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3 DAĦLA
FOREWORD

4 ATTIVITAJIET TAL-PARLAMENT
PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

26 ATTIVITAJIET INTERNAZZJONALI
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

34 DISKORS FL-OKKAŻJONI TAT-TIFKIRA TAS-SETTE GIUGNO
SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF SETTE GIUGNO

44 IT-TFITTXIJA GĦAL FUTUR ĠDID - L-EMIGRAZZJONI MALTIJA FIS-SEKLI DSATAX U GĦOXRIN
SEEKING A NEW FUTURE - MALTESE EMIGRATION IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

Qoxra: Studenti tal-iskola Post-Sekondarja Giovanni Curmi Higher fil-Parlament.

Cover: Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School students in Parliament

Ritratti/*Photos*:
Parlament ta' Malta/DOI

DAĦLA

FOREWORD

Bi pjaċir inwasslilkom it-23 ħarġa tal-perjodiku *mill-Parlament*. Nemmen li din il-pubblikazzjoni saret punt ta' referenza importanti għal dak li jirrigwarda l-ħidma ta' dan il-Parlament, ħidma li kif tistgħu taraw tmur ferm lil hinn mix-xogħol tradizzjonali tal-Parlament.

Aspett li għandu dejjem jibqa' fiċ-ċentru tal-ħidma parlamentari huwa dak tar-rappreżentanza taċ-ċittadini, li mingħandhom għandna l-mandat li nilleġiżlaw sabiex nimplimentaw politika li tkun tassew ta' ġid għaċ-ċittadini. Irridu naraw għalhekk li nżommu kuntatt maċ-ċittadini u noffru diversi modi sabiex dawn ikunu jistgħu jsegwu din il-ħidma u l-frott li tkun qed tagħti. Dan hu wieħed mill-iskopijiet ewlenin ta' din il-pubblikazzjoni.

Kif sħaqt kemm-il darba, nemmen ukoll li l-ħidma li ssir mill-Parlamentari f'fora interparlamentari hija għodda ta' diplomazija li biha nistgħu nkunu f'pożizzjoni aħjar li nifhmu dak li jiġri f'pajjiżi oħra u kif aħna nistgħu mhux biss noffru soluzzjonijiet mill-esperjenza tagħna, iżda wkoll insibu l-appoġġ tagħhom fejn ikun hemm bżonn. Għalkemm il-ħidma diplomatika hija mansjoni primarjament tal-Gvern, kull ma jmur qegħdin naraw li din tkun aktar effettiva meta timxi id f'id mal-ħidma li ssir mill-Membri Parlamentari.

Din il-ħarġa tkopri l-perjodu minn Mejju sal-aħħar tal-2019. Ikolli ngħid li tmiem is-sena kien wieħed kemmxejn imqanqal għall-Parlament, iżda nemmen li dan huwa xhieda tal-fatt li l-ħidma parlamentari ma hix maqtugħa minn dak kollu li jkun għaddej fil-pajjiż.

Nawgura li s-sena l-ġdida tkun waħda li fiha l-Parlament tagħna jkompli jsaħħaħ ir-relevanza tiegħu u jaħdem favur il-ġid tal-poplu kollu

Anġlu Farrugia
Speaker

It is my pleasure to bring to you the 23rd issue of the periodical *mill-Parlament*. I believe that this publication has become an important reference point with regard to parliamentary work, which as you can see extends well beyond the traditional parliamentary work.

An aspect which should always remain central to the work of Parliament is that of citizen representation, those same citizens who elected us to legislate in order to implement policies which truly benefit the citizens. We should therefore always remain in contact with the citizens and offer different ways whereby they can follow this work and how it is bearing fruit. This is a primary objective of this publication.

As I have often argued, I also believe that that the work done in the inter-parliamentary fora is a tool in diplomacy as it enables us to follow closely what is going in other countries in order to not only offer solutions based on our experiences but also find their support when this becomes necessary. Whereas diplomacy remains primarily the remit of Government, we are increasingly observing that this is more effective when it is backed by the work of the Members of Parliament.

This issue covers the period from May to the end of 2019. I must say that the year ended on a somewhat turbulent note, however I firmly believe that this is evidence of the fact that parliamentary work is not detached from whatever is going on in our country.

I hope that the new year will be one in which our Parliament continues to assert its relevance and work for the benefit of all the citizens.

Anġlu Farrugia
Speaker

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament

EUFOREA – Malta Symposium 2019

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia mexxa s-Simpożju ta' Malta 2019 tal-EUFOREA 'Aċċellera t-trasformazzjoni tal-kura tas-saħħa fl-allerġiji u fil-mard tal-passaġġ tan-nifs permezz ta' implimentazzjoni ta' soluzzjonijiet diġitali u edukattivi f'dinja li qed tinbidel'. Membri ewlenin tal-komunità medika ddiskutew l-allinjament ta' approċċ strutturat fir-rigward tal-implimentazzjoni tar-rwol tat-teknoloġija diġitali fit-trasformazzjoni tal-kura tas-saħħa u t-tibdil fil-klima. Ġew proposti soluzzjonijiet diġitali u edukattivi biex itejbu l-kwalità tal-ħajja tal-pazjenti, bl-għan li jintlaħaq kunsens biex jiġi fformulat il-Programm Edukattiv tal-Pazjenti 2019 – 2020 tal-EUFOREA dwar allerġiji u mard tal-passaġġ tan-nifs 'Minn Awtoevalwazzjoni għal Awtoġestjoni'. Fid-diskors tal-ftuħ tiegħu, l-Ispeaker tkellem dwar l-istat tal-ambjent, l-effetti negattivi tat-tniġġis tal-arja fuq il-bnedmin, u l-obbligi tal-gvernijiet lejn iċ-ċittadini tagħhom u lejn l-umanità. Huwa nnota li l-gvernijiet huma obbligati li:

a. jiżguraw li l-pjanijiet nazzjonali mmirati lejn it-titjib tal-ambjent ikunu implimentati;
b. jiżguraw li kulħadd ikollu d-dritt għall-ħajja, u d-dritt għal standard ta' għajxien adegwat għas-saħħa u l-benesseri tal-individwu, inkluż ikel, ħwejjeġ, akkomodazzjoni, servizzi mediċi u servizzi soċjali neċessarji; u
c. jiżguraw li l-ommijiet u wliedhom ikollhom kura speċjali.

Huwa żied jgħid li filwaqt li l-biċċa l-kbira tal-pajjiżi Ewropej iħarsu dawn id-drittijiet għaċ-ċittadini tagħhom, hemm bżonn li l-kundizzjonijiet ekonomiċi u soċjali tal-popli tagħhom jiġu mtejba b'mod kostanti. Fir-rigward tal-livelli tal-kwalità tal-arja, l-Istati Membri tal-UE huma obbligati jirrikonoxxu d-dritt taċ-ċittadini Ewropej li jitolbu lill-awtoritajiet nazzjonali jimplimentaw pjan għaż-żmien qasir bl-għan li tinżamm jew tinkiseb konformità mal-livelli tal-kwalità tal-arja preskritti fil-leġiżlazzjoni tal-UE. Il-parteċipanti fis-Simpożju EUFOREA-Malta ddiskutew il-progress fil-kura ta' pazjenti li jbatu mill-effetti tat-tniġġis tal-arja, miżuri mmirati biex itejbu l-kwalità tal-ħajja, u kollaborazzjoni fost l-istituzzjonijiet ta' riċerka xjentifika.

Is-Simpożju ta' Malta ġie indirizzat ukoll mill-Prim Ministru l-Onor. Joseph Muscat, id-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħħa l-Onor. Chris Fearne, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Adrian Delia, u l-Kelliem tal-Oppożizzjoni għall-Anzjanità Attiva, Persuni b'Diżabilità u l-Ġlieda kontra d-Dipendenzi l-Onor. Maria Deguara.

Studenti tal-Iskola Sekondarja Ogħla Giovanni Curmi fil-Parlament

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia mexxa laqgħa ma' studenti tal-Iskola Sekondarja Ogħla Giovanni Curmi Higher fejn l-istudenti ddiskutew diversi suġġetti ta' interess ġenerali, fosthom il-legalizzazzjoni tal-kannabis f'Malta, l-użu tal-*close-circuit television*, ix-xogħlijiet ta' restawr ta' siti storiċi, il-graffiti, ir-reklamazzjoni tal-art u l-użu tal-inċineratur sabiex jinħaraq l-iskart.

Fid-diskors tiegħu l-Ispeaker fakkar li din il-laqgħa qed issir ftit jiem biss qabel iż-żgħażagħ ta' 'l fuq minn sittax-il sena kien u ser ikunu qed jivvutaw għall-ewwel darba fl-elezzjonijiet f'Malta sabiex jagħżlu l-membri għall-Parlament Ewropew Maltin u fl-elezzjonijiet tal-kunsilli lokali. L-Ispeaker qal li hu jqis dan l-iżvilupp bħala espressjoni ta' fiduċja fiż-żgħażagħ u l-għarfien li għandhom il-kapaċità li jagħtu l-kontribut tagħhom għall-ġid komuni tas-soċjetà u ta' pajjiżna. L-Ispeaker kompla billi fakkar ukoll kif fi ftit jiem oħra, pajjiżna kien ser ikun qed ifakkar iċ-ċentinarju mill-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno tal-1919 liema ġrajjiet storiċi jitqiesu bħala pass ewlieni fil-kisba tad-demokrazija parlamentari f'pajjiżna. F'dan il-kuntest, iż-żgħażagħ iridu jifhmu l-importanza tar-responsabilità li qed ikunu fdati biha – id-dritt tal-vot fl-elezzjonijiet u referenda, vot li għandu jissarraf f'għażliet importanti għas-soċjetà u l-ġejjieni ta' pajjiżna.

Il-laqgħa ġiet indirizzata wkoll mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għal Persuni b'Diżabilità u Anzjanità Attiva l-Onor. Anthony Agius Decelis, mill-Onor. David Agius u l-Onor. Rosianne Cutajar.

Parliamentary Activities

EUFOREA – Malta Symposium 2019

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia presided over the 2019 Malta Symposium of EUFOREA 'Accelerate the healthcare transformation in allergy and airway diseases through the implementation of digital and educational solutions in a changing world'. Key members of the medical community discussed and debated the alignment of a structured approach in respect of the implementation of the role of digital technology in the transformation of healthcare and climate change. Digital and educational solutions were proposed to improve patient quality of life with a view to reaching a consensus to formulate EUFOREA's 2019 – 2020 Patient Educational Programme in Allergy and Airway Diseases 'From Self-Assessment to Self-Management'. In his opening address, the Speaker spoke about the state of the environment, the adverse effects of air pollution on human beings, and the obligations of governments towards their citizens and humanity. He noted that governments are obliged to:

a. ensure the implementation of national plans aimed at improving the state of the environment;
b. ensure to everyone the right to life, and the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and the well-being of human beings, including food, clothing, housing and medical and necessary social services; and
c. ensure special care to mothers and their children.

He added that whereas most European countries safeguard these rights of their citizens, they need to constantly improve the economic and social conditions of their people. In respect of air quality levels, EU Member States are obliged to acknowledge the right of European citizens to require national authorities to implement a short-term plan that aims to maintain or achieve compliance to the air quality levels prescribed in EU legislation. Participants at the EUFOREA-Malta Symposium discussed progress in the treatment of patients suffering from the harmful effects of air pollution, measures aimed at improving quality of life, and collaboration amongst scientific research institutions.

The Malta Symposium was also addressed by Prime Minister Hon. Joseph Muscat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Hon. Chris Fearne, Leader of the Opposition Hon. Adrian Delia, and Opposition Spokesperson for Active Ageing, Persons with Disability and the Fight against Dependencies and other forms of Addiction Hon. Maria Deguara.

Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School students in Parliament

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia led a discussion with students of the Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School, where they discussed various topics of general interest, including the legalisation of cannabis in Malta, the use of close-circuit television, restoration works on historical sites, graffiti, the reclamation of land and the use waste incineration. In his speech, the Speaker recalled that this meeting was taking place only a few days before young people aged 16 and over would vote for the first time to elect the Maltese members of the European Parliament and in the local council elections. The Speaker said that he regards this development as an expression of trust in young people and an acknowledgement of their capacity to contribute towards the common good of society and of our country. The Speaker further recalled how in a few days, Malta would be marking the centenary from the 1919 Sette Giugno Riots, which historical events were considered as a step forward in the achievement of parliamentary democracy in our country. In this context, young people must understand the importance of the responsibility they are being entrusted with — the right to vote in elections and referenda, a vote that should translate into important choices for society and the future of our country.

The meeting was also addressed by the Parliamentary Secretary for Persons with Disabilities and Active Ageing Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis, Hon. David Agius and Hon. Rosianne Cutajar.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

Żjara miċ-Chairperson tas-CPA

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia u d-Deputy Speaker l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg laqgħu lil Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, President tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA) u Deputy Speaker tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali tal-Kamerun.

L-Ispeaker tkellem dwar id-diversi attivitajiet tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tal-Commonwealth, li hu President tagħhom. Huwa semma, *inter alia*, il-Kumitat ta' Tmexxija li issa huwa komplut, it-tħejjija tat-*toolkit* dwar it-Tibdil fil-Klima u l-Workshop tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar. Huwa rrefera wkoll għat-twaqqif tal-Assoċjazzjoni tal-Commonwealth tal-Kumitati dwar il-Kontijiet Pubbliċi (CAPAC), kif ukoll il-*benchmarks* rakkomandati mis-CPA għal leġiżlaturi demokratiċi. Il-President tal-Eżekuttiv tas-CPA enfasizzat il-kwistjoni pendenti tar-reviżjoni tal-istatus ġuridiku tal-Assoċjazzjoni minn dak ta' istituzzjoni ta' karità għal dak ta' organizzazzjoni internazzjonali, filwaqt li żiedet li s-CPA kienet ippreżentat applikazzjoni f'dan ir-rigward lill-Gvern tar-Renju Unit għal bidla fl-istatus. L-Ispeaker qal li l-Parlament Malti se jappoġġja din il-bidla.

L-Onor. Lifaka kienet akkumpanjata mill-Onor. Marie Rose Ada Owona epse Nguini Effa, Viċi President tal-Kumitat għall-Affarijiet Kulturali, Soċjali u tal-Familja tal-Assemblea Nazzjonali tal-Kamerun.

Ħatra ta' Membru Ġdid tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

Fis-seduta parlamentari tal-10 ta' Ġunju mtela l-post li tbattal fit-13-il Distrett Elettorali bir-riżenja tas-Sur David Stellini. Dan il-post imtela skont id-dispożizzjonijiet tar-Regolament 22 tar-Regolamenti tal-1991 dwar l-Elezzjonijiet Ġenerali fit-Taqsima III tat-Tlettax-il Skeda tal-Att dwar l-Elezzjonijiet Ġenerali. Skont din id-dispożizzjoni tal-liġi, il-Kamra rriżolviet b'mod unanimu li l-Avukat Kevin Cutajar jiġi magħżul biex jimla l-imsemmi post battal fit-13-il Distrett Elettorali tal-Kamra tad-Deputati. Il-mozzjoni tal-ħatra ta' Membru ġdid ġiet imressqa mill-Kap tal-Kamra, id-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħħa l-Onor. Chris Fearne u ġiet sekondata mill-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Adrian Delia. Minnufih wara li għaddiet il-mozzjoni, l-Avukat Kevin Cutajar ingħata l-ġurament ta' lealtà bħala Membru tal-Kamra mid-Deputy Speaker l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg.

Parliamentary Activities (Cont.)

Visit by the Chairperson of the CPA

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia and Deputy Speaker Hon. Claudette Buttigieg received a courtesy call by Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cameroon. Speaker Farrugia elaborated on the various activities carried out by the Commonwealth Small Branches, which he Chairs. He mentioned, inter alia, the completion of the Steering Committee, the preparation of the Climate Change Toolkit and the Small Branches Workshop. He also referred to the establishment of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) and the CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures. The Chairperson of the CPA Executive highlighted the pending issue of reviewing the legal status of the said Association from that of a charitable institution to that of an international organisation, adding that the CPA had submitted an application in this regard to the UK Government for a change of status. Speaker Farrugia said that the Maltese Parliament would support this change. Hon. Lifaka was accompanied by Hon. Marie Rose Ada Owona epse Nguini Effa, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Cultural, Social and Family Affairs of the National Assembly of Cameroon.

Appointment of new Member of the House of Representatives

The parliamentary seat vacated in the 13th Electoral District with the resignation of Mr David Stellini, was filled in the parliamentary sitting of 10 June. This post was filled in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 22 of the 1991 General Elections Regulations in Part III of the Thirteenth Schedule to the General Elections Act. Under this provision of law, the Chamber unanimously resolved that Lawyer Kevin Cutajar be chosen to fill the said vacant seat in the 13th Electoral District of the House of Representatives. The motion appointing the new Member was tabled by the Leader of the House, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Hon. Chris Fearne and was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition Hon. Adrian Delia. Immediately after the motion was passed, Lawyer Kevin Cutajar was sworn in as Member of the House by the Deputy Speaker Hon. Claudette Buttigieg.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

Ċentinarju tas-Sette Giugno

Din is-sena, Malta fakkret il-mitt sena mill-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno, ġrajjiet assoċjati mill-qrib mal-mixja demokratika u parlamentari ta' Malta. Kien għalhekk li l-Parlament organizza diversi attivitajiet sabiex jiġu kkommemorati dawn il-ġrajjiet.

Nhar is-6 ta' Ġunju, fiċ-ċerimonja uffiċjali annwali tas-Sette Giugno, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia mexxa l-kommemorazzjoni fi Pjazza San Ġorġ, il-Belt Valletta, quddiem il-monument li jfakkar din il-ġrajja. Il-Prim Ministru l-Onor. Joseph Muscat, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Adrian Delia, u qraba tal-vittmi tas-Sette Giugno kienu fost il-persuni distinti li attendew iċ-ċerimonja, li fiha l-Ispeaker semma l-ħtieġa li nirrispettaw it-tbatijiet ta' dawk li tilfu ħajjithom kif ukoll ta' dawk li korrew jew intbagħtu l-ħabs għaliex iġġieldu għal drittijiet li għadna ngawdu sal-lum. Id-diskors kollu jinsab f'paġni 34-37 ta' din il-ħarġa.

Fil-binja tal-Parlament ittellgħet wirja b'kollaborazzjoni ma' Heritage Malta u mal-Fondazzjoni Ċelebrazzjonijiet Nazzjonali bl-isem 'Culhat al Belt'. Dan l-isem jirrifletti l-għajta li kienet sejħet lill-poplu Malti biex fis-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 jidħol il-Belt Valletta u jiġġieled għad-drittijiet tiegħu. Waqt il-ftuħ tal-wirja, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia rrimarka li din il-wirja ssellem il-memorja tal-persuni li kitbu l-istorja demokratika ta' Malta filwaqt li tassigura li jikber l-għarfien dwar il-fatt li d-drittijiet li ngawdu llum inkisbu bis-saħħa tat-tbatija ta' ħaddieħor. L-Ispeaker saħaq dwar il-bżonn li ssir riflessjoni dwar l-istat tad-demokrazija f'Malta u kif din tista' tkompli tiġi msaħħa. Iċ-ċerimonja kienet indirizzata wkoll mid-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħħa l-Onor. Chris Fearne, mill-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Adrian Delia, minn Patri Anthony Sciberras MSSP u mis-Sur Kenneth Gambin minn Heritage Malta.

