



Valletta Alive Foundation

Exchange Building, Republic Street, Valletta VLT 05, Malta.
Tel: (+356) 2123 3873 • Mob: (+356) 7902 7902, 9949 3977
E-mail: pisben@gmail.com

10 March 2009

PRESS RELEASE

The Valletta Alive Foundation meets the Prime Minister

During a meeting with the Prime Minister, the Valletta Alive Foundation expressed its satisfaction in the government's proposed massive projects intended to upgrade major monuments in the capital city. They also aired their concern about accessibility to Valletta, that whilst agreeing with the pedestrianisation of Valletta streets and piazzas, the Foundation noted that appropriate alternatives need to be found for loss of parking spaces as an outcome of these initiatives. The Park and Ride and the CVA provided partial solutions but more needs to be done to compensate for the continued loss of parking within the city .

The Foundation, led by its Chairman Mr. Alfred Zahra, noted with satisfaction that Government has put Valletta further up in its list of priorities. In particular, Mr. Zahra noted the transformation of Merchants street following pedestrianisation in 2007. Mr. Zahra augured that government will remain focused to ensure that the Opera House/ City Gate project will be completed within the timeframes set. Care will need to be taken to minimize disruption of Valletta's commercial and other activities during the works. Preparatory work that is being carried out for Fort St. Elmo is also welcome.

With Valletta being European cultural capital in 2018, the Foundation suggested the setting up of a committee within government to initiate the necessary preparations.

During the meeting, the Foundation presented the Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi with a copy of a report featuring the papers read at the successful seminar entitled Valletta 450, which was held at the Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Building in Valletta on the 25th October 2008. The seminar aimed at stimulating prospective views of the capital city's life taken from different aspects, such as: culture, tourism, economy, finance, residents, transportation, accessibility and development.

Alfred Zahra
Chairman