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# Press Release

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**PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

*Launch of publication 'Democratic Governance in the Digital Age'*

Spkeaker Anġlu Farrugia presided over the launch of the publication 'Democratic Governance in the Digital Age', which presents the proceedings of the Public Policy Conference that was hosted by the Parliament of Malta on 23 of November 2018, on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the setting up of the Public Policy Department of the University of Malta.

Addressing those present, Speaker Farrugia said that democracy is not a static condition impervious to the many developments happening around it. He continued by saying that parliaments are the epitome of the democratic representation of the will of the people, playing an essential function in a country's administration based on a system of checks and balances. Referring to the digital revolution, Speaker Farrugia said that this impacts most of our day-to-day activities and has certainly also transformed the way parliamentarians communicate with the citizens that have elected them.

In his concluding remarks the Speaker thanked the Department of Public Policy of the University of Malta for proposing such initiative which has brought together a wide range of highly respected speakers and panellists to this event. He said that through the publication, the insights about the need for the country's democratic governance in the context of the digital revolution that were discussed during the conference, will remain accessible to the current and future policy-makers and legislators.

Head of the Department of Public Policy in the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy of the University of Malta Dr Anne Marie Thake and senior lecturer Fr Charles Tabone also addressed those present. Lecturer Dr Mario Thomas Vassallo, and assistant lecturer Mr Robert Micallef, were also present for the book launch.