Il-ktieb *Remembering Sette Giugno 1919* ta' Dr Alexander Cutajar, studjuż tal-istorja u għalliem, ġie mniedi fil-binja tal-Parlament fis-6 ta' Ġunju. Fl-indirizz tiegħu, l-Ispeaker qal li għandu jikber l-għarfien fost il-poplu Malti u Għawdxi dwar l-importanza tal-ġrajjiet tas-Sette Giugno 1919. Din l-okkażjoni ġiet indirizzata wkoll mill-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol l-Onor. Evarist Bartolo, mill-Whip tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Robert Cutajar, mill-Prof. George Cassar, mis-Sur Gordon Pisani u mill-awtur tal-ktieb stess Dr Alexander Cutajar.

Il-ktieb *X'kien ġara sew fis-Sette Giugno* tal-Prof. Paul Bartolo ġie mniedi fil-binja tal-Parlament fis-27 ta' Ġunju. Waqt din it-tnedija, l-Ispeaker qabbel il-kuraġġ li wassal il-Maltin biex jiġġieldu għad-dritijiet tagħhom, mal-għaqal, id-dehen u l-maturità politika li wassluhom biex jassumu responsabilitajiet oħra, speċjalment bis-sħubija fl-Unjoni Ewropea. Waqt din l-okkażjoni tkellmu wkoll is-Sur Joseph Mizzi, il-Prof. Henry Frendo, il-Prof. Ray Mangion, il-Prof. Yosanne Vella u l-awtur innifsu, il-Prof. Paul Bartolo.

Fis-7 ta' Ġunju, fuq inizjattiva tal-Parlament Malti, ġiet iċċelebrata quddiesa b'suffraġju għall-vittmi tas-Sette Giugno fil-kappella taċ-ċimiterju tal-Addolorata. Il-quddiesa ġiet ikkonċelebrata mill-Arċisqof ta' Malta Charles J. Scicluna, mill-Arċisqof Emeritu Pawlu Cremona u mill-Isqof ta' Għawdex Mario Grech. Preżenti għal din il-quddiesa kien hemm l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, diversi Membri Parlamentari, qraba tal-vittmi tas-Sette Giugno u persuni distinti oħra. Minnufih wara l-quddiesa, dawk preżenti mxew f'korteo lejn il-monument fejn hemm midfuna l-erba' vittmi tas-Sette Giugno. Waqt ċerimonja qasira, li inkludiet talb u tqegħid ta' kuruni, ġiet osservata minuta silenzju f'ġieħ dawk midruba fl-irvellijiet.

Parliamentary Activities (Cont.)

The Sette Giugno Centenary

This year, Malta commemorated the centenary of the Sette Giugno riots, events closely associated with Malta's democratic and parliamentary progress. In view of this association, Parliament organised various activities to commemorate the events.

On 6 June, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia led the annual official Sette Giugno ceremony, held in front of the Sette Giugno monument in St George's Square, Valletta. Prime Minister Hon. Joseph Muscat, Opposition Leader Hon. Adrian Delia and relatives of the Sette Giugno victims were among the distinguished guests who attended the ceremony, during which the Speaker highlighted the importance of respecting the hardship endured by those who lost their lives, suffered injuries or were imprisoned, while fighting for rights still enjoyed today. The entire speech can be found in pages 40-43 of this issue.

An exhibition 'Culhat al Belt' was held in the Parliament building in collaboration with Heritage Malta and the National Celebrations Foundation. The name reflects the cry that on 7 June 1919 instigated the Maltese people to go to Valletta to fight for their rights. Opening the exhibition, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia remarked that this exhibition paid tribute to the memory of those who wrote Malta's democratic history, while recalling the fact that rights enjoyed today were granted thanks to other people's suffering. The Speaker called for reflection on the state of democracy in Malta and how it can continue to be strengthened. The opening ceremony was also addressed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health Hon. Chris Fearne, Opposition Leader Hon. Adrian Delia, Fr Anthony Sciberras MSSP and Mr Kenneth Gambin from Heritage Malta.

The book *Remembering Sette Giugno 1919*, authored by Dr Alexander Cutajar, a history scholar and teacher, was launched in the Parliament building on 6 June. In his address, the Speaker stated that Maltese and Gozitan people should be sensitised of the importance of the Sette Giugno 1919 events. Minister for Education and Employment Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Opposition Whip Hon. Robert Cutajar, Prof. George Cassar, Mr Gordon Pisani and the author Dr Alexander Cutajar also addressed the audience during the book launch.

The book *X'kien ġara sew fis-Sette Giugno* (what happened exactly during the Sette Giugno) by Prof. Paul Bartolo was launched in the Parliament building on 27 June. During the launch, the Speaker compared the courage, which led Maltese people to fight for their rights, with the wisdom, foresight and political maturity that led them to assume other responsibilities, especially those stemming from Malta's accession to the European Union. The occasion was also addressed by Mr Joseph Mizzi, Prof. Henry Frendo, Prof. Ray Mangion, Prof. Yosanne Vella and the author Prof. Paul Bartolo.

On 7 June, on the initiative of the Maltese Parliament, a mass was celebrated for the repose of the Sette Giugno victims in the chapel of the Addolorata cemetery. The Mass was concelebrated by the Archbishop of Malta Charles J. Scicluna, Archbishop Emeritus Paul Cremona and Gozo Bishop Mario Grech. The Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, a number of Members of Parliament, relatives of the Sette Giugno victims and other distinguished persons attended the mass. Immediately after the mass, those present walked towards the monument where the four Sette Giugno victims are buried. During a brief ceremony, which included prayers and laying of wreaths, a minute of silence was observed in honour of those injured during the events.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

Tnedija tal-ktieb *Jiena Thomas*

Ktieb dwar il-ħajja ta' San Tumas More, intitolat *Jiena Thomas*, u miktub minn Patri Thomas Moore, tnieda fl-10 ta' Lulju fil-binja tal-Parlament. L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia spjega li l-onestà ta' San Tumas More wasslet għall-martirju tiegħu, u rrakommanda l-ktieb lil kull min hu interessat fil-politika peress li San Tumas More huwa l-qaddis patrun tal-politiċi u tal-istatisti.

L-attività ġiet indirizzata wkoll mill-awtur tal-ktieb Patri Thomas Moore, mid-Deputy Speaker l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg u mid-Deputy Whip tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Frederick Azzopardi.

Tnedija uffiċjali tal-kors ta' studju MA in Contemporary Family Studies

Fil-11 ta' Lulju l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia mexxa t-tnedija ta' kors ġdid fl-Università ta' Malta: MA in Contemporary Family Studies. Fid-diskors tiegħu, l-Ispeaker saħaq fuq l-importanza tal-familja bħala istituzzjoni soċjali. L-Ispeaker kompla jispjega li l-familja hija ambjent ta' mħabba u protezzjoni fejn l-ulied jitrawmu sabiex isiru s-soċjetà ta' għada; struttura ekonomika fejn ix-xogħol jitqassam skont il-ħiliet tal-individwu; kif ukoll skola fejn l-ulied jingħataw it-tagħlim u l-valuri neċessarji għall-ħajja. Dawn il-karatteristiċi jagħmlu l-familja waħda mill-pilastri ewlenin tas-soċjetà, tant li familji b'saħħithom jirriflettu soċjetà sana. L-Ispeaker Farrugia awgura li ssir aktar riċerka dwar il-familja sabiex l-isfidi kontemporanji tagħha jkunu mifhuma aħjar sabiex jiġu stabbiliti miżuri ta' għajnuna xierqa u f'waqtha. Għalhekk, l-Ispeaker tenna l-interess li l-Parlament ta' Malta jkun sieħeb speċjali ta' istituzzjonijiet edukattivi u tas-soċjetà ċivili.

L-attività ġiet indirizzata mill-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol l-Onor. Evarist Bartolo u mill-Kelliem Ewlieni għall-Oppożizzjoni dwar il-Benesseri tal-Familja, is-Solidarjetà Soċjali, il-Pensjonijiet, id-Drittijiet tat-Tfal, u tat-Tarbija fil-Ġuf l-Onor. Claudio Grech.

Parliamentary Activities (Cont.)

Launch of book Jiena Thomas

A book on the life of St Thomas More, *Jiena Thomas* (I am Thomas) and authored by Brother Thomas Moore, was launched on 10 July in the Parliament building. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia explained that St Thomas More's honesty led to his martyrdom, and advised that, as St Thomas More is the patron saint of politicians and statesmen, this book should be of interest to all those interested in politics.

The event was also addressed by the author of the book, Brother Thomas Moore, the Deputy Speaker Hon. Claudette Buttigieg and the Deputy Whip of the Opposition Hon. Frederick Azzopardi.

Official launch of the MA course in Contemporary Family Studies

On 11 July Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presided over the launch of a new course at the University of Malta: MA in Contemporary Family Studies. In his speech, the Speaker stressed the importance of the family as a social institution. Elaborating, Speaker Farrugia described the family as a loving and protective environment where humanity is renewed and where children are nurtured into tomorrow's society; as an economic unit where work is distributed according to individual skills; as well as a school where children receive education and values necessary for life. These characteristics make the family one of society's main pillars, such that strong families reflect society's wellbeing. Speaker Farrugia called for more research on the family with a view to better understand its contemporary challenges so that appropriate and timely support measures can be established. For this reason, the Speaker reiterated the Maltese Parliament's interest in being a special partner with educational establishments and civil society organizations.

The activity was also addressed by the Minister for Education and Employment Hon. Evarist Bartolo and the Opposition spokesperson on Family Welfare, Social Solidarity, Pensions, Children's Rights, and the Unborn Child Hon. Claudio Grech.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

Tfal u żgħażagħ jiddiskutu mal-Membri Parlamentari Ewropej

Fit-12 ta' Lulju, tfal u żgħażagħ iddiskutew il-prijoritajiet tagħhom mal-Membri Maltin li kienu għadhom kif ġew eletti fil-Parlament Ewropew.Huma ffukaw fuq l-esklużjoni soċjali, l-edukazzjoni, l-ambjent, is-saħħa u l-ugwaljanza. L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia, li mexxa l-attività, qal illi huwa jemmen li l-Parlament għandu jkun miftuħ għall-poplu, sabiex in-nies ikunu jistgħu jesprimu l-ideat u l-proposti tagħhom. Il-President Emeritu u President tal-Fondazzjoni ta' Malta għall-Ġid tas-Soċjetà Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca argumentat illi għandu jiġi stabbilit Kummissarju Ewropew għat-Tfal, li r-rwol tiegħu ikun li jħares id-drittijiet tat-tfal fl-UE.

Il-Membri Parlamentari Ewropej Maltin Dr Miriam Dalli, Dr Alfred Sant, Dr Roberta Metsola, Dr Alex Agius Saliba u Dr Josianne Cutajar ħadu sehem fil-laqgħa.

Skolasajf fil-Parlament 2019

Tfal miċ-ċentri ta' Skolasajf fil-Mellieħa, in-Naxxar u Raħal Ġdid ipparteċipaw f'edizzjoni oħra ta' Skolasajf fil-Parlament, li saret fit-2 ta' Settembru. Matul din l-attività, it-tfal tellgħu reċta u ddiskutew diversi aspetti tal-miri tal-iżvilupp sostenibbli mal-Membri Parlamentari. B'mod partikolari, iddiskutew il-ħarsien tal-ambjent, il-bżonn li jiżdiedu u jiġu mħarsa s-siġar f'pajjiżna, is-saħħa fl-iskejjel, it-trasport u l-enerġija minn sorsi rinovabbli.

Fid-diskors tiegħu, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia tenna kif f'pajjiż bħal Malta, li qed jaspira għal aktar progress, l-awtoritajiet għandhom jimpenjaw ruħhom biex jipproteġu u jħarsu l-ambjent, kemm naturali kif ukoll urban, fl-bliet u l-irħula tagħna. Huwa semma l-bżonn ta' arja pura u nadifa, spazji pubbliċi għar-rikreazzjoni, siġar li jħaddru u ġonna miżmuma tajjeb, fejn il-poplu jkun jista' jgawdi l-indafa, japprezza l-wirt storiku u artistiku, u jieħu sehem f'attività fiżika u sportiva. L-iskop ta' dan kollu hu li l-poplu Malti jikber fil-bżulija, fl-indafa u jkun fiżikament b'saħħtu.

Din l-attività kienet organizzata mill-Parlament ta' Malta flimkien mal-Fondazzjoni Servizzi Edukattivi, l-Aġenzija Programmi tal-Unjoni Ewropea, u l-Fondazzjoni Maltija għall-Ġid tas-Soċjetà. Din l-attività ġiet indirizzata mill-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol l-Onor. Evarist Bartolo, mill-Membri Parlamentari l-Onor. David Agius, l-Onor. Robert Cutajar, l-Onor. Alex Muscat, l-Onor. Clyde Puli, l-Onor. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, kif ukoll mill-President Emeritu, is-Sinjura Marie Louise-Coleiro Preca, President tal-Fondazzjoni Maltija għall-Ġid tas-Soċjetà.

Parliamentary Activities (Cont.)

Children and young people hold a discussion with the Members of the European Parliament

On 12 July, children and young people discussed their priorities with newly-elected Maltese Members of the European Parliament, focusing on social exclusion, education, environment, health and equality. Presiding over the meeting, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia expressed the view that Parliament should be open to the public, enabling them to express their ideas and proposals. President Emeritus and Chair of the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca called for the establishment of a European Commissioner for Children, whose role would be to help safeguard children's rights across the EU.

Maltese Members of the European Parliament Dr Miriam Dalli, Dr Alfred Sant, Dr Roberta Metsola, Dr Alex Agius Saliba and Dr Josianne Cutajar participated in the meeting.

Skolasajf in Parliament 2019

Children from Skolasajf centres in Mellieħa, Naxxar and Paola attended another edition of Skolasajf fil-Parlament, held on 2 September. During this activity, the children presented a play and discussed various aspects of sustainable development goals with Members of Parliament, including the protection of the environment, the need to increase and protect trees, health at school, transport and energy from renewable sources.

In his remarks, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia reiterated that in a country like Malta, which is working towards further progress, the authorities should endeavor to protect and preserve the environment, both natural and urban, in the towns and villages. He mentioned the need for pure and clean air, public spaces for recreation, trees and well-kept gardens, where people can enjoy the cleanliness, appreciate the historical and artistic heritage, and take part in physical activity and sports. The aim of all this is for the Maltese people to become more diligent and respect cleanliness, whilst keeping physically fit.

This activity was organized by the Parliament of Malta in conjunction with the Foundation for Educational Services, the European Union Programs Agency, and the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society. This activity was addressed by the Minister for Education and Employment Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Members of Parliament Hon. David Agius, Hon. Robert Cutajar, Hon. Alex Muscat, Hon. Clyde Puli, and Hon. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, as well as President Emeritus Ms Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

Parlament taż-Żgħażagħ 2019

Id-Deputy Speaker Claudette Buttigieg mexxiet l-attività ta' din is-sena tal-Parlament taż-Żgħażagħ, b'żewġ sessjonijiet li saru fil-11 ta' Settembru – waħda għall-adolexxenti u l-oħra għaż-żgħażagħ li għandhom 'il fuq minn dsatax-il sena.

Fl-introduzzjoni tagħha, id-Deputy Speaker uriet l-apprezzament tagħha lejn ix-xewqa tal-adolexxenti u ż-żgħażagħ li jiskopru x'kontribut jistgħu jagħtu għall-iżvilupp ta' pajjiżna, u l-impatt li dan il-kontribut jista' jħalli fl-iżvilupp tal-politika Ewropea u Mediterranja. L-Onor. Buttigieg qalet illi minkejja li aħna poplu żgħir, il-fehmiet u l-opinjonijiet tagħna xorta waħda huma nisġa tal-ħsieb Ewropew u dak Ewro-Mediterranju.

Matul din l-edizzjoni tal-Parlament taż-Żgħażagħ, dawk preżenti ttrattaw numru ta' suġġetti, fosthom l-implimentazzjoni tal-edukazzjoni ċivika, l-ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi, il-plastik li jintuża darba, l-intelliġenza artifiċjali, l-użu tat-teknoloġija għall-iżvilupp sostenibbli, u s-sistema edukattiva.

Matul id-diskussjoni ħadu sehem ukoll l-Onor. Clifton Grima, Segretarju Parlamentari għaż-Żgħażagħ, Sport u Għaqdiet Volontarji, u l-Membri Parlamentari l-Onor. David Agius, l-Onor. Ivan Bartolo, l-Onor. Ryan Callus, l-Onor. Rosianne Cutajar u l-Onor. Karl Gouder.

Ċerimonja tal-għeluq tal-MaltMUN 2019

Fil-15 ta' Settembru, l-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia indirizza ċ-ċerimonja tal-għeluq tal-Malta Model United Nations (MaltMUN) ta' din is-sena, u ppreżenta premjijiet lill-parteċipanti. L-Ispeaker laqa' s-sens ta' inizjattiva u enerġija tas-Soċjetà li tgħin żgħażagħ u professjonisti żgħar jiddiskutu temi internazzjonali f'konferenza li tiffoka fuq il-Ġnus Magħquda, filwaqt li tħeġġiġhom biex jiżviluppaw ħiliet organizzattivi u diplomatiċi, kif ukoll kapaċità li jitħaddtu fil-pubbliku. L-Ispeaker qal li t-tema ġenerali tal-konferenza ta' din is-sena, Ego vs Leadership, tpoġġi f'kuntest l-isfidi differenti li qed jiffaċċjaw is-soċjetajiet tagħna. L-Onor. Farrugia tkellem dwar ir-realtà tal-bidla fil-klima, u rrefera għad-dikjarazzjonijiet magħmula minn Sir David Attenborough u l-attivista żagħżugħa dwar il-bidla fil-klima Greta Thunberg. Hu qal ukoll li dawn il-mexxejja ħadmu b'mod altruwist u eżemplari, lil hinn mit-tentazzjoni li jaqdu lilhom infushom. Filwaqt li ż-żgħażagħ jafu jkunu pjuttost idealisti, huwa proprju dan l-idealiżmu li jippermetti l-bidla. L-Ispeaker qal li t-tibdil fil-klima jeħtieġ tmexxija żagħżugħa li tinkoraġġixxi lil kulħadd jieħu miżuri urġenti koordinati sabiex it-temperatura tinżamm baxxa kemm jista' jkun. L-Ispeaker semma sfidi oħra li jeħtieġu tmexxija żagħżugħa, inkluż l-impatt tal-intelliġenza artifiċjali, li tipprovdi kemm sfidi kif ukoll opportunitajiet. Fi tmiem id-diskors tiegħu, l-Ispeaker ħeġġeġ lil dawk preżenti sabiex ikomplu bil-ħidma tagħhom sabiex ikomplu jiżviluppaw il-ħiliet tat-tmexxija, filwaqt li faħħar l-enerġija u l-impenn tagħhom fis-soċjetà.

