din il-belt fil-Kottonera, b'investiment ta' €1.3 miljun, bħalissa, b'nefqa ta' €3.1 miljun bdiet ukoll it-tieni fażi tax-xogħlijiet fuq il-proġett tar-Riġenerazzjoni tal-Port il-Kbir (GHRC) ta' din il-belt.

L-ewwel fażi kienet tinkludu fost l-oħrajn, ir-restawr ta' 5,800m kwadru ta' hitan ta' fortifikazzjoni, inklużi l-installazzjonijiet primarji għal dawl arkitettoniku, restawr taż-żewġ mini tal-vetturi fuq żona ta' 900m² restawr tat-torri tal-arloġġ, u 2000m² tal-belvedere, li issa se jkun disponibbli għall-użu tal-pubbliku ġenerali u t-turisti.

Fost ix-xogħlijiet ta' bħalissa hemm ir-restawr fuq is-swar u l-hitani tad-dhul tal-mina li jharsu lejn l-eks Dry-docks, restawr tas-swar li jharsu lejn Maċina, il-Belvedier Gard-jola, restawr u xogħlijiet fuq il-hitani, is-swar, kif ukoll xogħlijiet ta' restawr ta' Vjal il-Vitorja.

It-tieni fażi tal-proġett se tinkludi wkoll ir-riġenerazzjoni ta' Pjazza Giorgio



Ir-restawr fuq l-arloġġ storiku tal-Isla (fuq); u r-restawr fuq iż-żewġ mini fid-daħla tal-Isla (xellug)

Mitrovich b'investiment ta' €1.8 miljun.

Is-sindku tal-Isla Clive Pulis spjega li b'dan il-proġett, il-livell tal-ghajxien tan-nies tal-Isla u dawk tal-madwar se jogħla. Fl-istess waqt, bit-tisbiħ tal-Isla se jithajru aktar nies Maltin, kif ukoll turisti, li jżuru, u jgawdu u japprezzaw lil din il-lokalità storika u sabiha.

Il-proġet mistenni li jitlesta sal-aħhar tas-sena.

Għall-barranin il-Birgu hi l-isbaħ belt bl-isbaħ djar

Sadanittant, minn stharrig tal-*Homedit.com* li sar minn fost 5,000 persuna minn madwar id-dinja jirriżulta li dawk li hađu sehem fl-istharrig għażlu lill-Birgu bħala l-l-isbaħ belt u fejn hemm l-isbaħ djar li kieku kellhom jagħżlu kienu joqogħdu fihom..

Fir-riċerka *Homedit.com*, uriet stampi ta' djar tradizzjonali minn 20 pajjiż differenti lin-nies, bi 80% tal-partecipanti jgħidu li djar tal-Birgu huma tant sbieħ li diffiċli tirreżistihom.

Imma x'inhu l-faxxinu tal-Birgu, belt żgħira fost tlieta ewlenin, flimkien ma' Bormla u l-Isla, fil-Kottonera?

Minbarra d-djar, għadd ta' palazzi t toroq dojoq affaxxinanti, il-Birgu kellha kellha sehem kruċjali fl-istorja ta' Malta, u speċifikament fl-Assedju l-Kbir tal-1565.

Illum fil-Birgu, bi triqat ferm antiki, hemm ukoll għadd minn dawk magħrufa bħala *boutique hotels*, ferm lussużi ġeneralment palazzi mibdula f'lukandi żgħar li jolqgħuk.

Il-Birgu, imkenni mill-Forti Sant' Anġlu, magħruf fiż-Żmien Nofsani bħala l-*Castrum Maris*, kien iservi bħala l-port ewlieni tal-gżejjer Maltin. Imbagħad mal-wasla tal-Kavallieri ta' San Gwann fl-1530, din il-belt saret il-baži tal-Kavallieri u l-flotta tal-Ordni minhabba li l-belt kapitali l-antika, Mdina kienet fuq ġewwa tal-gżira u fit bogħod mill-port, allura ma kinetx Prattika għal flotta.

