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PRESS RELEASE

VAF welcomes improved accessibility to Valletta

The Valletta Alive Foundation welcomed two new transport services which have been introduced in recent weeks. These are the Park and Ride service to Valletta and the scheduled bus route no. 198 between the cruise passenger terminal and Valletta centre.

In a visit to the park and ride facilities, Mr. Alfred Zahra, Chairman of the Foundation expressed satisfaction that the "Park and Ride" has been so well received and that it is being used extensively by commuters to Valletta. Officials from the Foundation were shown around the park and ride facilities by Mr. Joseph Theuma, ADT Projects Implementation Manager. Mr. Zahra praised the facilities on offer and the effective manner how the system is being run. Mr. Zahra also congratulated Government and ADT for the strategy for better accessibility to Valletta which, when fully implemented will result in improved access to residences and businesses in Valletta. It will also result in an improved urban environment with the pedestrianisation of Merchants Streets and other streets. Mr. Zahra urged for continuous monitoring of the "Park and Ride" and eventually of the Controlled Vehicle Access to Valletta to ensure that these will continue to serve the needs of the City and its many users.

Another important development in transport service to Valletta is the introduction of the bus route no. 198 from the cruise passenger terminal to Valletta. For a reasonable price of forty cents return, cruise passengers can now reach Valletta centre within a few minutes. The Foundation had lobbied government for such a service to be introduced because it believes that Valletta offers the best possible visitor experience for the cruise passenger, given the limited time available for sight seeing. Now that the service has been a success, efforts need to be made to increase the frequency. The Foundation congratulates VISET, the Ministry for Urban Development and Roads, the Malta Transport Authority and the Public Transport Association for the introduction of the new service.

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