Parliamentary Activities (Cont.)

Youth Parliament 2019

Deputy Speaker Claudette Buttigieg presided over this year's Youth Parliament, comprising two sessions held on 11 September – one for adolescents and another for young people aged nineteen years and over.

In her introduction, the Deputy Speaker showed her appreciation for the initiative taken by adolescents and young people in finding out what contribution they can give to our country's development, and the impact that this contribution may leave in the development of European and Mediterranean policy. Hon. Buttigieg said that although we are a small nation, our views and opinions are still part of the wider European and Euro-Mediterranean context.

During this edition of the Youth Parliament, a number of topics were discussed, including the implementation of civic education, gender equality, single use plastics, artificial intelligence, the use of technology for sustainable development, and the education system. Hon. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organizations, and Members of Parliament Hon. David Agius, Hon. Ivan Bartolo, Hon. Ryan Callus, Hon. Rosianne Cutajar and Hon. Karl Gouder also participated in the discussion.

Closing ceremony of the 2019 MaltMUN

On 15 September the Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia addressed the closing ceremony of this year's Malta Model United Nations (MaltMUN) Society and presented awards to the participants. The Speaker welcomed the Society's sense of initiative and energy that helps youth and young professionals discuss international issues in a UN-focused conference, whilst also encouraging them to develop organisational, public-speaking and diplomacy skills. The Speaker said that the overarching theme of this year's event, Ego vs. Leadership, has framed the context of the numerous challenges that our societies are facing. Hon. Farrugia spoke about the reality of climate change, referring to the strong statements made by Sir David Attenborough and young climate change activist Greta Thunberg. He further stated that these leaders showed altruistic and exemplary actions while distancing themselves from self-serving actions. While young people may be more idealistic, it is this idealism which enables change. The Speaker said that climate change requires young leadership to encourage everyone to take urgent concerted measures to keep the increase in temperature as low as possible. The Speaker pointed out other challenges that require young leadership, including the impact of artificial intelligence, which provides numerous challenges together with countless opportunities. In his concluding remarks, the Speaker urged those present to continue in their pursuit of further developing leadership skills, while commending their energy and engagement in society.

LAQGĦA TAL-GRUPP TA' ĦBIBERIJA TAL-PARLAMENTI MALTA-ĠAPPUN

Il-Grupp Parlamentari ta' Ħbiberija bejn Malta u l-Ġappun iltaqa' fil-Kamra tad-Deputati fit-23 ta' Settembru sabiex jiddiskuti kwistjonijiet ta' interess komuni għaż-żewġ pajjiżi, flimkien ma' inizjattivi li jistgħu jtejbu r-relazzjonijiet bilaterali. Is-suġġetti diskussi kienu t-turiżmu, il-ħtieġa għal trattat dwar tassazzjoni doppja, inizjattivi relatati mal-innovazzjoni u l-possibilità ta' ġemellaġġ bejn il-kunsilli lokali. Ġew diskussi wkoll opportunitajiet ta' xogħol u boroż ta' studju għall-ispiżjara Ġappuniżi mal-Awtorità Maltija dwar il-Mediċini. Iż-żewġ naħat qablu li għalkemm iż-żewġ pajjiżi huma 'l bogħod minn xulxin, hemm diversi kwistjonijiet komuni li jistgħu jiġu indirizzati, speċjalment fir-rigward tat-tniġġis tal-baħar u l-ħtieġa li tiġi indirizzata l-preżenza eċċessiva ta' skart tal-plastik. Matul il-laqgħa, dawk preżenti semmew ukoll il-possibbiltà ta' iktar attività kummerċjali u ekonomika li tirriżulta mill-Ftehim Kummerċjali bejn l-UE u l-Ġappun.

Id-delegazzjoni Maltija kienet magħmula mill-Membri Parlamentari l-Onor. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Kap tad-Delegazzjoni, l-Onor. Deo Debattista, l-Onor. Clayton Bartolo, l-Onor. Robert Cutajar u l-Onor. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici. Il-grupp tal-Ġappun kien magħmul minn Jin Matsubara, Kap tad-Delegazzjoni, Shunsuke Mutai, Yuhei Yamashita u s-Sur Kimitoshi Kubo, Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Korporazzjoni Pise u Konsulent tal-Grupp Parlamentari ta' Ħbiberija bejn Malta u l-Ġappun. L-ET Keiichi Katakami, Ambaxxatur tal-Ġappun għal Malta, kien preżenti wkoll għal din il-laqgħa.

SCIENCE IN THE HOUSE 2019

Fis-26 ta' Settembru id-Deputy Speaker l-Onor. Claudette Buttigieg inawgurat il-wirja ta' programmi ta' riċerka xjentifika u studji 'Science in the House 2019' fil-Parlament ta' Malta. Din il-wirja ġiet imtellgħa fil-binja tal-Parlament mill-European Researchers' Night/Science in the City Consortium u hi parti mill-inizjattiva Ewropea 'Science in the City', intiża sabiex iżżid l-interess fi programmi ta' studju u riċerka xjentifika fost il-poplu Malti.

Fid-diskors tagħha, id-Deputy Speaker saħqet dwar l-importanza tal-istudju tax-xjenza bil-għan li titjieb il-ħajja umana. L-Onor. Buttigieg saħqet illi studji u programmi ta' riċerka xjentifika għandhom jagħmlu parti minn pjan ta' azzjoni sabiex jinstabu rimedji għan-nuqqasijiet li għad hawn madwar id-dinja, inkluż il-faqar, l-illitteriżmu, l-aċċess għall-kura medika, il-ġlieda kontra kull forma ta' diskriminazzjoni, l-isfidi tat-tibdil tal-klima, it-tisħiħ tal-prinċipji u l-valuri tad-demokrazija parlamentari, il-ġustizzja u l-ordni soċjali. Għalhekk, kull studju u programm ta' riċerka xjentifika għandu jqiegħed it-titjib tal-għajxien tal-bniedem bħala l-għan aħħari tiegħu.

MEETING OF THE MALTA-JAPAN PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Malta-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group met at the House of Representatives on 23 September to discuss issues of mutual interest for both countries and initiatives that have the potential to enhance bilateral relations. The subjects discussed included tourism, the need for a double taxation treaty, initiatives related to innovation and the possible twinning between local councils. Opportunities of engagement and fellowships for Japanese pharmacists with the Malta Medicines Authority were also discussed. Both sides agreed that although the two countries are far away from each other, there are various common issues that can be addressed, particularly with regard to sea pollution and the need to address the excessive presence of plastic waste. During the meeting, those present also remarked about the possibility of greater trade and economic activity resulting from the EU-Japan Trade Agreement.

The Maltese side was represented by Members of Parliament Hon. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Head of Delegation, Hon. Deo Debattista, Hon. Clayton Bartolo, Hon. Robert Cutajar and Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici. The Japanese side was represented by Jin Matsubara, Head of Delegation, Shunsuke Mutai, Yuhei Yamashita and Mr Kimitoshi Kubo, CEO of Pise Corporation and Adviser to the Japan-Malta Parliamentary Friendship Group. HE Keiichi Katakami, Ambassador of Japan to Malta, was also present.

SCIENCE IN THE HOUSE 2019

On 26 September the Deputy Speaker Hon. Claudette Buttigieg inaugurated the 'Science in the House 2019' exhibition, displaying scientific study and research programmes. This exhibition was organized in the Parliament building by the European Researchers' Night/Science in the City Consortium and is part of the European initiative 'Science in the City', which is meant to increase the interest of the Maltese people in study programmes and scientific research.

In her speech, the Deputy Speaker stressed the importance of the study of science with the aim of improving human life. Hon. Buttigieg said that scientific research and study should be part of an action plan to find solutions for problems that are still present worldwide, including poverty, illiteracy, access to medical care, the fight against all forms of discrimination, the challenges of climate change, strengthening the principles and values of parliamentary democracy, justice and social order. Thus, all scientific research and study programmes should make the improvement of human livelihood as its ultimate goal.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

Is-Sitt Sessjoni tal-Parlament tan-Nanniet

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia mexxa s-Sitt Sessjoni tal-Parlament tan-Nanniet, li nżammet fil-binja tal-Parlament fit-30 ta' Settembru. Fid-diskors tal-ftuħ l-Ispeaker qal li l-Parlament tan-Nanniet għandu jitqies bħala djalogu informali bejn il-Membri Parlamentari u n-nanniet. Huwa ddeskriva lill-ġenituri bħala parti mill-patrimonju nazzjonali ta' pajjiżna għaliex huma sawru fit-tfal tagħhom l-aħjar valuri. F'għeluq id-diskors tiegħu huwa qal li kull ħidma fis-soċjetà tagħna għandha tkun mezz li tgħaqqad flimkien ġenerazzjonijiet differenti. Dan għandu jimlina b'kuraġġ u jgħinna nħarsu lejn il-futur ta' pajjiżna b'ottimiżmu. Waqt din il-laqgħa, ġew diskussi suġġetti varji li jolqtu lin-nanniet, inkluż l-impatt ta' parental alienation fit-tfulija; servizzi lill-anzjani miċ-Ċentri Leap; il-programm 'Befriending'; is-solitudni u l-abbandun; kollaborazzjoni bejn Nanniet Malta u l-kunsilli lokali; is-sehem tan-nanniet fl-Ewropa, u l-kultura bħala mezz ta' kura fost l-anzjani.

Is-sessjoni tal-Parlament tan-Nanniet ġiet indirizzata mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għal Persuni b'Diżabilità u Anzjanità Attiva, l-Onor. Anthony Agius Decelis, kif ukoll mill-Membri Parlamentari l-Onor. Ivan Bartolo u l-Onor. Robert Cutajar.

Notte Bianca 2019

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia ħa l-okkażjoni li jiltaqa' mal-pubbliku hekk kif għal sena oħra l-Parlament reġa' fetaħ il-bibien tiegħu waqt l-attività tan-Notte Bianca. Bħalma ġara fis-snin ta' qabel, il-pubbliku kkonkorra bi ħġaru u ħa l-opportunità biex filwaqt li jdur il-binja u japprezza x-xogħol u d-disinn tal-perit rinomat Renzo Piano, isir aktar konxju tal-ħidma li ssir mid-Deputati li jirrappreżentawh f'din l-istituzzjoni. Kull min attenda ngħata wkoll tagħrif dwar dak li hu meqjus il-bidu uffiċjali tad-demokrazija parlamentari f'Malta, wara l-avvenimenti li ġraw fis-Sette Giugno tal-1919, u li l-Parlament Malti kien għadu kif fakkar il-mitt sena tagħhom. Kull min żar il-Parlament seta' jara wkoll wirja ta' proġetti ta' riċerka xjentifika li ssir minn studenti universitarji u li tittella' ta' kull sena fil-binja tal-Parlament bħala parti mill-attivitajiet ta' Science in the City. Il-pubbliku seta' jiltaqa' wkoll mal-għalliema tal-Iskola Giovanni Curmi tan-Naxxar li pprovdew informazzjoni dwar il-korsijiet li toffri din l-iskola.

Parliamentary Activities (Cont.)

Sixth Session of the Parliament for Grandparents

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presided over the Sixth Session of the Parliament for Grandparents, held in the Parliament building on 30 September. In the opening speech, the Speaker said that the Parliament for Grandparents should be regarded as an informal dialogue between Members of Parliament and grandparents. He described parents as part of our national heritage because they instilled the best values in their children. In his conclusion, he said that all the work done in our society, should be a means of bringing different generations together. This should fill us with hope and help us look at our country's future with optimism. The event addressed a number of issues that affect grandparents, including the impact of parental alienation in childhood; services offered by Leap Centres to the elderly; the 'Befriending' program; loneliness and abandonment; collaboration between Nanniet Malta and local councils; the contribution of grandparents in Europe, and culture as a means of care among the elderly.

This year's Parliament for Grandparents was addressed by Parliamentary Secretary for Persons with Disability and Active Aging Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis, as well as Members of Parliament Hon. Ivan Bartolo and Hon. Robert Cutajar.

Notte Bianca 2019

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon. Anġlu Farrugia had the opportunity to meet with the visitors during this year's Notte Bianca activity during which Parliament also opened its doors to the public. As in previous years, there was a large number of visitors who took the opportunity to tour the building and to admire the work and design of renowned architect Renzo Piano, while learning more about the work carried out by the Members of Parliament who represent them. Those who attended, were also given information about what is considered to be the official start of parliamentary democracy in Malta, following the events that took place on the 1919 Sette Giugno, the centenary of which had just been commemorated by the Maltese Parliament. Visitors could also view an exhibition of scientific research projects by university students and held every year in the Parliament building as part of the Science in the City activities. The public could also meet with teachers from the Giovanni Curmi School in Naxxar, who provided information about the courses offered by this school.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

Parlament għas-Solidarjetà bejn il-Ġenerazzjonijiet 2019

L-Ispeaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, l-Onor. Anġlu Farruġia, mexxa s-sessjoni tal-2019 tal-Parlament Solidarjetà bejn il-Ġenerazzjonijiet 2019, li nżammet fis-7 ta' Ottubru fil-binja tal-Parlament. Fid-diskors tiegħu, l-Ispeaker għamel referenza għad-Dikjarazzjoni Universali tad-Drittijiet u l-Libertajiet tal-Bniedem tal-1948, li tobbliga l-membri tal-Għnus Magħquda jirrispettaw id-drittijiet u l-libertajiet ta' kull persuna, filwaqt li wera x-xewqa li kull persuna fis-soċjetà tgħix ħajja dinjituża. Huwa semma wkoll l-impenn tal-Istati Membri li jieħdu miżuri tanġibbli li jiżguraw l-għajxien xieraq u dinjituż ta' kull persuna. L-Ispeaker Farruġia fakkar li l-poplu għandu jagħraf il-livell għoli ta' żvilupp li nkiseb mill-poplu Malti tul is-snin, u dan minkejja r-riżorsi limitati f' Malta. Hu qal li l-progress inkiseb għaliex il-poplu Malti huwa poplu għaqli, ħabrieki, bieżel u jħobb is-sliem u l-paċi fid-dinja u għandu jħares lejn il-ġejjieni tiegħu b'fiduċja u jibni l-ġejjieni tiegħu fuq is-suċċessi tal-imgħoddi u tal-preżent.

Is-sessjoni ġiet indirizzata wkoll mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għaż-Żgħażagħ, Sport u Għaqdiet Volontarji, l-Onor. Clifton Grima, mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għal Persuni b'Diżabilità u Anzjanità Attiva, l-Onor. Anthony Agius Decelis, kif ukoll mill-Membri Parlamentari l-Onor. Ryan Callus u l-Onor. Maria Deguara.

Konferenza Nazzjonali dwar l-Artrite 2019

Il-Parlament ospita l-Konferenza Nazzjonali dwar l-Artrite 2019 fil-Kamra tad-Deputati, attività mtellgħa fil-21 ta' Ottubru flimkien mal-Assoċjazzjoni Maltija dwar l-Artrite u Rewmatiżmu (ARAM).

Fid-diskors tal-ftuħ, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia qal li meta l-Parlament jospita attivitajiet ta' dan it-tip, ikun qed jippermetti li l-Membri Parlamentari jsiru iktar konxji ta' ċerti bżonnijiet fil-pajjiż, u meta jkunu ser ifasslu politika jew jilleġiżlaw fuq il-materja, ikunu ħadu inkonsiderazzjoni vuċijiet li forsi mhux dejjem ikollhom l-opportunità li jinstemgħu. L-Onor. Farrugia qal li f'Malta hawn eluf ta' persuni milquta mill-kundizzjoni medika tal-artrite u r-rewmatiżmu, filwaqt li rrefera għall-kampanja tal-2019 tal-European League Against Rheumatism, li tenfasizza l-bżonn li min iħaddem jagħti appoġġ lill-impjegati li qegħdin jiġġieldu kundizzjonijiet rewmatiċi u muskoloskeletali, għaliex bil-kura neċessarja u ftit għajnuna dawn l-impjegati jkollhom il-potenzjal li jikkontribwixxu b'mod sħiħ fid-dinja tax-xogħol.

F'din il-konferenza ħadu sehem numru ta' persuni milquta minn kundizzjonijiet rewmatiċi u muskoloskeletali, il-korpi kostitwiti li jirrappreżentaw lin-negozjanti u lil min iħaddem, għaqdiet li jirrappreżentaw l-interessi tal-ħaddiema, il-Kummissarju għad-Drittijiet ta' Persuni b'Diżabilità, kif ukoll Mr Dieter Wiek, Viċi President tal-European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR). Il-konferenza ġiet indirizzata wkoll mill-Membri Parlamentari l-Onor. Maria Deguara, l-Onor. Silvio Grixti u l-Onor. Stephen Spiteri. Il-Membri Parlamentari Ewropej Maltin Dr Miriam Dalli, Dr Roberta Metsola u Dr Alfred Sant indirizzaw lill-parteċipanti permezz ta' messaġġi rekordjati.

mill-PARLAMENT - Diċembru 2019

Parliamentary Activities (Cont.)

Parliament for Inter-Generational Solidarity 2019

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Anġlu Farrugia, presided over the 2019 session of the Parliament for Inter-generational Solidarity, held on 7th October in the Parliament building. In his speech, the Speaker referred to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which obliges members of the United Nations to respect the rights and freedoms of each and every person. At the same time he expressed his wish that every person in society lives a dignified life. He also mentioned the commitment by Member States to take tangible measures that will ensure everyone has a dignified life. Speaker Farrugia said that we should not forget the high level of development that has been achieved by the Maltese people along the years, in spite of the limited resources in Malta. He said this progress has been achieved thanks to the wisdom and hard work of the Maltese people. Malta is a peaceful nation that wants worldwide peace and should look to its future with hope and ground it on its past and present successes.

The session was also addressed by Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organizations, Hon. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Persons with Disability and Active Aging, Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis, as well as Members of Parliament Hon. Ryan Callus and Hon. Maria Deguara.

National Conference on Arthritis 2019

Parliament hosted the 2019 National Conference on Arthritis in the House of Representatives. The activity took place on 21 October and was organized jointly with the Arthritis and Rheumatism Association Malta (ARAM).

In the opening speech, Speaker Anġlu Farrugia said that in hosting such activities, Parliament enables Members of Parliament to become more aware of certain needs in the country, and when they eventually establish a policy or legislate on the matter, they would have taken into account voices which might not always have the opportunity to be heard. Hon. Farrugia said that there are thousands of people affected by arthritis and rheumatism in Malta. He referred to the 2019 campaign by the European League Against Rheumatism, which stresses the need for employers to support employees with rheumatic and musculoskeletal conditions, since with the necessary care and a little help these employees have the potential to contribute fully in their place of work.