Wara l-Assedju tal-1565, il-Gran Mastro La Vallette iddeċieda li

jibni belt ġdida fl-gholja ta' faċ-ċata, l-Għolja Xiberras, dik li maż-żmien saret il-Belt Valletta. Wara l-Assedju, il-belt tal-Birgu tlaqqmet bħala *Città Vittoriosa*, "il-belt reb-bieha".

Fost il-palazzi ta' ċerta importanza li fil-Birgu wiehed ma jistax ma jsemmix il-Palazz tal-Inkwizitur li jinsab fil-qalba tal-Birgu u li għal hames sekli ta' storja minn dejjem kien okkupat minn uffiċjali li kienu jirrap-prezentaw lil dawk li kienu jmexxu lil Malta.

Il-palazz li baqa' bla mġarrab fil-bumbardamenti tal-ghadu fit-Tieni Gwerra dinjija u t-theddida tal-iżvilupp modern, huwa fost il-binjiet eżori fi hdan Heritage Malta li huwa miftuħ għall-pubbliku.

Fil-Birgu hemm ukoll l-attrazzjoni tal-Mużew Marittimu u l-Forti Sant' Anġlu, u għad ta' kunventi li wkoll hellsu mill-qirda tal-gwerra.

Il-Knisja Parrokjali hi ddedikata lil San Lawrenz, li l-festa tiegħu ssir fl-10 ta' Awwissu. Festa oħra popolari hija dik ta' San Duminku.



Waħda mit-toroq karatteristiċi tal-Birgu



Waħda mis-swali fil-Palazz tal-Inkwizitur

Community News

Tune in to Radio and Television

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 De-



mand on l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au

On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council 11am) Il-Ħadd 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 Thursdays 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

Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF

A Solid Gold: music programme with English and Italian timeless favourites Fridays 11.00am to 1.00 pm.

Maltese voices: One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists. Sundays @ 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm

Also listen on "Tune in" by downloading app and search for the station 2GLF ~ 89.3 Fm - by Marthese Caruana

MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW



A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc.
Established in 1999



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All age students are welcome to enrol in our classes held on Saturday mornings at Horsley Park, NSW.

Online classes are also available on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

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Email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com



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La Valette Social Centre

La Valette Social Centre Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

The Centre is now open again two days a week, Thursdays, Saturdays

The Centre is a registered Covid-Safe Venue and all special requirements are in force including social distancing, restricted numbers, temperature taking, patron register and Covid-Marshall.

Flexible Respite is operating normally but Centre-Based Respite is restricted due to low numbers that can be transported.

Charlie's Family Restaurant is open Thursdays and Saturdays for lunch and dinner.

Bocci pitches are operating again with some restrictions.

Bingo: Saturdays only at 8.00pm preceded by short Maltese movie at 7.30pm.

MASS: Thursday: 10.15am; Saturday: 5.30 p.m. (subject to availability of a priest.)

L-aħbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)

Il-PBS ta' Malta tforni lill-SBS fl-Awstralja bis-servizz tal-aħbarijiet tagħha, imma l-qarrejja xorta huma mhegga biex jidhlu fil-website tal-istazzjon Malti: www.tvn.com.mt. għall-aħbarijiet kemm bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż.



Authority for Integrity in Maltese Sport to be set up

An Authority for Integrity in Sport aimed at building on the seven main pillars of the National Sport Strategy, namely, education, participation and quality of life, sports facilities, sports industry, Gozo, integrity, and high performances to be set up in Malta.

Launching a public consultation process in the presence of representatives of national sports associations, Parliamentary Secretary for

Sport, Recreation and Voluntary Organisations Clifton Grima explained that the authority should be centralised on Maltese sport and concerned with all matters of sport governance and integrity.

It would be achieved with the integration of the National Anti-Doping Organisation of Malta (NADO), the Sports Integrity Unit, and the Register for Persons in Sport that is currently administered by SportMalta.

