



**Media Release**

**12<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

**GTA Annual General Meeting**

The Gozo Tourism Association held its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this Annual General Meeting was held virtually.

The Agenda, was restricted and dedicated only to the formal part of the Annual General Meeting. It included an introduction by the Chairman of the Association, Mr Paul Scicluna, the Financial report by the Treasurer, Mr Joe Muscat Sammut and the Administrative report by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Joe Muscat. This meeting was attended by a number of GTA members coming from the various sectors and including Hotels, Self Catering, Diving, Restaurants, Tourist Attractions, Tour operators, Transport and Real Estate.

In his opening address the GTA Chairman Mr Paul Scicluna highlighted how tourism continues to be one of the sectors hardest hit by the Coronavirus pandemic and how the outlook remains highly uncertain at least for the first two quarters of 2021. GTA Chairman stated that real recovery will only be possible only when international tourism returns. This requires global co-operation and evidence-based solutions, so travel restrictions can be safely lifted.

The GTA's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Joe Muscat gave an abridged presentation on the performance of the Association during 2020. He gave an overview of the Gozitan touristic performance during last year, as well as the work and initiatives undertaken by the Association during the course of the past year 2020, which was marked and hindered by the Covid-19 global pandemic. Afterwards members present participated actively in a healthy discussion covering a wide range of issues related to Gozitan tourism.

During this AGM the GTA council for 2021 was formed and is made up of the following members: Borg Marvic (Gozo Breaks Ltd), Busuttil Mark (St. Andrews Divers Cove), Gasan Mauro (Petite Events) Loporto Mario (Gozo Village Holidays), Magro Frankie (Mariblu Guesthouse), Mercieca Joseph (Country Terrace Restaurant) Mifsud Ivan (Mifsud Bros Ltd), Muscat Sammut Joseph (Down Town Hotel), Sillato Samuel (Grand Hotel), Scicluna Konrad (Links Travel Group) Scicluna Paul (Gozo Farmhouses), Spiteri Pauline (Mario's Rent a car), Tonna Adrian (Kempinski San Lawrenz), Veranneman Amand (Dhalia Real Estate) Xerri Gatt Charlene (Century 21 Real Estate).

When the present Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, the Gozo Tourism Association will be holding a general meeting during which the Association will present the approved Administrative Report for 2020 in its audio-visual version, together with the addresses from the Minister for Gozo Hon Clint Camilleri, the Minister for Tourism Hon Clayton Bartolo, and Opposition spokesperson for Gozo Hon. Dr. Chris Said. Whilst MTA officials will deliver a presentation on the recovery of tourism.