The conference was attended by persons suffering from rheumatic and musculoskeletal conditions, constituted bodies representing businesses and employers, organizations representing the interests of workers, the Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as Mr Dieter Wiek, Vice President of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR). The event was also addressed by Members of Parliament Hon. Maria Deguara, Hon. Silvio Grixti and Hon. Stephen Spiteri. Maltese MEPs Dr Miriam Dalli, Dr Roberta Metsola and Dr Alfred Sant addressed the participants through recorded messages.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

Żjara mill-ICT Steering Group tal-Parlament tal-Ghana

L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia ltaqa' mal-ICT Steering Group tal-Parlament tal-Ghana, li kien fuq żjara ta' studju ta' tlett ijiem fil-Parlament ta' Malta. Iż-żewġ naħat iddiskutew kwistjonijiet ta' interess komuni, inkluż il-mod ta' kif it-teknoloġija moderna qed tbiddel ix-xogħol tal-parlamenti. Huma ddiskutew ukoll il-possibbiltà ta' iktar kooperazzjoni bejn iż-żewġ parlamenti, kemm fuq livell politiku kif ukoll fuq dak amministrattiv, mhux biss waqt laqgħat interparlamentari fi ħdan l-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth iżda wkoll fuq bażi bilaterali. Matul din iż-żjara ta' studju d-delegazzjoni kellha l-opportunità li ssegwi l-ewwel parti ta' seduta parlamentari, tiltaqa' mal-Whips tal-Gvern u tal-Oppożizzjoni u mas-Software Developer tal-Parlament. Id-delegazzjoni kellha wkoll l-opportunità li tara l-faċilitajiet tal-ICT fil-binja tal-Parlament, kif ukoll tiltaqa' mal-uffiċjali inkarigati mit-traskrizzjoni u l-editjar tad-dibattiti parlamentari.

Id-delegazzjoni tal-Ghana kienet magħmula minn Ama Pomaa Boateng, Ko-President tal-Isteering Group u Membru Parlamentari, il-Membru Parlamentari Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah, kif ukoll uffiċjali għolja tal-ICT tal-Parlament tal-Ghana.

Jum Għawdex fil-Parlament Malti

Fil-5 ta' Novembru l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia mexxa laqgħa fejn membri parlamentari ngħaqdu ma' diversi rappreżentanti ta' assoċjazzjonijiet, korpi kostitwiti u għaqdiet tal-volontarjat sabiex fil-Parlament ta' Malta jiċċelebraw Jum Għawdex. Fid-diskors tiegħu, l-Ispeaker fakkar kif il-poplu Għawdxi jżomm fil-memorja tiegħu lill-patrijott Għawdxi l-Arċipriet Saverio Cassar u lil sħabu li fl-1789, mexxew l-imblokk tal-Franċiżi f'Għawdex u għal sentejn amministraw lil Għawdex bħala stat indipendenti. Hu faħħar ukoll id-determinazzjoni tal-patrijotti Għawdxin li flimkien ma' oħrajn Maltin, ħaduha kontra min seta' kien ta' theddida għall-identità tagħhom bħala nazzjon u poplu. Dawk preżenti tkellmu dwar Għawdex bħala reġjun, l-infrastruttura, l-impjiegi, l-ekonomija, l-intrapriża żgħira u medja, l-għaqdiet tal-volontarjat, it-turiżmu u l-ambjent f'Għawdex, kif ukoll dwar l-isfidi li jiltaqgħu magħhom iż-żgħażagħ u studenti Għawdxin, id-drittijiet tal-ħaddiema, is-saħħa u s-sigurtà fuq il-post tax-xogħol, il-prekarjat u l-integrazzjoni soċjali tal-barranin li jgħixu u jaħdmu f'Għawdex. Fl-għeluq, l-Ispeaker appella lill-awtoritajiet konċernati sabiex kull żvilupp f'Għawdex jirrispetta l-karattru partikolari ta' din il-gżira u li jitwettaq fl-interess u l-ġid komuni tal-poplu Malti u Għawdxi.

Il-konferenza kienet indirizzata mid-Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għas-Saħħa, l-Onor. Chris Fearne, mill-Ministru għal Għawdex, l-Onor. Justyne Caruana, mis-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Biedja, Sajd u Drittijiet tal-Annimali, l-Onor. Clint Camilleri, mill-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, l-Onor. Adrian Delia u mill-Onor. Marthese Portelli, filwaqt li għal din l-attività kienu preżenti wkoll il-Whip tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Robert Cutajar u l-Onor. Kevin Cutajar.

Parliamentary Activities (Cont.)

Visit by the ICT Steering Group of the Parliament of Ghana

Speaker Anġlu Farrugia met with the ICT Steering Group of the Parliament of Ghana, which was on a three-day study visit to the Parliament of Malta. Both sides discussed issues of mutual interest, including how modern technologies are shaping the work of parliaments. They also discussed the possibility of more cooperation between the two parliaments, both at a political and administrative level, not only during interparliamentary meetings within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association but also on a bilateral basis. The three-day study visit included the opportunity to follow the first part of a parliamentary sitting, a meeting with the Government and Opposition Parliamentary Whips, a meeting with the Parliament Software Developer and a tour of the ICT facilities in the Parliament building, and a meeting regarding the transcription and editing of parliamentary debates.

The Ghanian delegation comprised Ama Pomaa Boateng, Co-Chair of the Steering Group and Member of Parliament, Member of Parliament Emmanuel Kwasi Bedzrah, as well as senior and ICT officials of the Ghanaian Parliament.

Gozo Day in the Maltese Parliament

On 5 November Speaker Anġlu Farrugia presided over an event in which Members of Parliament joined several representatives of associations, constituted bodies and voluntary organizations to celebrate Gozo Day in the Maltese Parliament. In his speech, the Speaker reminded those present how the Gozitans cherish the memory of their Gozitan patriot, Archbishop Saverio Cassar and his associates, who in 1789 led the uprising against the French in Gozo, and administered Gozo as an independent state for two years. He also praised the determination of Gozitan patriots, who, together with their Maltese counterparts, faced up to those who could have threatened their identity as a nation. Those present spoke about Gozo as a region, its infrastructure, employment, economy, small and medium sized enterprises, voluntary organisations, tourism and the environment, as well as the challenges faced by young Gozitans, workers' rights, health and safety at the workplace, precarious work, and the social integration of foreigners who live and work in Gozo. In his closing remarks, the Speaker called on the relevant authorities to respect Gozo's particular characteristics and to ensure that any development in Gozo is carried out in the interest and for the common good of the Maltese and Gozitan people.

The conference was addressed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health, Hon. Chris Fearne, Minister for Gozo, Hon. Justyne Caruana, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights, Hon. Clint Camilleri, Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Adrian Delia and Hon. Marthese Portelli. Hon. Robert Cutajar, Whip of the Opposition, and Hon. Kevin Cutajar were also present for the event.

Attivitajiet tal-Parlament (Kont.)

Wirja tal-arti 'Sunlight'

Fis-6 ta' Novembru l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia inawgura wirja tal-arti fil-Parlament ta' Malta minn Anastasia Pace, bl-isem 'Sunlight - Contemporary Watermedia and Oil Paintings'. F'kelmtejn tal-okkażjoni, l-Ispeaker qal kif Malta tgawdi mid-dawl u mis-sħana tax-xemx tul is-sena kollha. Id-dawl u s-sħana, flimkien mal-ibħra ta' madwar il-gżejjer Maltin, huma elementi essenzjali tal-ħajja umana u dik ambjentali. L-Ispeaker saħaq fuq id-dmir tal-ħarsien tal-ħajja umana u tal-ambjent. Qal li għalkemm il-bniedem jagħmel tajjeb li jieħu inizjattivi ta' żvilupp, inkluż dak teknoloġiku, madanakollu għandu jara li ma jagħmilx ħsara irreparabbli lill-ħajja umana u lill-ambjent. L-Onor. Farrugia esprima x-xewqa tiegħu li aktar artisti u assoċjazzjonijiet fi ħdan is-soċjetà ċivili f'pajjiżna jersqu lejn il-Parlament, bil-għan li jissaħħu r-rabtiet bejn l-arti u l-politika għall-ġid tad-demokrazija f'pajjiżna. Permezz tal-espressjoni artistika, l-artist jista' jgħaddi messaġġi ċari u utli għad-diskussjoni fuq temi ta' interess ġenerali.

MEPEUROPE

Fil-11 ta' Novembru, l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia indirizza iktar minn 190 żagħżugħ u żagħżugħa mill-Unjoni Ewropea, li matul il-ġimgħa kienu qed jipparteċipaw fl-attivitajiet ta' MEPEUROPE, Model European Parliament. Dan il-programm edukattiv joffri opportunità liż-żgħażagħ li jitgħallmu dwar l-Unjoni Ewropea u l-proċess demokratiku tagħha. L-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia ddeskriva l-prassi u l-proċedura tal-Parlament Malti. Huwa ta ħarsa ġenerali wkoll lejn il-ħidma varjata li ssir milll-Membri Parlamentari, u tkellem dwar l-importanza tax-xogħol li jsir barra minn Malta fid-diversi fora interparlamentari li l-Parlament Malti huwa membru tagħhom. L-Ispeaker esprima l-apprezzament tiegħu li dawn iż-żgħażagħ qed jipparteċipaw f'dawn it-tip ta' programmi edukattivi f'età tant żgħira, għaliex għal uħud minnhom, dan jista' jkun l-ewwel pass biex 'il quddiem jibdew ifasslu l-liġijiet fil-pajjiżi rispettivi tagħhom.

Parliamentary Activities (Cont.)

'Sunlight' art exhibition

On 6 November Speaker Anġlu Farrugia inaugurated the art exhibition in the Parliament of Malta "Sunlight – Contemporary Watermedia and Oil Paintings" by Anastasia Pace. In his speech, the Speaker said that Malta enjoys the sun's light and heat throughout the year. Light and heat, along with the sea around the Maltese islands, are essential elements of human and environmental life. The Speaker stressed the duty of protecting human life and the environment. He said that although it is good for us to take development initiatives, including technological development, we should ensure that no irreparable damage is done to human life and to the environment. Hon. Farrugia expressed his wish for more artists and associations within civil society to approach Parliament, with a view to strengthen the links between art and politics for the strengthening of democracy in our country. Through artistic expression, the artist can convey clear and helpful messages for discussion on themes of general interest.

MEPEUROPE

On 11 November Speaker Anġlu Farrugia addressed more than 190 young persons, hailing from across the European Union, who throughout the week were participating in the activities of MEPEUROPE, Model European Parliament. This educational programme offers young people the opportunity to learn about the European Union and its democratic process. Speaker Anġlu Farrugia described the practice and procedure of the Maltese Parliament. He also gave an overview of the different aspects of the work carried out by Members of Parliament and spoke about the importance of their duties abroad in the various inter-parliamentary fora of which the Maltese Parliament is member. Speaker Farrugia expressed his appreciation that these youths were participating in such educational programmes at a young age, as for some of them, this could be the first step towards eventually become lawmakers in their respective countries.

Attivitajiet Internazzjonali

It-Tielet Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-PACE tal-2019

L-Onor. Emanuel Mallia mexxa d-delegazzjoni Maltija għat-Tielet Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-2019 tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa (PACE) li nżammet bejn l-24 u t-28 ta' Ġunju fi Strażburgu. Id-delegazzjoni inkludiet lill-Onor. Jason Azzopardi, l-Onor. Rosianne Cutajar, l-Onor. Etienne Grech, l-Onor. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici u l-Onor. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi. Għadd ta' sessjonijiet trattaw il-ġlieda kontra l-vjolenza fuq it-tfal, li matulhom il-parlamenti nazzjonali ġew imħeġġa jżidu l-involviment tagħhom fl-implimentazzjoni u l-monitoraġġ tal-mira 16.2 tal-Għanijiet ta' Żvilupp Sostenibbli (SDGs) biex jintemm l-abbuż, l-isfruttament, it-traffikar, it-tortura u forom oħra ta' vjolenza kontra t-tfal. L-Assemblea esprimiet ukoll it-tħassib tagħha dwar it-theddid serju li jiffaċċjaw it-tfal migranti fi triqthom lejn l-Ewropa u l-lakuni importanti li jidhru fil-politiki u l-proċeduri li jikkonċernaw din il-kwistjoni. L-Assemblea kellha wkoll diskussjonijiet dwar is-sitwazzjoni fis-Sirja u qablet li għandu jitkompla d-djalogu dwar il-monitoraġġ mal-Bulgarija. L-Assemblea kellha wkoll diskussjoni dwar ir-rapport dwar is-saltna tad-dritt f'Malta wara l-qtil tal-ġurnalista Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Ir-Raba' Laqgħa tal-Ispeakers tal-Parlamenti tal-Pajjiżi tal-Ewrasja

Id-Deputy Speaker Claudette Buttigieg ħadet sehem fir-Raba' Laqgħa tal-Kelliema tal-Parlamenti tal-Pajjiżi tal-Ewrasja f'Nur-Sultan, il-Każakstan, li nżammet fit-23 u l-24 ta' Settembru. Il-laqgħat tal-Ispeakers tal-Parlamenti tal-pajjiżi tal-Ewrasja jservu sabiex tinbena interazzjoni multilaterali diretta bejn il-membri tal-parlamenti tal-pajjiżi tal-Ewropa u tal-Asja, billi jestendu d-djalogu interparlamentari u jippromwovu koperazzjoni siewja bejn il-pajjiżi tal-Ewrasja.

Fl-indirizz tagħha, id-Deputy Speaker Buttigieg irrimarkat li l-fenomenu ta' Ewrasja magħquda huwa wieħed mill-fatturi ewlenin ta' ordni dinji ġdid. Il-kunflitti fl-Ewrasja dejjem kellhom implikazzjonijiet negattivi għad-dinja kollha. Meta tirrikonoxxi s-sinifikat tal-Ewrasja għall-kummerċ u l-ekonomija dinjija, f'nofs l-imminenza ta' gwerer kummerċjali, sanzjonijiet ekonomiċi u restrizzjonijiet kummerċjali, l-Ewrasja hija wkoll ċentrali għall-paċi globali. Hi żiedet tgħid li l-laqgħa għandha l-potenzjal li tkun il-punt tat-tluq għal koperazzjoni globali effettiva permezz ta' djalogu, fiduċja u sħubija. L-għodod leġiżlattivi għandhom is-saħħa li jrawmu l-fiduċja fost in-nazzjonijiet permezz ta' djalogu kontinwu u sħubijiet strateġiċi.

Id-Deputy Speaker Buttigieg iltaqgħet mal-Viċi President tar-Rajya Sabha, il-Kamra ta' fuq tal-Parlament Indjan, is-Sur Harivansh fil-marġini tal-laqgħa tal-Ispeakers tal-Pajjiżi tal-Ewrasja. Iż-żewġ dinjitarji tennew ir-relazzjonijiet b'saħħithom u kordjali li jeżistu bejn iż-żewġ pajjiżi u l-parlamenti rispettivi, u ddiskutew kwistjonijiet ta' interess komuni.

International Activities

Third Part of the 2019 Ordinary Session of the PACE

Hon. Emanuel Mallia led the Maltese delegation to the Third Part of the 2019 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) held between 24 and 28 June in Strasbourg. The delegation comprised Hon. Jason Azzopardi, Hon. Rosianne Cutajar, Hon. Etienne Grech, Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici and Hon. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi. A number of sessions dealt with the fight against violence against children, in which national parliaments were encouraged to step up their involvement in the implementation and monitoring of target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, torture and other forms of violence against children. The Assembly also expressed its concern about the serious threats faced by migrant children on their way to Europe and important gaps which appear to be lacking in the policies and procedures which concern this matter. The Assembly also held discussions on the situation in Syria and agreement to continue the post-monitoring dialogue with Bulgaria. The Assembly also held a discussion on the report concerning the rule of law in Malta following the assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

IV Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments

Deputy Speaker Claudette Buttigieg participated in the IV Meeting of Speakers of the Eurasian Countries' Parliaments in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, held on 23 and 24 September. The meetings of Speakers of the Eurasian countries' parliaments serve to build direct multilateral interaction between parliament members of European and Asian countries, extending inter-parliamentary dialogue and promoting fruitful cooperation between Eurasian countries.

In her address, Deputy Speaker Buttigieg remarked that the emergence of a coalescent Eurasia is one of the key features of the new world order. Conflicts in Eurasia have always had negative implications for the world. In recognising the significance of Eurasia for world trade and economy, amidst the impendence of trade wars, economic sanctions and trade restrictions, Eurasia is also central to global peace. She added that the meeting has the potential to be the point of departure for effective global cooperation through dialogue, trust and partnership. There is a premium on legislative tools to foster trust among nations through continuous dialogue and strategic partnerships.

Deputy Speaker Buttigieg met with the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the upper House of the Indian Parliament, Mr Harivansh in the margins of the meeting of Speakers of Eurasian countries. The two dignitaries reiterated the strong and cordial relations that exist between the two countries and the respective parliaments and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

L-64 Konferenza Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth u s-37 Konferenza tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA

Delegazzjoni parlamentari mmexxija mill-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia ħadet sehem fl-64 Konferenza Parlamentari Annwali tal-Commonwealth (CPC) u fis-37 Konferenza tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tal-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth (CPA), li saret f'Kampala, l-Uganda, bejn it-23 u d-29 ta' Settembru. Id-delegazzjoni kienet tinkludi lill-Onor. David Agius, l-Onor. Etienne Grech u l-Onor. Alex Muscat.

Bħala Chairperson tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar li wasal fit-tmiem tat-terminu tal-kariga tiegħu, l-Ispeaker Farrugia indirizza madwar 50 delegat minn 43 fergħa żgħira tas-CPA. Fid-diskors tiegħu, l-Ispeaker Farrugia enfasizza l-urġenza li jiġi indirizzat it-tibdil fil-klima li qed jagħmel ħsara lill-ekonomiji tal-fergħat iż-żgħar.

L-Onor. David Agius mexxa d-diskussjoni waqt is-sessjoni li trattat l-effetti possibbli ta' Brexit fuq il-fergħat iż-żgħar tas-CPA. L-Onor. Agius tkellem dwar it-tema kostanti relatata ma' Brexit, ċjoè l-inċertezza, u enfasizza li l-ekonomiji żgħar normalment huma mdorrija sew li jittrattaw l-inċertezza f'ċirkostanzi differenti. Huwa ppropona li l-Commonwealth ikollu l-Parlament tiegħu stess sabiex il-proposti tiegħu jkunu jistgħu jiġu implimentati u li jista' jsaħħaħ l-aġenda tal-pajjiżi tal-Commonwealth billi jagħti leħen lill-membri kollha tiegħu.

