



Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Gozo Tourism Association (GTA)

The Gozo Tourism Association held its 26th Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 27th February, 2025 at the Cesca Boutique Hotel in Xlendi Gozo.

The Annual General Meeting was attended by several GTA members from the various sectors within the Gozitan Tourism Industry, together with the Minister for Gozo Hon Clint Camilleri, Dr. Alex Borg Opposition spokesperson for Gozo, the newly appointed MTA Chairman, Dr. Chares Mangion, Mr Ronald Sultana Director for Tourism & Economic Development within the Ministry for Gozo, officials from the Ministry for Gozo and other officials from MTA head office and the Gozo Office .

This Annual General Meeting was chaired by the Chief Executive Office of the Gozo Tourism Association Joe Muscat. 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 Konrad Scicluna. Copy of the financial report is attached with these minutes.

The next item on the Agenda was amendments to the Statute. Here the chair introduced to amendments to the Association statute, proposed by Paul Scicluna and seconded by Mario Loporto on behalf of the outgoing GTA Council. The proposed amendments were an increase in the annual membership fee from €60 to €75 and to introduce a three-tier membership structure: Silver, Gold, and Platinum. The proposed amendments were approved by a show of hands.

Then the meeting proceeded with a message from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism. Dr. Ian Borg. In his address Dr Ian Borg referred to the national milestone of 3 million tourist arrivals, noting that Gozo benefited from this growth. He urged stakeholders to prioritise quality and sustainable tourism, highlighting Gozo's potential to contribute through its authentic character. He acknowledged existing challenges while stressing that these present opportunities for renewal and called for continued collaboration among stakeholders.

In his opening address the GTA Chairman Mr Paul Scicluna reported increases in tourism arrivals for Gozo in 2024, with increases derived from both international and domestic markets. He raised concerns about overdevelopment and warned that rising operating costs, identified in GTA surveys, could erode the destination's competitiveness. He emphasised the need to preserve Gozo's authenticity and to invest in a trained and skilled workforce.

The GTA's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Joe Muscat then delivered an audio-visual presentation summarising the Association's performance in 2024, the initiatives undertaken during the year, and activities marking the GTA's 25th Anniversary.

Next on the agenda was an address by Dr. Charles Mangion Chairman of the Malta Tourism Authority. Dr Charles Mangion, MTA Chairman, congratulated the GTA on its work and outlined national tourism results. He stressed the importance of connectivity to Malta and confirmed MTA's commitment to increase seat capacity in 2025 through agreements with several airlines. He praised the ongoing collaboration between MTA and GTA in promoting Gozo as a distinct destination.

The Annual General Meeting was also addressed by the Opposition. Dr Alex Borg, Opposition Spokesperson for Gozo, commended the GTA's 25 years of service and acknowledged the work of MTA and the Directorate for Tourism and Economic Development. He advocated for targeted measures to support niche markets and expressed the view that Gozo merits its own Tourism Authority with sufficient human and financial resources to promote the island more directly.

The Annual General Meeting came to an end with the message of the Minister for Gozo and Planning Hon. Clint Camilleri. The Minister for Gozo and Planning, praised the Association's achievements and the milestone of 25 years since its founding. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to continued investment in tourism and noted that the positive results of 2024 justify sustained efforts to enhance the tourism product. He emphasised the objective of positioning Gozo as a year-round destination supported by a robust cultural calendar and a sustainable tourism strategy.

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 2025. These are the following:

Borg Marvic, Busuttil Mark, Farrugia Daniela, Gatt Ludgard, Grech Ryan, Kisling Ana, Loporto Mario, Macdonald Naomi, Magro Chris, Meilak Leanne, Mercieca Joe, Mifsud Ivan, Scicluna Konrad, Scicluna Paul, Spiteri Pauline, and Veranneman Amand

The Annual General Meeting was concluded at 11.25hr

27th February 2025

Mark Busuttil

GTA Secretary