

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Gozo Tourism Association (GTA)

The Gozo Tourism Association held its 24th Annual General Meeting on Friday, 3rd March, 2023 at the Auditorium of the Queen Mary University of London Gozo Campus in Victoria.

The Annual General Meeting was attended by several GTA members from the various sectors within the Gozitan Tourism Industry, together with other distinguished guests including the Minister for Gozo Hon Clint Camilleri, the Minister for Tourism Hon Clayton Bartolo, Dr. Chris Said Opposition spokesperson for Gozo, Dr. Gavin Gulia MTA Chairman, Mr. Carlo Micallef MTA CEO, Permanent Secretary Mr John Borg from the Ministry for Gozo, Mr Ronald Sultana Director for Tourism & Economic Development within the Ministry for Gozo, Mr Mario Borg CEO GRDA, officials from the Ministry for Gozo and other MTA Gozo Office officials.

The first item on the agenda was the reading and approval of the last Annual General Meeting minutes, which minutes were read by Mr. Mark Busuttil, GTA outgoing vice-Secretary, followed by the reading of the financial report read by the GTA outgoing Treasurer Mr Joe Muscat Sammut. Copy of the financial report is attached with these minutes.

In his opening address the outgoing GTA Chairman Mr Paul Scicluna highlighted the achievements of Destination Gozo after two tough pandemic years. These achievements were in line with those in Malta. The Gozitan touristic sector is very optimistic that the current year will keep on building on these successes. However, Mr. Scicluna stated that the tourism sector on Gozo is concerned about the environment issue, yet at the same time the Gozitan entrepreneur is not against development. GTA Chairman also touched on the issue of lack of human resources within the touristic sector. Mr. Scicluna stated that all stakeholders have a duty to make tourism an appealing sector in which one can seek a fulfilling career, and he encouraged tourism establishments to embrace all the initiatives that are taken from time to time in the upskilling, and retraining of their workforce.

The next item on the agenda was an Audio-visual presentation prepared by GTA CEO Joe Muscat which featured the performance of the Association during 2022, as well as an overview of the Gozitan touristic performance during the past year. During this presentation Mr Muscat gave a detailed report of the work and initiatives undertaken by the Association during the course of the past year 2022. Copy of this presentation is attached with these minutes.

The Annual General Meeting was also addressed by the Opposition Spokesperson Dr. Chris Said, who whilst thanking GTA for its attainments, explained several tourism related issues including the touristic product, human resources, connectivity and more support to the Gozitan constituted bodies.

In his address the Minister for Tourism Hon Clayton Bartolo referred to the increases of the tourist arrivals both foreign and domestic to Gozo. He also stressed that Gozo can be a destination that can excel in tourism niches like, wellness, faith and sports tourism. Hon. Bartolo also stated that connectivity to Malta remains a priority to the tourism industry and this will continue to increase during this year.

The Annual General Meeting came to an end with the address of the Minister for Gozo Hon. Clint Camilleri who also mentioned the initiatives his ministry is taking to sustain this important sector for Gozo. Minister Camilleri referred to the jam-packed cultural calendar as well as the infrastructural works that are in progress and the development of the airfield in Gozo, which will enhance the Gozitan touristic offer

Finally, since there was no need for elections to form the Council, GTA CEO Mr Joe Muscat read the names of the persons who were nominated to sit on the GTA Council for the Year 2023. These are the following:

Borg Marvic	Gozo Break Ltd
Busuttil Mark	St Andrews Divers Cove
Farrugia Daniela	Gozo Pride Tours
Gatt Ludgard	Tamarisk Properties
Loporto Mario	Gozo Village Holidays
Magro Chris	Mariblu Guesthouse
Mercieca Joseph	Country Terrace Restaurant
Mifsud Ivan	Mifsud Bros
Muscat Sammut Joseph	Downtown Hotel
Scicluna Konrad	Links Travel
Scicluna Paul	Gozo Farmhouses Ltd
Sillato Samuel	Grand Hotel
Spiteri Pauline	Mario's Rent a Car
Veranneman Amand	ERA Real Estate
Xerri Gatt Charlene	Century 21

The Annual General Meeting was concluded at 11.15hr