L-Onor. Alex Muscat mexxa d-diskussjoni waqt is-sessjoni dwar it-tibdil fil-klima u l-effetti possibbli fuq l-ekonomiji u l-iżvilupp tal-fergħat iż-żgħar. Is-sessjoni kienet moderata mill-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia. L-Onor. Muscat iddeskriva l-importanza tal-bidla fil-klima għal ġurisdizzjonijiet żgħar minħabba l-vulnerabbiltà tagħhom għall-impatt tal-bidla fil-klima, li tista' ssir kritika jekk ma tittieħed l-ebda azzjoni xierqa. Huwa enfasizza li stati żgħar huma vittmi ta' din ir-realtà, u li l-membri parlamentari huma f'pożizzjoni li jżommu l-gvernijiet rispettivi tagħhom biex jagħtu rendikont dwar din il-kwistjoni kruċjali.

Qabel it-tmiem tal-Konferenza tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar, l-Ispeaker Farrugia ppreżenta abbozz ta' *toolkit* dwar it-tibdil fil-klima u ta stampa ġenerali tad-dokument ta' ħidma lid-delegati. L-għan tat-*toolkit* huwa li jservi bħala manwal prattiku għall-membri parlamentari biex jippromwovu prattiki tajbin fil-leġiżlaturi tagħhom u biex jużawhom biex jadottaw inizjattivi ġodda fil-ġlieda kontra t-tibdil fil-klima, u biex jikkollaboraw biex jeqirdu l-influwenza ta' kumpaniji kbar li l-aktar li jniġġsu.

Fi tmiem is-37 Konferenza tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar l-Ispeaker tal-Gżejjer Cook, l-Onor. Niki Rattle, ġiet eletta l-President il-ġdid tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tas-CPA.

Id-delegazzjoni tal-Parlament Malti ħadet sehem ukoll fl-64 Konferenza Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth. It-tema tal-Konferenza kienet "L-adattament, l-involviment, u l-evoluzzjoni tal-Parlamenti fil-Commonwealth li qed tinbidel b'pass mgħaġġel" u trattat temi bħat-tibdil fil-klima, l-innovazzjoni fil-parlamenti permezz tax-xjenza u t-teknoloġija; persuni b'diżabilità, il-qgħad fost iż-żgħażagħ, u s-separazzjoni tal-poteri fost oħrajn.

Id-delegazzjoni Maltija organizzat ukoll żjara f'Bombo, fejn, matul it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, 43 persuna Malti, fosthom l-eks Prim Ministru Enrico Mizzi, kienu eżiljati mill-Ingliżi.

International Activities (Cont.)

64th Annual CPC and 37th Conference of the Small Branches of the CPA

A parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Anġlu Farrugia participated in the 64th Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) and the 37th Conference of the Small Branches of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), held in Kampala, Uganda, between 23 and 29 September. The delegation comprised Hon. David Agius, Hon. Etienne Grech and Hon Alex Muscat.

As the outgoing Chairperson of the Small Branches, Speaker Farrugia addressed around 50 delegates hailing from 43 small branches of the CPA. In his keynote speech, Speaker Farrugia, stressed the urgency of addressing climate change which is harming the economies of the small branches.

Hon. David Agius was invited to share his views as discussion leader during the session dealing with the possible effects of Brexit on the CPA small branches. Hon. Agius spoke about the recurring theme related to Brexit, i.e. uncertainty, and emphasised that small economies are normally well-adapted to dealing with uncertainty under different circumstances. He proposed that the Commonwealth should have its own Parliament so that its proposals could be put into practice and which could strengthen the agenda of Commonwealth countries by giving a voice to all its members.

Hon. Alex Muscat served as discussion leader during the session on climate change and the possible effects on CPA small branch economies and development. The session was moderated by Speaker Anġlu Farrugia. Hon. Muscat outlined the importance of climate change for small jurisdictions, given their vulnerability to the impact of climate change, which could become critical if no appropriate action is taken. He stressed that small states are the victims of this reality, and that parliamentarians are in a position to hold their respective governments to account on this crucial issue.

Before the end of the Small Branches Conference, Speaker Farrugia presented a draft climate change toolkit and gave an overview of the working document to the delegates. The aim of the toolkit is to serve as a practical manual for parliamentarians to promote good practices within their legislatures and to use them to adopt new initiatives to fight climate change, and to collaborate to eradicate the influence of big polluting companies.

At the end of the 37th Small Branches Conference the Speaker of the Cook Islands, Hon. Niki Rattle, was elected new Chairperson of the Small Branches of the CPA.

The delegation of the Maltese Parliament also participated in the 64th CPC. The theme of the Conference was 'Adaption, engagement, and evolution of Parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth' and included issues such as climate change, innovation in parliaments through science and technology; persons with disability, youth unemployment, and the separation of powers, amongst others.

The Maltese delegation also organised a visit to Bombo, where, during the Second World War, 43 Maltese people, including former Prime Minister Enrico Mizzi, were exiled by the British.

Attivitajiet Internazzjonali (Kont.)

Ir-Raba' Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-PACE tal-2019

Ir-Raba' Parti tas-Sessjoni Ordinarja tal-2019 tal-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa (PACE) nżammet fi Strażburgu bejn id-29 ta' Settembru u t-3 ta' Ottubru. L-Onor. Emanuel Mallia mexxa d-delegazzjoni li inkludiet ukoll lill-Onor. Jason Azzopardi, l-Onor. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici u l-Onor. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi. Matul is-sessjoni sar dibattitu urġenti dwar il-ħtieġa għal azzjoni immedjata sabiex jiġu salvati persuni fil-Baħar Mediterran. L-Assemblea ddiskutiet ukoll il-ħarsien tal-informaturi, l-istandards komuni għall-istituzzjonijiet tal-ombudsman u l-protezzjoni tal-vittmi tat-terroriżmu, kif ukoll il-preservazzjoni tal-wirt kulturali Lhudi. L-Assemblea ddiskutiet ukoll rapporti dwar ir-refuġjati tal-klima u l-migrazzjoni tax-xogħol fl-Ewropa tal-Lvant.

Fl-1 ta' Ottubru, fl-okkażjoni tas-70 Anniversarju tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa, membri tad-delegazzjoni Maltija attendew ċerimonja kommemorattiva fit-teatru tal-opra ta' Strasburgu fejn attendew ukoll il-President Franċiż Emmanuel Macron u s-Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa Marija Pejčinović Burić.

Konferenza Ewropea tal-Presidenti tal-Parlamenti

Fl-24 u l-25 ta' Ottubru l-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia pparteċipa fil-Konferenza Ewropea tal-Presidenti tal-Parlament, li saret fil-Kunsill tal-Ewropa fi Strażburgu. Fl-indirizz tiegħu, imwassal taħt l-ewwel tema 'Id-Dar Ewropea Komuni tagħna: is-70 sena li ġejjin', l-Ispeaker iddikjara li, bħala Speaker tal-Parlament ta' Malta u ċittadin, huwa jemmen li l-parlamenti huma ċentrali għall-protezzjoni tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem fi stat demokratiku. Huwa qal li l-Parlament ta' Malta jinsab fil-proċess li jistabbilixxi Kummissjoni tad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem u l-Ugwaljanza, responsabbli għall-promozzjoni u l-protezzjoni tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem, li se tkun qed tirrispondi lill-Parlament biss sabiex tkun tista' twettaq il-funzjonijiet tagħha b'imparzjalità u indipendenza. Huwa enfasizza li min-natura tagħhom stess il-parlamenti għandhom rwol fil-ħarsien tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem, peress li jaħdmu għall-ġid tan-nies li jirrappreżentaw. Huwa qal li l-Parlament Malti jilqa' u jappoġġja l-isforzi bilaterali u multilaterali kollha biex jippromwovu strutturi demokratiċi u ta' stat tad-dritt u sistemi ġudizzjarji indipendenti madwar id-dinja. L-Ispeaker ipparteċipa wkoll fis-sessjonijiet li trattaw l-implimentazzjoni tal-Aġenda 2030 tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti u l-Għanijiet tal-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli tagħha u l-kontribut mill-Parlamenti, u fis-sessjoni li ddiskutiet ir-rwol li l-Parlamenti nazzjonali jista' jkollhom fil-ġlieda kontra ż-żieda fil-fastidju u diskors tal-mibegħda lejn politiċi u parlamentari nisa.

International Activities (Cont.)

Fourth Part of the 2019 Ordinary Session of the PACE

The Fourth Part of the 2019 Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) was held in Strasbourg between 29 September and 3 October. Hon. Emanuel Mallia led the delegation comprising also Hon. Jason Azzopardi, Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici and Hon. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi. During the session an urgent debate on the need for immediate action to save persons in the Mediterranean Sea was held. The Assembly also discussed the protection of whistleblowers, common standards for ombudsman institutions and the protection of victims of terrorism, as well as the preservation of Jewish cultural heritage. The Assembly also discussed reports on climate refugees and labour migration in Eastern Europe. On 1 October, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Council of Europe, members of the Maltese delegation attended a commemorative ceremony at the Strasbourg opera house. The French President Emmanuel Macron and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić were also in attendance.

European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments

On 24 and 25 October Speaker Anġlu Farrugia participated in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. In his address, delivered under the first theme 'Our Common European Home: the next 70 years', Speaker Farrugia stated that, as Speaker of the Parliament of Malta and a citizen in his own right, he stands firm in the belief that parliaments are central to the protection of human rights in a democratic state. He said that the Parliament of Malta is in the process of establishing a Human Rights and Equality Commission, responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights, which will only be accountable to Parliament in order to be able to perform its functions with impartiality and independence. He emphasised that parliaments are protectors of human rights by their very nature, as they work for the good of the people they represent. He said that the Maltese Parliament welcomes and supports all bilateral and multilateral efforts to promote democratic and rule of law structures and independent judicial systems worldwide. Speaker Farrugia also participated in the sessions dealing with the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and the contribution by Parliaments, and in the session which discussed the role that national Parliaments can play in combating the increasing level of harassment and hate speech towards female politicians and parliamentarians.

Il-141 Assemblea Ġenerali tal-IPU

L-Onor. Mario Galea, membru tad-delegazzjoni Maltija għall-Unjoni Inter-Parlamentari (IPU) ipparteċipa fil-141 Assemblea Ġenerali li nżammet f'Belgrad bejn it-13 u s-17 ta' Ottubru.

Fil-141 Assemblea Ġenerali inkludiet sessjonijiet tal-Assemblea, laqgħat tal-Kunsill Governattiv, laqgħat tal-Kumitat Eżekuttiv u numru ta' laqgħat tal-Kumitati Permanenti.

Taħt it-tema ġenerali ta' 'Tisħiħ tal-Liġi Internazzjonali: rwoli u mekkaniżmi Parlamentari, u l-kontribut tal-kooperazzjoni reġjonali', id-delegati ddiskutew ukoll l-aħħar żviluppi fl-Istati Membri rigward it-titjib fl-ugwaljanza bejn is-sessi, l-emanċipazzjoni taż-żgħażagħ, id-difiża tad-drittijiet tal-bniedem tal-Membri Parlamentari u l-kisba tal-kopertura universali tas-saħħa.

Il-Parlamentari li ħadu sehem fl-Assemblea adottaw id-Dikjarazzjoni ta' Belgrad dwar ir-rwol tal-parlamenti u l-kooperazzjoni reġjonali fit-tisħiħ tal-liġi internazzjonali. Fid-dikjarazzjoni, il-Parlamenti tal-Membri tal-IPU enfasizzaw l-importanza ta' ordni paċifiku dinji bbażat fuq is-saltna tad-dritt. Huma wrew l-appoġġ tagħhom għal istituzzjonijiet multilaterali b'saħħithom u effettivi, bin-Nazzjonijiet Uniti fil-qofol tagħhom, maħsuba biex isibu soluzzjonijiet għall-isfidi komuni u biex isolvu t-tilwim bejn l-Istati. Fid-dikjarazzjoni, l-istess delegazzjonijiet wiegħdu wkoll l-impenn tagħhom għall-kooperazzjoni reġjonali bħala mezz biex jitjieb l-ordni legali internazzjonali u biex jaħdmu għall-implimentazzjoni sħiħa tal-impenji internazzjonali komuni.

Biex jiċċelebraw it-30 anniversarju tal-Konvenzjoni dwar id-Drittijiet tat-Tfal, ġie organizzat avveniment speċjali bi sħab mal-UNICEF fil-preżenza tal-ambaxxatur reġjonali tagħha, Goran Bregović. Fid-dikjarazzjoni tagħhom biex jimmarkaw dan l-avveniment, il-parlamenti tal-membri tal-IPU għarfu li, fit-30 sena mill-adozzjoni tal-Konvenzjoni, il-ħajja ta' miljuni ta' tfal tjiebet permezz tal-implimentazzjoni tal-istess Konvenzjoni. Madankollu, bi sfidi ġodda li jiffaċċjaw it-tfal fis-seklu wieħed u għoxrin, il-parlamentari affermaw mill-ġdid l-impenn tagħhom biex jirrispettaw u jipproteġu d-drittijiet u l-prinċipji gwida minquxa fil-Konvenzjoni.

141st General Assembly of the IPU

Hon. Mario Galea, member of the Maltese delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) participated in the 141st General Assembly which took place in Belgrade between 13 and 17 October.

The 141st General Assembly comprised sessions of the Assembly, the meetings of the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and a number of Standing Committee meetings.

Under the overarching theme of 'Strengthening International Law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation', delegates also discussed the latest developments in the Member States concerning the improvement in gender equality, empowerment of young people, the defence of the human rights of Members of Parliament and the achievement of universal health coverage.

Parliamentarians at the Assembly adopted the Belgrade Declaration on the role of parliaments and regional cooperation in strengthening international law. In the declaration, IPU Member Parliaments underlined the importance of a peaceful world order based on the rule of law. They expressed their support for strong and effective multilateral institutions, with the United Nations at their core, designed to find solutions to common challenges and to settle disputes between States. In the declaration delegations also pledged their commitment to regional cooperation as a means of enhancing the international legal order and to work towards the full implementation of shared international commitments.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a special event was organised in partnership with UNICEF in the presence of its regional ambassador, Goran Bregović. In their declaration to mark this event, IPU member parliaments recognized that, in the 30 years since the adoption of the Convention, the lives of millions of children had improved through its implementation. However, with new challenges facing children in the twenty-first century, parliamentarians reaffirmed their commitment to upholding and protecting the rights and guiding principles enshrined in the Convention.

Diskors fl-Okkażjoni tat-Tifkira tas-Sette Giugno

Iċ-ċerimonja tas-Sette Giugno tfakkar il-ġrajjiet li seħħew meta l-poplu rribella għall-fatt li kien qed ibati l-ġuħ minħabba żieda qawwija fil-prezz tal-ħobż. Fl-1919, dawn l-avvenimenti enfasizzaw il-bżonn ta' riformi soċjali u ekonomiċi, li eventwalment wasslu għall-għoti tal-Kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner tal-1921, li permezz tagħha l-Maltin ingħataw id-dritt li jmexxu affarijiet lokali b'mod awtonomu. Il-Parlament Malti jfakkar dawn l-avvenimenti kull sena b'ċerimonja ta' tqegħid ta' kuruni mal-monument tas-Sette Giugno u b'diskors mill-Ispeaker, li din is-sena saru fis-6 ta' Ġunju, fi Pjazza San Ġorġ, il-Belt Valletta.

It-tifkira ta' din is-sena tas-Sette Giugno mhijiex biss l-okkażjoni annwali li matulha nieqfu ftit sabiex naħsbu f'dawk il-ġrajjiet fejn persuni tilfu ħajjithom fil-bidu tal-mixja parlamentari u demokratika ta' pajjiżna. It-tifkira tal-lum għandha sinifikat akbar għaliex qegħdin infakkru proprju l-mitt sena minn dawn il-ġrajjiet li għandhom rabta mill-qrib mal-istorja tal-Parlament ta' Malta.

Meta wieħed jitkellem dwar il-ġrajjiet li seħħew mitt sena ilu – u hawn qegħdin infakkru b'mod partikolari l-irvellijiet mill-Maltin kontra l-ħakma Ingliża li kkulminaw fis-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 – tajjeb li jmur lura fiż-żmien biex jara dak li l-poplu Malti u Għawdxi għadda minnu, u għaliex kellu jgħaddi minn dak li għadda. Wieħed juża din it-tifkira wkoll biex jieħu kont ta' fejn wasalna llum f'dik li hija demokrazija parlamentari f'pajjiżna.

Fi tmiem l-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija pajjiżna ffaċċja problemi kbar, speċjalment fil-qasam tal-agrikoltura u fl-importazzjoni tal-qamħ, oqsma li minnhom kienet tiddependi l-produzzjoni tal-ikel għall-poplu Malti. Kif għedt drabi oħra fl-okkażjoni ta' din it-tifkira, l-għoli fil-prezz tal-qamħ u allura nuqqas ta' ikel bażiku bħall-ħobż, kif ukoll in-nuqqas ta' prodotti oħra tar-raba', bħall-patata, wasslu biex il-Maltin ħassew li ma kellhomx triq oħra għajr li jirribellaw kontra l-ħakma Ingliża, li ma kinitx tidher li qiegħda tagħti wisq widen għad-diffikultajiet estremi li kien qiegħed jiffaċċja l-poplu.

Madankollu hemm aspett ieħor li fl-opinjoni tiegħi ma jingħatax biżżejjed importanza meta nitkellmu dwar l-irvellijiet tal-1919. Jien nara li n-nuqqas ta' ikel bażiku ma kienx l-unika problema li wasslet għal dawn l-irvellijiet. Wieħed ma jridx jinsa li apparti l-faqar li kien qed jesperjenza l-poplu Malti, kien hemm ukoll dwejjaq fost ħafna ħaddiema, speċjalment ħaddiema tal-id, li tant ikkontribwixxew biex jgħinu lill-Imperu Ingliż fl-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija. Hawn qed nirreferi speċifikament għall-ħaddiema tat-Tarzna li ħassew li kienu qed jiġu stmati ħafna agħar minn ħaddiema oħra barranin li nġiebu Malta mill-Ingilterra u li kienu qed jagħmlu l-istess xogħol. Din id-diskriminazzjoni kienet għalhekk fattur ieħor li wassal lill-ħaddiema Maltin biex jirribellaw. Insibu referenza għal dan fir-rapport tal-June Disturbances Commission, Kummissjoni mwaqqfa biex tinvestiga dak li ġara waqt l-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno. Fir-rapport li din il-Kummissjoni ppreżentat lill-Gvernatur ta' dak iż-żmien, Lord Plumer, jingħad hekk:

"Unrest among Dockyard people.

They complain of differences in the pay and in the advantages between the English and the Maltese workers. We have ascertained that the difference is not as between English and Maltese workmen, but between workmen sent out from England under an agreement and those locally engaged. They admit that English workmen sent out from England should receive extra remuneration in the shape of colonial allowance, but their grievance is that for identical work and equal hours the English workman gets much more pay, and that the English workers are kept quite separate from their Maltese fellow workmen."

