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# Press Release

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

*First official parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Anġlu Farrugia visits Bombo, Uganda, where 43 Maltese people were exiled during the Second World War*

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia, Deputy Leader of the Opposition David Agius, and MPs Alex Muscat and Etienne Grech who are attending the 64<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, visited Bombo - where during the Second World War 43 Maltese people, including former Prime Minister Nerik Mizzi, were exiled by the British.

The delegation visited the primary school in Bombo and was greeted by Mathias Lubuulwa, head of school, and Nakito Cissy, the local council chairperson of Namaliga Central in Bombo. Speaker Farrugia said that this is the first official parliamentary delegation to visit Bombo since a group of Maltese people were exiled under the British rule during the Second World War. The Speaker thanked the Ugandan people for their kind hospitality even when this group of Maltese people was exiled from their country just because they did not agree with the British. He stressed that this is an important historical event for Malta and that one of the Maltese exiled in Bombo, Nerik Mizzi, eventually became Prime Minister when he returned home. The Speaker said that Malta remained grateful to the Ugandan people and in the '70s, when a group of Ugandans with Asian descent was expelled from Uganda, Malta was the first country to host them for months before they proceeded to the UK and other countries.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition David Agius added that Nerik Mizzi was not only to become the former Prime Minister of Malta but also the former leader of the Nationalist Party. He referred to the Fortunato and Nerik Mizzi Foundation and that he is seeking to start a collaboration between Malta and Uganda through this foundation. MP Alex Muscat spoke to students about the importance of learning from history and to be aware that such events should not happen again. Therefore, education is the key to obtain a bright future. MP Etienne Grech referred to the importance of education as a very important tool for the country to be prosperous. He encouraged the students to continue in their studies for a better future.

The Maltese delegation also met with Paulo Wagaba, an elderly man from Bombo who explained that his parents used to tell him about the Maltese people who were being kept where the Bombo Primary School is today, during the Second World War. The Maltese delegation was accompanied by Amele Ruth, an MP of the Ugandan Parliament.