He also explained the objectives of this authority as being, credibility, transparency, accounting, education, leadership, and regulations.

He stated that as a politician he had to make a difference in people's lives and that such initiatives are bound to lead to improvement in administration and education in our country.

MFA president Bjorn Vassallo pointed out that this coordinated approach for the fight against illicitness in sports is being organised through an authority that

prevents, exposes, and educates about bribery and illegality in sports.

"Fraud in sports destroys all positive efforts made to promote a healthy society built on values and ethics," he said.

Joe Caruana Curran, the president of the Aquatic Sports Association (ASA), highlighted the importance of integrity in all circumstances. "Integrity in sport is important, but it has even more relevance from a societal perspective," he said.

He added that one should understand that, as of a young age, one must do his best, but within limits of correctness.

In the view of Paul Sultana who heads the Malta Basketball Association, all those who hold sports close to their heart should do their utmost, not only to safeguard integrity, but also to strengthen the structures and processes, so that anything that threatens transparency and fair play in sports is overcome in the strongest manner possible.

Malta Premier League 2020/21

Hamrun win top match to increase lead to 5 pts

A goal from a penalty by Seydou Doumbia less than 90 seconds from normal time enabled Hamrun Spartans to beat Hibernian 1-0, in the top-of-the table clash on Saturday. It

PREMIER Results	
Match Day 23	
Hamrun v Hibernians	1-0
Sliema W v Gzira U	2-0
Birkirkara v Tarxien	3-0
Mosta v Senglea A	5-1
Gudja U v Valletta	4-2
Sirens v Zejtun C	1-1
Floriana v Balzan	0-0
Lija A v Sta Lucia	3-1
Match Day 22	
Hamrun v Gzira U	2-1
Hibernians v Zejtun	2-0
Birkirkara v Floriana	2-0
Balzan v Sliema W	5-1
Mosta v Sta Lucia	3-2
Valletta v Senglea A	3-1
Tarxien R v Gudja U	2-0
Sirens v Lija A	1-1

extended their unbeaten run to eighteen matches. They can now look forward to their remaining seven to the end with great confidence.

The victory at the end of a balanced affair that never reached any heights,

has given Spartans hope that 2020/21 would be their season as they toil on to win their first league title in 30 years.

It follows an equally important victory the previous week over Gzira, whose hopes of a challenge completely nose-dived with a second defeat against Sliema at the weekend.

They hold on to the third spot, which is also threatened as Birkirkara keep improving and obtaining good results all the time.

Sliema stay in contention after beating Gzira. It also helped them bounce back from the 1-5 thrashing they suffered at the hands of Balzan the previous game.

Balzan failed to follow that up with a similar showing against champions

Floriana. In fact the clash ended 0-0.

The Eagles are flying again

Football is back in NSW and Parramatta Melita Eagles kicked off the season with a 1-0 victory over Camden Tigers FC at the Melita Stadium on Saturday.

Despite losing last season's top scorer, Clement Waoci to a red card after only 20 min and conceding a penalty ten minutes from half time that Nikola Bratic saved they headed into the sheds all square to come out fighting in the second 10 min from time Charles Abou Serhal scored off the upright for Eagles opening win.

The FA Trophy competition reaches Rd of 8 stage

Malta's second most important football competition has reached the Round of 8 stage, but not after a few Premier clubs were given a fright. Hamrun had the easiest passage to the last 16 with a 6-0 win in Gozo against Xaghra, while Hibernians only managed a winning goal after 95 minutes of play against Pembroke

Round of 16 results

Hamrun v Xaghra U	6-0
Hibs v Pembroke	1-0
B'kara v Gh'sielem	4-1
Gzira U v Tarxien	4-2
<i>(After extra time)</i>	
Mosta v Sta Lucia	2-0
Sirens v Marsa	1-0
Valletta v Senglea	1-0
St Andrews v Naxxar	4-2
<i>(After extra time)</i>	