Din hija xhieda ċara tas-sitwazzjoni li kienet qiegħda twassal għal dwejjaq u frustrazzjoni fost il-ħaddiema tal-id.

Ma kinux biss il-ħaddiema tal-id li kienu għaddejjin minn problemi. Kien hemm ukoll l-istudenti universitarji tal-mediċina li sabu li, minkejja li kienu lestew l-istudji tagħhom, ma setgħux jingħataw il-*warrant* minħabba anomalija li kien hemm fis-sistema tal-għoti tal-*warrants*. Din l-anomalija tissemma wkoll fl-istess rapport tal-inkjesta fejn jingħad li:

"The New Statute was enacted in 1915, but the effects could only be felt by the students who were to receive the degrees in 1919, as the New Statute was not applicable to the students who received their degree in 1916. We consider that it was a great mistake not to redress the grievance, if well founded, before the students had recourse to violence."

Fil-fatt, wara l-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno kien hemm ħafna studenti li tressqu l-qorti u nstabu ħatja flimkien ma' diversi oħrajn, kif se ngħid aktar 'il quddiem.

Barra minn hekk, dak iż-żmien fis-servizz ċivili kien hemm skuntentizza kbira minħabba anomaliji u inġustizzji, inkluż salarji baxxi ħafna u differenza fit-trattament bejn kategorija u oħra ta' impjegati. Tant hu hekk li l istess rapport jgħid li:

Diskors fl-Okkażjoni tat-Tifkira tas-Sette Giugno (Kont.)

"Another cause of discontent was that a remuneration was allowed under some name or other to a high official, while the question of Bonuses with regard to the inferior employees had not yet been considered. One of the witnesses complained that while one pound a day was given to that officer, 3/4d (three quarters of a penny) was given to the low paid employees."

Ir rapport ikompli:

"It must be added that people have complained that the salaries of Heads of Departments were increased before the question of increasing the pay of the minor employees had been solved."

Dan qed ngħidu biex nuri kif apparti n-nuqqas ta' ikel bażiku, il-poplu kien għaddej minn tbatijiet oħra. Hawn nixtieq inżid illi r-rapport ta' inkjesta juri li l-Ingliżi saħansitra ppruvaw jitfgħu t-tort tal-irvellijiet fuq artikli li kienu jidhru fuq il-midja ta' dak iż-żmien. Tant hu hekk li r-rapport jipprova jitfa' l-ħtija fuq waħda mill-pubblikazzjonijiet ta' dak iż-żmien, *La Voce del Popolo*, li kienet l-organu uffiċjali tal-Comitato Patriottico, u li kienet tissimpatizza ħafna ma' Enrico Mizzi. Fil-fatt ir-rapport jgħid illi:

"On the 3rd of February 1919 Political censorship of the press in Malta was abolished, and the Comitato Patriottico having fallen under the influence of Dr Enrico Mizzi, the official organ of that Committee – La Voce del Popolo became an instrument of sedition in the hands of Dr E. Mizzi and of the few persons who share his ideas."

Dwar dan, ir-rapport tal-June Disturbances Commission jirreferi wkoll għal artikli ppubblikati f'dak il-perjodu, u nikkowta: *"praising Italian Rule to the prejudice of British Rule."*

Jidher ċar li dan ir-rapport tal-Kummissjoni mwaqqfa biex tinvestiga l-effetti li ħallew l-inċidenti tas-Sette Giugno, tant kien manipulat u, nażżarda ngħid, diżonest, li saħansitra fil-konklużjoni tiegħu wieħed isib li l-erba' suldati tal-Forzi Ingliżi li sparaw u qatlu wħud mill-Maltin fl-irvellijiet li qegħdin infakkru llum, ma kinux obbligati jwieġbu għall-azzjonijiet tagħhom, minkejja li ma kellhomx ordni biex jisparaw. Għall-preċiżjoni se nikkwota mir-rapport:

"I do not think that either he or the four private soldiers who fired without order can be justly punished for their action on the occasion and I do not think it is in the public interest that they should be brought before a Court Martial."

Meta qrajt dan bilkemm ridt nemmen li effettivament wieħed jista' jasal għal konklużjoni bħal dik.

Filwaqt li r-rapport li kien sar taħt id-direzzjoni tal-Gvernatur ta' dak iż żmien, Herbert Plumer, għamilha ċara li ma kellhomx jittieħdu passi kontra uffiċjali Ingliżi, l-istess ma jistax jingħad fil-konfront tal-Maltin, inkluż dawk li sempliċement kienu fil-post waqt l-irvellijiet. Tajjeb ngħid li aktar minn 115 -il persuna Maltija nstabu ħatja; fosthom kien hemm min saħansitra ntbagħat il-ħabs, bħal Salvatore Bartolo, bl-akkuża ta' *"Being present at a sedition; did not do his utmost to prevent it"* u *"Attempting to induce members of HM's forces to act in a manner which he knew to be in contravention of the orders of the Army"*. Wara ġuri, *court martial*, taħt id-direzzjoni tal-Gvernatur ta' dak iż-żmien, fit-13 ta' Settembru, Salvatore Bartolo ntbagħat 20 sena ħabs.

Każ ieħor huwa ta' Giovanni Miller, li l-akkuża kontrih ukoll kienet *"Attempted to induce members of HM's forces to act in a manner which he knew to be in contravention of the orders of the Army"*. Huwa ntbagħat 15-il sena ħabs. Malti ieħor, Francesco Debattista, intbagħat seba' snin ħabs ukoll l-akkuża kienet tgħid *"Been present in a sedition; did not do his utmost to prevent it"*. Jiġifieri l-Ingliżi ppretendew li l-pajżana li kienu preżenti kellhom jieħdu azzjoni kontra min kien qed jagħmel xi forma ta' protesta jew dimostrazzjoni. Għal dan in-nuqqas ta' azzjoni kien hemm ukoll min mar sentejn ħabs, bħal Giovanni Busuttil u Carmelo Mallia; kien hemm min mar ħames snin ħabs, bħal Giorgio Ciantar; il-lista ma tispiċċa qatt. Kien hemm ukoll Margerita Frendo, li kienet preżenti hemmhekk ma' binha u li ntbagħtet ħamest ijiem ħabs sempliċement talli fil-basket tagħha kellha xi pakketti ta' ross li ma spjegatx eżatt kif ġew għandha. Kien hemm oħrajn li weħlu ftit ġranet ħabs u oħrajn li weħlu multa.

Dan kollu juri wħud mit-tbatijiet li kellu jsofri l-poplu Malti li wassluh biex jaġixxi u jibgħat il-messaġġ ċar li ried id-dritt li għall-inqas l-affarijiet interni tal-pajjiż imexxihom hu. Illum, għeluq il-mitt sena mis-Sette Giugno, huwa opportun li nfakkru dawk l-irvellijiet u r-raġunijiet li wasslu għalihom sabiex dawn ma jintesewx. Jeħtieġ inżommu quddiem għajnejna li kienu proprju l-imwiet ta' dawn l-erba' Maltin u s-sofferenzi tad-diversi midruba kif ukoll ta' dawk li ntbagħtu l-ħabs, li wasslu biex l-antenati tagħna jkunu jistgħu jakkwistaw id-dritt li tal-inqas jiddeċiedu huma dwar l-affarijiet interni ta' pajjiżhom. Dan kollu għandna nibqgħu nfakkruh sabiex aħna, li fortunatment ma għexniex dawk iż-żmenijiet diffiċli, nagħrfu illi d-drittijiet li ngawdu minnhom illum ma kinux ikunu possibbli mingħajr it-tbatija ta' dawk li

Diskors fl-Okkażjoni tat-Tifkira tas-Sette Giugno (Kont.)

ġew qabilna, u għalhekk huma drittijiet li għandhom jibqgħu jiġu mħarsa bid-dehen u r-rispett mistħoqq.

Għalhekk fl-okkażjoni tal-lum ma nistgħux nonqsu milli nfakkru u niċċelebraw il-kisbiet li għamlet l-Istituzzjoni tagħna, il-Parlament ta' Malta, li nibet proprju fl-avvenimenti tas-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 u li sentejn oħra ser inkunu qed niċċelebraw il-mitt sena mit-twaqqif tiegħu. Mingħajr ma ninftiehem li qed ngħid li xogħolna huwa lest u li ma baqax fejn navvanzaw, meta nħares lura lejn l-istorja tal-aħħar kważi mitt sena ma nistax, bħala Speaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, ma nirrimarkax fuq l-avvanzi li saru u kemm dan il-Parlament evolva, mhux biss fil-faċilitajiet li huwa mgħammar bihom, iżda wkoll fil-qafas leġiżlattiv li jopera fih.

Mill-esperjenza tiegħi fid-diversi laqgħat interparlamentari tal-Commonwealth li nieħu sehem fihom, inkluż bħala President tal-Fergħat iż-Żgħar tal-Commonwealth, nista' ngħid li l-Parlament Malti f'diversi okkażjonijiet iservi ta' eżempju għal parlamenti oħra fl-istess Commonwealth. Dan għaliex il-Parlament Malti jgawdi stima għolja ħafna meta mqabbel ma' dawk ta' pajjiżi oħra, u dan qed ngħidu b'responsabilità. Nemmen li din l-istima ntlaħqet prinċipalment minħabba l-kontribut tal-Parlament Malti fl-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth, pereżempju fil-kontribut li ngħata fil-pubblikazzjoni tal-istess Assoċjazzjoni dwar *benchmarking* u *good governance* f'demokrazija parlamentari. Dan qed ngħidu l-ewwel u qabel kollox b'rispett lejn ix-xogħol li twettaq mill-Parlament Malti matul is-sena li għaddiet.

Irrid ngħid li mill-aħħar diskors tiegħi fl-okkażjoni tas-Sette Giugno, il-Parlament Malti kellu waħda mill-aqwa rati ta' *clearance* fix-xogħol tiegħu meta kkumparat ma' parlamenti nazzjonali oħra għaliex f'dan il-perjodu l-Parlament Malti rnexxielu jgħaddi kważi 40 liġi.

Jien wieħed li nemmen ħafna mhux biss fl-iskrutinju, imma anke fit-trasparenza immedjata. Żvilupp pjuttost reċenti li nemmen li għandu jikkontribwixxi sabiex tiżdied il-kontabilità tal-Membri Parlamentari hija l-ħatra ta' Kummissarju għall-Istandards fil-Ħajja Pubblika bis-setgħa li jinvestiga ksur ta' dmirijiet statutorji jew etiċi ta' persuni fi-ħajja pubblika, kif ukoll it-twaqqif tal-Kumitat Parlamentari dwar Standards fil-Ħajja Pubblika. Proprju sena ilu kont irrimarkajt dwar il-bżonn li l-liġi relevanti li kienet mgħoddija mill-Parlament f'Marzu 2017 tidħol fis-seħħ u tibda titħaddem. B'sodisfazzjon ngħid li fit-30 ta' Ottubru 2018 l-Att dwar l-Istandards fil-Ħajja Pubblika daħal fis-seħħ, u proprju fis-seduta ta' dakinhar, b'vot unanimu, inħatar Dr George Hyzler bħala l-ewwel Kummissarju għall-Istandards fil-Ħajja Pubblika bis-saħħa tal-artikolu 4 ta' dan l-Att. Barra minn hekk, ftit ġimgħat wara, proprju fit-12 ta' Diċembru 2018, inħatar ukoll il-Kumitat Permanenti għall-Istandards fil-Ħajja Pubblika, li huwa ppresedut minni bħala Speaker tal-Kamra, u huwa magħmul minn erba' Membri, tnejn minn kull naħa tal-Kamra. Kemm il-Kummissarju kif ukoll il-Kumitat bdew il-ħidma tagħhom b'mod immedjat, ħidma importanti biex il-fiduċja tal-poplu Malti fl-istituzzjoni parlamentari tibqa' tikber. Nemmen li din il-fiduċja hija neċessarja sabiex il-poplu ma jaqax fit-tentazzjoni li jagħmel għażliet favur politika populista, kif qed naraw iseħħ f'diversi pajjiżi Ewropej, għaliex il-fatti juru li din it-tip ta' politika hija nieqsa minn soluzzjonijiet prattiċi u sostenibilità.

Fid-diskors tas-sena l-oħra kont aċċennajt għall-iżvilupp li hemm ippjanat fis-sotterran tal-binja tal-Parlament. Il-mira tagħna hija li jkollna kamra addizzjonali fejn jiltaqgħu l-kumitati, kif ukoll il-librerija u l-arkivju tal Parlament, li jkunu organizzati b'tali mod li l-pubbliku jkollu aċċess aktar faċli għalihom. Fis-sena li għaddiet l-applikazzjoni tal-iżvilupp ġiet approvata u x-xogħol beda, u miexi b'pass tajjeb. Nittama li l-proġett ikun lest sas-sena d-dieħla u b'hekk naslu li jkollna żona *state of the art*, attrezzata bit-teknoloġija moderna neċessarja ħalli r-rekords tal-Parlament isiru aktar aċċessibbli, mhux biss għall-Membri Parlamentari, iżda wkoll għar-riċerkaturi tal-istorja, l-istudenti u għall-pubbliku in ġenerali.

Kif diġà aċċennajt f'okkażjonijiet preċedenti, minkejja li l-Parlament għamel passi kbar 'il quddiem, fadal diversi miżuri li jistgħu jiġu kkunsidrati sabiex il-qafas leġiżlattiv li jopera fih il-Parlament jibqa' dejjem jissaħħaħ. Kif semmejt fi snin preċedenti, inħoss li wasal iż-żmien li nindirizzaw il-kwestjoni tal-privileġġ parlamentari li għandu kull Membru meta jitkellem f'din l-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż. Hawn qed nirreferi speċifikament għall-fatt li ċittadin li jħossu inġurjat b'xi diskors ta' Membru fil-Parlament, ma għandux mod kif iwieġeb fil-Parlament għal dak li ntqal fuqu. Nemmen li t-triq 'il quddiem hi li jitkompla l-eżerċizzju li kien inbeda bejn iż-żewġ naħat tal-Kamra – Gvern u Oppożizzjoni – li ndaħħlu regolamenti li jħarsu d-dinjità li normalment nosservaw fid-dibattiti parlamentari, u allura fil-mod kif Membru jindirizza lill-Kamra.

Fid-diskors tiegħi proprju s-sena l-oħra kont tkellimt dwar il-bżonn li jidħol id-dritt tat-tweġiba taċ-ċittadin għal dak li jingħad dwaru fil-Kamra tad-Deputati. Dakinhar irreferejt ukoll għal dak li kont għedt lura fl-2015 għaliex nemmen bis-sħiħ f'dan il-bżonn, u nikkwota:

> "Hemm ħafna x'wieħed jagħmel biex dejjem itejjeb il-livell ta' trasparenza u l-kontabilità ta' kull wieħed u waħda minna lejn il-poplu li nirrappreżentaw. Pereżempju, naħseb li wasal iż-żmien li nindirizzaw il-kwestjoni ta' meta ċittadin iħossu aggravat b'dak li jintqal fil-konfront tiegħu fil-Parlament, u f'dan ir-rigward ngħid li wasal iż-żmien li jkun hemm mekkaniżmu li jagħti d-dritt għar-rimedju lill-istess ċittadin. Ovvjament dan irid isir mingħajr ma nnaqqsu d-dritt u l-privileġġ li jgawdi Membru Parlamentari tal-Kamra, għaliex dan il-privileġġ qiegħed hemm biex il-Membru Parlamentari jkun jista' jitkellem mingħajr biża'."

Għadni tal-fehma illi dan ikun żvilupp importanti fil-kontabilità tal-Membri Parlamentari f'dak li hu l-aġir tagħhom fil-Parlament.

Wara d-diskors tiegħi tas-sena l-oħra, avviċinawni diversi ċittadini li ħassewhom inġurjati bid-diskorsi li jkunu għamlu dwarhom uħud mill-Membri fil-Parlament. Fl-assenza ta' mekkaniżmi li jipprovdu għal dawn is-sitwazzjonijiet, jien ma stajt noffri l-ebda rimedju lil dawn iċ-ċittadini. Sakemm il-Parlament jimxi lejn dan it-tip ta' mekkaniżmu tad-dritt tat-tweġiba, nemmen li wasal iż-żmien li nikkonsidra li npoġġi fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra kull ilment li ċ-ċittadin jibgħatli bil-miktub għaliex ikun qed iħossu inġurjat b'dak li jkun intqal dwaru fil-Kamra. Hekk kif qegħdin nikkomemoraw iċ-ċentinarju mill-irvellijiet tas-Sette Giugno, m'għandniex għalfejn nistennew aktar sabiex b'xi mod indaħħlu mekkaniżmu intiż sabiex min jabbuża mill-privileġġ parlamentari, jirrispondi għal għemilu.

Il-Membru Parlamentari jirrappreżenta lill-elettorat, u jkun min ikun, u jkun fuq liema naħa tal-Kamra jkun, dejjem għandu jerfa' r-responsabbiltà ta' dak li jgħid; fi kliemu huwa għandu dejjem ikun onest u jfittex l-aħjar interess tal-pajjiż. Għalhekk intenni illi l-Ordnijiet Permanenti tal-Kamra għandhom jiġu riveduti kemm jista' jkun malajr sabiex jiddaħħal dan ir-rimedju li nħoss li għandu jkollu kull ċittadin f'pajjiżna.

Żgur li fost dak li l-Parlament fadallu jikseb, hemm il-kwestjoni tar-rappreżentanza akbar tan-nisa, kwestjoni li ilha tissemma snin twal u li, fl-opinjoni tiegħi, bħala pajjiż inqasna milli nindirizzaw b'mod adegwat. Kif nafu, minn 67 Membru elett fil-Leġiżlatura preżenti, hemm biss għaxar nisa, jew 15%. Aktar kmieni din is-sena l-Gvern, *tramite* s-Segretarjat Parlamentari għar-Riformi, Ċittadinanza u Simplifikazzjoni tal-Proċessi Amministrattivi, nieda konsultazzjoni pubblika dwar riforma fil-bilanċ fir-rappreżentanza tal-ġeneru fil-Parlament, liema konsultazzjoni tagħlaq fit-8 ta' Ġunju. Dan ifisser li f'dan l-istadju kulħadd għandu l-opportunità li jressaq proposti dwar din ir-riforma. Irrispettivament minn liema metodu jintgħażel, li żgur huwa importanti huwa li r-riforma ssir malajr u b'responsabilità, biex fl-iqsar żmien possibbli jkollna mekkaniżmu li jindirizza din id-diskrepanza li hawn min jargumenta li tammonta għal defiċit demokratiku. Nemmen li b'hekk tkun qed tissaħħaħ id-demokrazija parlamentari rappreżentattiva.

