

Relocation of Monti

The Valletta Alive Foundation was one of many organisations who were consulted by Government on proposals for Valletta pedestrianisation including the relocation of the *monti*. VAF is a lobby group which works in the interest of Valletta and its position in relation to this issue is inspired by what it believes to be in the best interest of the City and its many users.

VAF fully supports Government in its decision to relocate the *monti* further down Merchants Street.

The embellishment and pedestrianisation of Merchants Street would allow for the appreciation of the streets' cultural heritage. Leaving the *monti* in its current location would undermine this objective.

It is our desire that this issue does not become a political football. Therefore we are concerned with the comments made by the leader of the opposition, and appeal for consultation with all interested parties before taking a firm stand on the issue.

The solution as proposed by Government is supported by VAF because it takes into account the interests of all concerned including the shop employees, shop owners as well as the *monti* hawkers.

The Foundation supports the efforts being carried out by GRTU, Republic Street Business Community Association and the Merchants Street Business Community Association, which are three of the seven Founding Members of the same Foundation.

VAF augers for an early solution to this issue and strongly recommends that the authorities adhere to the plans on pedestrianisation as was originally intended.