In-nuqqas ta' rappreżentanza tan-nisa fil-Parlament huwa fenomenu li ilna narawh minkejja l-fatt li l-mara ilha li ġiet mogħtija l-vot kif ukoll id-dritt li tikkandida ruħha għall-Parlament sa mill-1947. Dan in-nuqqas joħroġ aktar fid-deher meta niġu mqabbla ma' pajjiżi oħra mhux biss fl-Ewropa imma anke fil-Commonwealth. Biżżejjed insemmi li ftit tal-ġranet ilu meta l-Parlament Malti laqa' liċ-Chairperson tal-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth, li hija wkoll id-Deputy Speaker tal-Parlament tal-Kamerun, Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, waqt id-diskussjonijiet li kellna magħha ħareġ li fil-Parlament tal-Kamerun 31% tal-Membri huma nisa. Insemmi wkoll rapport riċenti ppubblikat mill-Unjoni Inter-Parlamentari bl-isem "Women in parliament in 2018" li juri li din il-medja fl-Ewropa tammonta għal 28.5%. Għaldaqstant naħseb li wasal iż-żmien li lkoll flimkien, b'responsabilità, nindirizzaw din il-problema billi naraw li jiddaħħlu l-miżuri kollha meħtieġa sabiex aktar nisa jitħajru jikkandidaw ruħhom sabiex jirrappreżentaw liċ-ċittadini fil-Parlament Malti. Hawnhekk nixtieq nirringrazzja kemm lill grupp tal-Gvern kif ukoll lill grupp tal-Oppożizzjoni, għall-fatt li b'koperazzjoni bejniethom il-Parlament issa qed jiltaqa' f'ħinijiet li huma aktar favorevoli għall *work life balance* tal-Membri Parlamentari u ta' dawk il-persuni kollha li b'xi mod jassistuhom fil-qadi ta' dmirijiethom. Bis- saħħa t'hekk nistgħu nqattgħu aktar ħin mal-familji tagħna.

Nemmen li rridu nibqgħu naħdmu biex jittieħdu aktar inizjattivi sabiex id-demokrazija f'pajjiżna tibqa' mhux biss ħajja u relevanti għaż-żmenijiet tal-lum, imma wkoll rappreżentattiva b'mod aktar wiesa', b'mod li l-poplu Malti verament iħossu rappreżentat b'mod xieraq fil-Parlament, b'Membri Parlamentari eletti li jaħdmu fl-aħjar interess tiegħu.

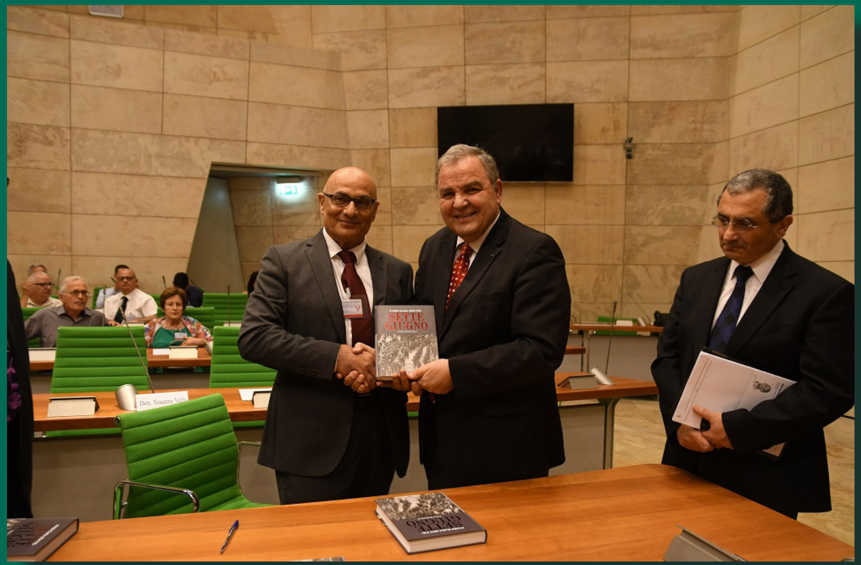
F'għeluq il-mitt sena mill-istorja tas-Sette Giugno, inħossni kburi bil-passi kbar li l-Parlament Malti għamel, u qed ikompli jagħmel, biex jagħti liċ-ċittadin leħen aktar qawwi u rwol aktar parteċipattiv f'din l-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż. Inħoss li dan huwa essenzjali sabiex din l-Istituzzjoni tkun tassew tirrappreżenta u tindirizza l-aspirazzjonijiet tal-poplu Malti kollu.

mill-PARLAMENT - Diċembru 2019

Diskors fl-Okkażjoni tat-Tifkira tas-Sette Giugno (Kont.)

Tifkira tas-Sette Giugno

Commemoration Of Sette Giugno



Speech On The Occasion of The Commemoration of Sette Giugno

The Sette Giugno ceremony commemorates the uprising by starving crowds against the steep increase in the price of bread. Back in 1919, these events highlighted the need for social and economic reforms, which eventually led to the granting of the 1921 Amery-Milner Constitution, through which the Maltese were given the right to self-government on local matters. The Maltese Parliament commemorates these events every year with a wreath-laying ceremony at the foot of the Sette Giugno monument and a speech by the Speaker of the House, which were held on 6 June at St George's Square, Valletta.

This year's Sette Giugno commemoration is more than the annual occasion during which we stop to remember the events in which people lost their lives at the inception of the parliamentary and democratic journey of our country. Today's commemoration is more significant because we are commemorating the centenary of these events that are so closely connected to the history of the Parliament of Malta.

When one speaks of the events that occurred a hundred years ago – and here we are recalling particularly the revolt of the Maltese people against British rule that culminated on 7 June 1919 – it is opportune to go back in time to see what the Maltese and the Gozitan people had to go through and why this was necessary. This commemoration also serves as opportunity to consider what we have achieved to date with regard to parliamentary democracy in our country.

At the end of World War I our country faced huge problems, especially in agriculture and in the importation of wheat, on which the availability of food for the Maltese people depended. As I have said before on the occasion of this commemoration, the high costs of wheat and the consequent lack of staple foods such as bread, as well as the lack of other agricultural products, such as potatoes, left the Maltese people with no other option but to rebel against British rule which did not appear to pay much attention to the extreme hardships that the people were facing.

However, there is another aspect that, in my opinion, is not given its due importance when speaking about the riots of 1919. The lack of basic food was not the only problem that led to these riots. One must not forget that, apart from the poverty that the Maltese people were experiencing, there was also discontent among many workers, especially blue-collar workers, who had assisted the British Empire so much during World War I. I am referring specifically to the Dockyard workers who felt that they were being much less respected than their foreign counterparts who were brought to Malta from England and who were doing the same work. This discrimination was thus another factor that led the Maltese workers to rebel. We find a reference to this situation in the report of the June Disturbances Commission, a Commission set up to investigate what had happened during the Sette Giugno riots. The report of the Commission, submitted to the Governor of the time, Lord Plumer, states the following:

> "Unrest among Dockyard people.
>
> They complain of differences in the pay and in the advantages between the English and the Maltese workers. We have ascertained that the difference is not as between English and Maltese workmen, but between workmen sent out from England under an agreement and those locally engaged. They admit that English workmen sent out from England should receive extra remuneration in the shape of colonial allowance, but their grievance is that for identical work and equal hours the English workman gets much more pay, and that the English workers are kept quite separate from their Maltese fellow workmen."

This is clear testimony of the situation that was causing discontent and frustration among manual workers.

It was not just manual workers who had problems. There were also the university medical students who, in spite of having finished their studies, could not be granted their warrant owing to an anomaly in the warrant awards system. This anomaly is also mentioned in the same inquiry report which states that:

> "The New Statute was enacted in 1915, but the effects could only be felt by the students who were to receive the degrees in 1919, as the New Statute was not applicable to the students who received their degree in 1916. We consider that it was a great mistake not to redress the grievance, if well founded, before the students had recourse to violence."

In fact, after the Sette Giugno riots, many students were taken to court and found guilty, along with many others as I will mention later on.

Furthermore, at that time there was great discontent in the civil service owing to anomalies and injustices, including very low salaries and a difference in treatment between categories of employees. So much so, that the same report states that:

> "Another cause of discontent was that a remuneration was allowed under some name or other to a high official, while the question of Bonuses with regard to the inferior employees had not yet been considered. One of the witnesses complained that while one pound a day was given to that officer, 3/4d (three quarters of a penny) was given to the low paid employees."

The report continues:

> "It must be added that people have complained that the salaries of Heads of Departments were increased before the question of increasing the pay of the minor employees had been solved."

I am mentioning this to show how, apart from the lack of basic food, the population was enduring other hardships. At this point I would add that according to the inquiry report the British even tried to blame the riots on articles that appeared in the media at the time. So much so, that the report tried to put the blame on one of the publications, La Voce del Popolo, which was the official organ of the Comitato Patriottico that sympathised with Enrico Mizzi. In fact, the report states that:

> "On the 3rd of February 1919 Political censorship of the press in Malta was abolished, and the Comitato Patriottico having fallen under the influence of Dr Enrico Mizzi, the official organ of that Committee – La Voce del Popolo became an instrument of sedition in the hands of Dr E. Mizzi and of the few persons who share his ideas."

In this regard, the report of the June Disturbances Commission refers to articles published at the time, and I quote: "praising Italian Rule to the prejudice of British Rule."

It is clear that this report by the Commission that was set up to investigate the effects of the Sette Giugno incidents was so manipulated and, I dare say, dishonest, that in its conclusion one finds that the four soldiers of the British Forces who fired shots, killing some of the Maltese present at the riots we are commemorating today, were not obliged to answer for their actions even though they had not been ordered to open fire. For the sake of correctness I quote from the report:

> "I do not think that either he or the four private soldiers who fired without order can be justly punished for their action on the occasion and I do not think it is in the public interest that they should be brought before a Court Martial."

When I read this, I could hardly believe that one could effectively arrive at such a conclusion.

Whereas the report that was drawn up under the direction of the Governor of the time, Lord Herbert Plumer, made it clear that no steps would be taken against the British officers, the same cannot be said with regard to the Maltese, including those who simply happened to be at the site of the riots. More than 115 Maltese people were found guilty; some of them, like Salvatore Bartolo, were even sent to prison, with the charge of "Being present at a sedition; did not do his utmost to prevent it" and "Attempting to induce members of HM's forces to act in a manner which he knew to be in contravention of the orders of the Army". On 13 September, after a court martial held under the direction of the Governor of the time, Salvatore Bartolo was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

Another case is that of Giovanni Miller, who was also accused to have "Attempted to induce members of HM's forces to act in a manner which he knew to be in contravention of the orders of the Army". He was sent to prison for 15 years. Another Maltese citizen, Francesco Debattista, was also sentenced to seven years in prison simply because he was present at the riot; the charge stated "Been present in a sedition; did not do his utmost to prevent it". This means that the British expected the civilians present to take action against those who were protesting or taking part in a demonstration. For this lack of action, some were sent to prison for two years, as was the case for Giovanni Busuttil and Carmelo Mallia, some were sent to prison for five years, as in the case of Giorgio Ciantar; the list is never-ending. There was also Margerita Frendo, who was in Valletta with her son and who was sent to prison for five days simply because she had a few packets of rice in her bag and could not explain exactly how they came to be in her possession. There were others who were imprisoned for a few days and others who were fined.

This goes to show some of the hardships endured by the Maltese people which led them to react by sending a clear message that they wanted the right to manage at least the internal affairs of the country. Today, on the occasion of the centenary of the Sette Giugno, it is opportune to remember those riots and what led to them, so that they are never forgotten. We must keep in mind that it was the deaths of these four Maltese people and the hardships of those wounded as well as of those who were sent to prison, that enabled our ancestors to acquire the right to at least decide about the country's internal affairs. We must keep on recalling all of this so that we, who are fortunate enough not to have lived through those

Speech On The Occasion of The Commemoration of Sette Giugno (Cont.)

difficult times, can understand that the rights that we presently enjoy would not have been possible without the suffering of those who came before us; rights which we must continue to defend with due discernment and respect.

Therefore, on this occasion we cannot but remember and celebrate the achievements of our Institution, the Parliament of Malta, that originated from the events of 7 June 1919, the centenary of which we will be celebrating in two years' time. I don't want to be interpreted as saying that our work is complete and that there is no room for improvement, but when I look back at the last hundred years, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, I cannot fail to note the progress that has been made and how much our Parliament has evolved, not only in terms of the facilities with which it is equipped, but also with regard to the legislative framework within which it operates.

From my experience participating in various interparliamentary Commonwealth meetings, including in my role of President of the Small Branches of the Commonwealth, I can say that, on various occasions, the Maltese Parliament has served as an example to other parliaments within the same Commonwealth. This is because the Maltese Parliament is held in very high regard when compared to those of other countries, and I am saying this responsibly. I believe that this high esteem was acquired through the Maltese Parliament's contribution to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, for example through its input to the publication on benchmarking and good governance in a parliamentary democracy published by this same Association. I say this first and foremost with respect to the work carried out by the Maltese Parliament during the last year.

I have to say that since my last speech on the occasion of the Sette Giugno commemoration, the Maltese Parliament had one of the best clearance rates in its work when compared to that of other national parliaments because during this period the Maltese Parliament managed to approve nearly 40 legislative acts.

I am a firm believer not only in scrutiny, but also in transparency without delay. A fairly recent development that I believe will contribute to greater accountability by Members of Parliament is the appointment of a Commissioner for Standards in Public Life, empowered to investigate breaches of statutory or ethical duties by persons in public life, as well the setting up of the parliamentary Committee for Standards in Public Life. A year ago, I had commented on the need for the relevant law that was passed by Parliament in March 2017 to enter into force and become operational. I am pleased to note that the Standards in Public Life Act entered into force on 30 October 2018 and, during the sitting of the same day, by virtue of Article 4 of this Act, Dr George Hyzler was unanimously appointed as the first Commissioner for Standards in Public Life. Furthermore, a few weeks later, on 12 December 2018, the Standing Committee on Standards in Public Life was also appointed. This Committee, which I chair as Speaker of the House, is composed of four Members, two from each side of the House. Both the Commissioner and the Committee embarked upon their important tasks soon thereafter, tasks that I believe will strengthen the Maltese people's trust in the parliamentary institution. I believe that this trust is necessary for people not to give in to populism, a trend we are witnessing in various European countries, because facts show that this choice lacks practical and sustainable solutions.

In last year's speech I had mentioned the development planned for the subterranean level of the Parliament building. Our aim is to have an additional committee room, as well as a Parliamentary library and archive, organised in such a way as to make parliamentary records more accessible to the public. Last year, the development application was approved and works have started and are progressing at a steady rate. I hope that the project will be ready by next year so that we will have an area which is state-of-the-art, equipped with the necessary modern technology so as to make Parliament's records more accessible not only to Members of Parliament but also to historians, students and the general public.

As I have already had occasion to mention, although Parliament has made big strides forward, there still remain various measures that can be considered so that the legislative framework in which Parliament operates is further strengthened. As I have mentioned in previous years, I feel that the time has come to address the matter of the parliamentary privilege that each Member enjoys when speaking in the country's highest institution. Here I am specifically referring to the fact that a citizen who feels wronged by an address delivered in Parliament has no right of reply. I believe that the way forward is to continue the exercise that was embarked upon by both sides of the House – Government and Opposition – to introduce regulations intended to safeguard the decorum we normally uphold in our parliamentary debates, that is in the way in which Members address the House.

In my speech last year, I referred to what I had already said back in 2015 on this proposal because it is

Speech On The Occasion of The Commemoration of Sette Giugno (Cont.)

something in which I wholeheartedly believe, and I quote:

> "Much remains to be done to continue improving the level of transparency and accountability of each and every one of us towards the people we represent. For instance, I believe that the time has come to address issues which arise when citizens feel aggrieved by statements made about them in Parliament, and to establish a mechanism which grants citizens a right of redress. This obviously needs to be done without impinging on Parliamentary rights and privileges, since these are intended to allow Members of Parliament to speak without fear."

I am still of the opinion that this would be an important development in parliamentary accountability with regard to the behaviour of Members in the House.

Following last year's Sette Giugno speech, I was approached by a number of citizens who felt wronged by what was said by certain Members in Parliament in their regard. In the absence of mechanisms that provide for such situations, I could offer no remedy to these citizens. Until such time that Parliament adopts such mechanism, I believe that the time has come for me to consider tabling in the House all the complaints I receive from citizens in writing when they feel wronged by what has been said about them in the House. As we commemorate the centenary of the Sette Giugno riots, I am of the opinion that without any further delay, we should move ahead with the introduction of some kind of mechanism so that whoever abuses their parliamentary privilege is made answerable for their actions.

Members of Parliament represent the electorate, and whoever they may be, and whichever side of the House they hail from, they should always be accountable for what they say; they must always be honest and seek the country's best interests. Therefore, I reiterate my call for a revision of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives in order to introduce such a remedy, which I feel all citizens should be entitled to.

I am of the opinion that one other development that Parliament needs to achieve relates to the gender balance of its elected Members, an issue which we have not yet adequately addressed. As we know, out of 67 elected Members in the present Legislature, there are only ten female MPs, amounting to 15%. Earlier this year, Government, through the Parliamentary Secretariat for Reforms, Citizenship and Simplification of Adminstrative Processes launched a public consultation proposing to address the under-representation of women in Parliament, which consultation closes on 8 June. This means that at this stage, everyone still has the opportunity to make proposals with regard to this reform. Irrespective of how it is done, it is important that the reform be implemented quickly and in a responsible manner, so that in the short term we will have a mechanism that can address this discrepancy which one may argue that it constitutes a democratic deficit in Parliament. I believe that the adoption of such a mechanism will strengthen representative parliamentary democracy.

The lack of representation of women in Parliament is a phenomenon that we have been witnessing for a long time in spite of the fact that women have been granted the right to vote as well as the right to stand for elections since 1947. This dearth becomes more apparent when we compare ourselves to other countries not only in Europe but also across the Commonwealth. A few days ago, the Maltese Parliament welcomed Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, who is also the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Cameroon. During our discussions it emerged that 31% of the Members of the Parliament of Cameroon are women. Here I also refer to a recent report published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union titled "Women in parliament in 2018" which shows that the EU average is 28.5%. Therefore, it is evident that the time has come for us to address this problem responsibly, by seeing that all the necessary measures are introduced so that more women are encouraged to stand for elections to represent the citizens in Parliament. In this respect, I would like to thank both the Government and the Opposition parliamentary groups, for their co-operation enabling Parliament to meet at hours that are more favourable to the work-life balance of Members of Parliament and all those persons who in some way assist them in the performance of their parliamentary mandate. This measure has enabled us to spend more time with our families.

I believe that we must continue to take further initiatives to ensure that democracy in our country remains not only alive and relevant, but also more representative of society at large, so that the Maltese people truly feel well-represented in Parliament, with elected Members of Parliament who have the citizen's best interests at heart.

On the hundredth anniversary from the events of the Sette Giugno, I am proud of the significant advances that the Maltese Parliament has made and is still making in order to give the citizens a stronger voice and a more participative role therein. I feel that this is essential for the Institution to be truly representative of the people and to properly address their aspirations.

It-Tfittxija Għal Futur Ġdid – l-Emigrazzjoni Maltija fis-Sekli Dsatax u Għoxrin

Iċ-ċaqliq ta' persuni mill-gżejjer Maltin lejn partijiet oħra tad-dinja, l-aktar biex ifittxu x-xogħol u ħajja aħjar, ilu għaddej sekli sħaħ. Madankollu, il-problema tal-qgħad u tal-popolazzjoni dejjem tikber, saret ferm aktar sinifikanti fl-1820ijiet minħabba li l-ekonomija Maltija ma setgħetx tlaħħaq mażżieda kostanti fil-popolazzjoni. Il-Knisja Kattolika lokali u l-Maltin infushom ma kienu jaċċettaw l-ebda referenza għall-kontroll tat-twelid. L-unika soluzzjoni li kienet tidher possibbli kienet l-emigrazzjoni, li dwarha kien hemm sentimenti mħallta. Il-Gvernaturi Hastings u Ponsonby flimkien ma' oħrajn bħal Giorgio Mitrovich kienu favur. Min-naħa l-oħra, kien hemm dawk li qiesu li l-emigrazzjoni kienet soluzzjoni krudili u mhux naturali.

L-ewwel tentattiv ikkoordinat konkret seħħ fl-1826 meta ftit mijiet ta' Maltin telqu lejn il-gżira Jonja ta' Ċefalonja qrib il-Greċja. Sal-1833, dan l-esperiment kien falla u l-ħaddiema Maltin ġew akkużati li kienu inkompetenti u bla saħħa. F'dawn l-ewwel deċennji tas-seklu dsatax kull xorta ta' tentattiv sabiex l-emigrazzjoni tiġi ffinanzjata mill-fondi pubbliċi falla. Il-Maltin għalhekk kellhom bilfors isibu fondi minn sorsi privati sabiex jemigraw, bi vjaġġ lejn Tripli jew Tuneż fuq xprunara Maltija jiswa madwar żewġ xelini. Vjaġġ lejn Kostantinopli jew l-Eġittu kien jiswa 12-il xelin jew aktar, skont il-kundizzjonijiet tat-temp. Il-migranti Maltin kienu jafu li jekk il-mawra tagħhom ma tirnexxix setgħu jingħataw għajnuna minn fondi pubbliċi biex jerġgħu jirritornaw lura pajjiżhom. Matul dan il-perjodu anke l-konsli Brittaniċi fil-Mediterran għenu finanzjarjament lil dawk il-migranti Maltin li kienu foqra, bla xogħol, jew morda temporanjament li xtaqu jibqgħu jgħixu f'art barranija għal ftit aktar żmien. Bejn l-1818 u l-1832, bejn 1,000 u 2,000 Malti kienu telqu minn art twelidhom sabiex imorru lejn artijiet ġodda, ammonti li kważi rdoppjaw bejn l-1833 u l-1836. Il-pajjiżi ta' destinazzjoni kienu jinkludu l-Alġerija, Tuneż, l-Eġittu, il-Gżejjer Jonji, Kostantinopli, il-Greċja u Tripli, fejn fl-1842 l-għadd ta' migranti Maltin kien ilaħħaq l-20,000. Madankollu għal ħafna din l-avventura f'art barranija ma rnexxietx u kull sena kienu jirritornaw madwar 1,000, b'ħafna minnhom kienu jiġu foqra bħalma kienu telqu.

L-emigrazzjoni baqgħet imxekkla min-nuqqas ta' interess mill-Gvern Brittanniku fi skemi biex itaffu l-qgħad u l-pressjonijiet ikkawżati minn popolazzjoni eċċessiva. Il-proposti magħmula mill-Gvernatur Richard More O'Farrell ġew imblukkati minn Londra u fil-perjodu bejn l-1842 u l-1865 ma kien hemm l-ebda inizjattiva privata. Dawk il-Maltin li xtaqu jemigraw kellhom jagħmlu dan mingħajr l-ebda għajnuna uffiċjali jew organizzata. Wara l-1865, ir-rata tal-emigrazzjoni baqgħet instabbli. Perjodi ta' prosperità u ta' kriżijiet ekonomiċi f'Malta ġiegħlu lin-nies iqisu l-migrazzjoni b'mod differenti skont kif kienet sejra l-ekonomija lokali. Bejn l-1860ijiet u l-1880ijiet l-għadd ta' migranti li ġew lura Malta spiss qabeż l-għadd ta' dawk li kienu qed iħallu l-Gżejjer Maltin. Bejn l-1861 u l-1890 kien hemm medja ta' madwar 110 emigranti fis-sena u lejn l-aħħar tal-1880 kien hemm madwar 50,000 Malti jgħixu tul il-kosta tal-Mediterran. Ħafna telqu lejn pajjiżi li jvarjaw mill-Alġerija sa Kostantinopli, filwaqt li oħrajn marru jgħixu fi Sqallija, fi Franza, u fi Spanja. Uħud minnhom saħansitra marru l-Istati Uniti u l-Awstralja. Min-naħa l-oħra, ħafna migranti fqar ma kellhomx għażla oħra ħlief li jerġgħu jirritornaw lura Malta. L-awtoritajiet Maltin ma kinux jieħdu pjaċir b'dawk il-migranti li kienu qegħdin jiġu lura minħabba li dawn kienu se jkomplu jżidu mal-problemi lokali, li t-tluq tagħhom kien għen itaffi. Fl-1880ijiet, l-Awstralja kienet meqjusa bħala lokalità potenzjali għall-migranti Maltin iżda din il-proposta sabet l-oppożizzjoni tal-partit antiriformista ta' Fortunato Mizzi li qiesha bħala parti mill-iskema ta' Londra biex timponi l-lingwa Ingliża fuq il-Maltin. Xi Maltin marru l-Awstralja iżda din l-avventura kienet l-aħħar inizjattiva sinifikanti ta' emigrazzjoni fis-seklu dsatax.

L-affarijiet kellhom jinbidlu drastikament fis-seklu għoxrin. Il-problemi kkawżati mill-popolazzjoni eċċessiva u mill-qgħad kienu saru realtà aktar kerha fil-bidu tas-seklu u fl-1907, l-Aġent Gvernatur, Sir Harry Barron, waqqaf il-Kumitat Malti għall-Emigrazzjoni magħmul minn għaxar membri, bit-Tabib Charles Mattei bħala s-segretarju. Madankollu dan il-Kumitat la kellu fondi x'joffri u lanqas setgħa reali biex jappoġġja l-inizjattivi. Seta' biss isib l-informazzjoni u jippreżentaha lill-migranti prospettivi Maltin. Il-Knisja ddeċidiet ukoll li twaqqaf l-organizzazzjoni tagħha stess imsejħa l-Lega tal-Appostolat tat-Talb, iżda apparti milli ħolqot Karus u kkorrispondiet ma' entitajiet Kattoliċi f'pajjiżi oħra, ma tantx setgħet tagħmel aktar. Anke hija ma kellha l-ebda setgħa reali u ma kellhiex fondi.

Fl-1913 it-Ten. Gvernatur Sir John Clauson waqqaf l-Uffiċċju ta' Informazzjoni dwar l-Emigrazzjoni bħala parti mill-Fergħa tal-Passaporti fil-Belt Valletta bl-iskop uniku li jipprovdi informazzjoni, għaliex anke huwa ma kellux fondi. Il-Gvern Kolonjali wkoll żamm lura milli jagħti għajnuna finanzjarja lil dawk li xtaqu jemigraw iżda ma kellhomx il-mezzi meħtieġa. Għalhekk l-uniċi fondi kellhom jiġu minn sorsi privati. Lejn l-aħħar tas-seklu dsatax żewġ filantropi spikkaw għall-ġenerożità tagħhom għal dan il-għan. Vincenzo Bugeja waqqaf il-Bugeja Emigration Fund bħala sors ta' għajnuna finanzjarja wara mewtu (fl-1890), għalkemm sal-1912 dan il-fond kien tbattal minħabba l-ammont kbir ta' persuni li għamlu użu minnu. Kien hemm ukoll Giovanni di Nicolò Pappaffy li waqqaf il-Fond Pappaffy fl-1886 b'donazzjoni ta' £10,000. Mill-imgħax ta' dan il-fond sal-1961 ġew megħjuna 554 migrant.

Sal-ewwel snin tas-seklu għoxrin għadd żgħir ta' Maltin bdew jivvjaġġaw lejn l-Istati Uniti, il-Kanada, u l-Awstralja, u bil-mod il-mod qabdet it-tendenza li l-migranti jmorru lejn dawk il-pajjiżi li jitkellmu bl-Ingliż. Hekk kif faqqgħet l-Ewwel Gwerra Dinjija l-emigrazzjoni waqfet iżda din reġgħet qabdet

mill-PARLAMENT - Diċembru 2019

It-tfittxija għal Futur Ġdid – l-Emigrazzjoni Maltija fis-Sekli Dsatax u Għoxrin (Kont.)

ir-ritmu malli spiċċat il-gwerra. Fl-1919 twaqqaf Kumitat ġdid tal-Emigrazzjoni, ippresedut minn Joseph Howard, b'Henry Casolani bħala s-segretarju u l-uffiċjal eżekuttiv. L-emigrazzjoni kienet imxekkla mill-illitteriżmu għoli ta' ħafna mill-migranti u fl-1919 tnedew klassijiet speċjali sabiex jipprovdu edukazzjoni bażika. Madankollu, minħabba l-attendenza fqira din l-inizjattiva twaqqfet fl-1921.

Sal-1928 kien tnieda ċ-Ċentru ta' Taħriġ għall-Migranti li kien jinsab fl-Istitut Tekniku Bugeja fil-Ħamrun. Peress li l-Awstralja, il-Kanada u l-Amerika kienu jaċċettaw biss nies tas-sengħa, migranti li ma kinux imħarrġa f'xi sengħa ma kellhom l-ebda ċans li jiġu aċċettati f'dawn il-pajjiżi. Għall-ewwel, il-Kanada u l-Awstralja ma kinux jaċċettaw Maltin. Kien biss f'Marzu 1938 li l-Awstralja rrikonoxxiet lill-Maltin bħala suġġetti Brittaniċi, u b'hekk taffiet il-kundizzjonijiet stretti li kienet tapplika għal emigranti oħrajn. L-emigrazzjoni lejn l-Awstralja twaqqfet temporanjament matul it-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, madanakollu reġgħet qabdet wara l-gwerra. Issa apparti l-Awstralja, anke l-Istati Uniti u l-Kanada kienu saru destinazzjonijiet ferm imfittxija.

Il-gvernijiet Maltin għenu finanzjarjament eluf ta' migranti prospettivi, pereżempju billi taw għotjiet ta' flus lill-familji fejn il-membru li kien jaqla' l-għajxien tal-familja kien emigra u billi ffinanzjaw skemi ta' passaġġi assistiti. Il-Knisja lokali għenet ukoll lill-migranti permezz tat-twaqqif ta' Kummissjoni tal-Emigranti fil-ħamsinijiet li sal-1972 kienet topera minn Palazzo Carafa. Din kienet tgħin lill-migranti jħejju ruħhom għall-ħajja f'pajjiżi barranin. Din il-forma ta' emigrazzjoni bdiet tonqos mill-1966 u ħafna migranti li fl-imgħoddi kienu telqu minn Malta bdew jirritornaw biex jissettiljaw f'Malta wara ħafna snin neqsin.

Illum il-ġurnata, grazzi għas-sħubija ta' Malta fl-Unjoni Ewropea, daħlet sew forma ġdida ta' migrazzjoni fejn il-moviment liberu u l-issettiljar fil-pajjiżi tal-UE huma relattivament sempliċi u nfetħu opportunitajiet ġodda għall-Maltin biex isibu futur fil-kontinent Ewropew.

Il-filantropu sinjur Vincenzo Bugeja ħalla parti minn ġidu għall-migranti prospettivi Maltin

Mijiet ta' emigranti Maltin ibbenefikaw mill-altruwiżmu tal-Grieg Giovanni di Nicolò Pappaffy

Żewġ fuljetti bil-Malti li jispjegaw diversi aspetti tal-ħajja Awstraljana lill-migranti prospettivi

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Seeking a New Future - Maltese Emigration In The 19th and 20th Centuries

The movement of people from the Maltese islands to various parts of the world, especially to seek employment and a better life, has been going on for centuries. The problem of unemployment and excessive population numbers, however, became more and more pronounced at the turn of the 1820s as the Maltese economy could not keep up with the steady demographic increase. The local Catholic Church and the Maltese themselves did not accept any reference to birth control. The only solution open seemed to be emigration, about which there were mixed feelings. Governors Hastings and Ponsonby along with others such as Giorgio Mitrovich were in favour. There were those who, however, considered emigration as cruel and unnatural.

A first real coordinated attempt was made in 1826 when a few hundred Maltese went to the Ionian island of Cephalonia near Greece. By 1833 this experiment had failed with the Maltese workers being blamed with incompetence and feebleness. In these first decades of the 19th century all attempts to finance emigration from public funds had failed. To be able to emigrate the Maltese were constrained to seek support from private sources, with a trip to Tripoli or Tunis on a Maltese-owned speronara costing about 2 shillings. Going to Constantinople or Egypt cost 12 shillings or more, depending on the climatic conditions. Maltese migrants knew that if their stay failed they could be helped to come back by means of public funds. At this time British consuls in the Mediterranean also helped financially any destitute, unemployed, or temporarily sick Maltese migrants who wished to stay on in a foreign land for some more time. Between 1818 and 1832, about 1,000 to 2,000 locals had departed for new lands, with numbers nearly doubling between 1833 and 1836. Countries of destination included Algeria, Tunis, Egypt, the Ionian Islands, Constantinople, Greece and Tripoli, where the number of Maltese migrants in 1842 totalled 20,000. However many were unsuccessful in their adventure in a foreign land and each year about 1,000 returned, many coming back as poor as they had left.

Emigration remained hampered by the lack of the British Government's interest in schemes to relieve unemployment and pressures of overpopulation. Proposals made by Governor Richard More O'Farrell were blocked by London and there were no private ventures in the period between 1842 and 1865. Those Maltese who wished to emigrate had to do so without official or organized help. After 1865 the rate of emigration continued to fluctuate. Economic booms and slumps in Malta caused people to consider migrating differently depending on the varying local circumstances. During the 1860s and 1880s returning migrants often exceeded the number of those leaving the Maltese Islands. Between 1861 and 1890 there was an average of about 110 emigrants per year and by the late 1880s about 50,000 Maltese had settled along the Mediterranean coast. Many went to places ranging from Algeria to Constantinople, while others settled in Sicily, France, and Spain. A few even went to the USA and Australia. On the other hand, many poverty-stricken migrants had no other choice but to return to Malta. The Maltese authorities did not welcome returned migrants as these would only increase the local problems, which their departure had helped to relieve. In the 1880s Australia was considered to be a potential locality for Maltese migrants but this was opposed by the anti-riformist party of Fortunato Mizzi who saw in this proposal London's scheme to force the English language on the Maltese. Some Maltese went to Australia but this adventure was the last significant initiative regarding emigration in the 19th century.

Things would drastically change in the 20th century. The problems created by over-population and unemployment became a grimmer reality by the turn of the century and in 1907 the Acting Governor, Sir Harry Barron, set up the Maltese Emigration Committee composed of ten members, with Dr Charles Mattei acting as secretary. It had, however, no funds to offer and no real power to support any initiatives. It could only seek information and present it to prospective Maltese migrants. The Church also decided to set up its own organization called the League of the Apostleship of Prayer, but beyond creating a Penny Bank and corresponding with Catholic entities in other lands, little else could be done. It too had no real power and no funds.

In 1913 Lt Governor Sir John Clauson set up the Emigration Information Office as part of the Passport Branch in Valletta with the sole purpose of providing information, since it too lacked funds. The Colonial Government also kept back from handing out financial help to those wishing to emigrate but lacked the necessary means. Any funds had thus to come from private sources. In the late 19th century two philanthropists stood out for their generosity towards this end. Vincenzo Bugeja set up the Bugeja Emigration Fund as a source of financial help after his death (which happened in 1890), though by 1912 this fund had been depleted with too many having tapped into it. There was also Giovanni di Nicolò

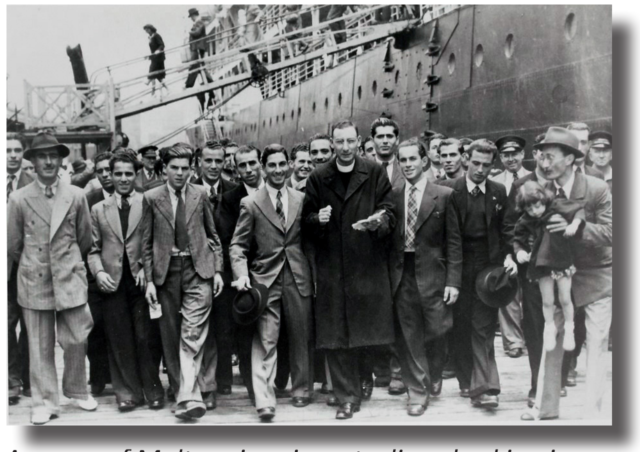
Seeking a New Future - Maltese Emigration In The 19th and 20th Centuries (cont.)

Pappaffy who set up the Pappaffy Fund in 1886 with a donation of £10,000. From the fund's interests 554 migrants had been helped up to 1961.

By the first years of the 20th century small numbers of Maltese were travelling to the USA, Canada, and Australia, with the trend towards these English-speaking lands gradually picking up. The outbreak of the First World War caused emigration to stop but it soon revived when the war ended. In 1919 a new Emigration Committee was set up, chaired by Joseph Howard, with Henry Casolani as secretary and executive officer. Emigration was hindered by the high illiteracy of most migrants and special classes were started in 1919 to provide basic education. Owing to poor attendance, this initiative was, however, discontinued in 1921.

By 1928 the Migrants Training Centre housed as Bugeja Technical Institute at Hamrun had been launched. As Australia, Canada and the USA only accepted skilled persons, migrants who were unskilled had no chance of being admitted to these countries. Canada and Australia at first did not accept the Maltese. It was only in March 1938 that Australia recognized the Maltese as British subjects, thus relieving the stringent conditions imposed on other emigrants. Migration to Australia was temporarily stopped during the Second World War but then picked up fast after the war. Not only Australia, but also the USA and Canada, had now become very popular destinations.

Maltese governments helped the thousands of prospective migrants financially such as by granting allowances to families whose breadwinner had emigrated and by assisted passage schemes. The local Church also supported migrants through the setting up of an Emigrants Commission in the 1950s which operated from Palazzo Carafa up to 1972, helping migrants to prepare themselves for life in foreign countries. This form of emigration began to decline from 1966 with many former migrants returning to settle in Malta after many years abroad. A new form of migration has now become common due to Malta joining the European Union where free movement and settling in EU countries is relatively uncomplicated and new opportunities have become available for Maltese to find a future on the European continent.



A group of Maltese immigrants disembarking in Sydney from the SS Partizanka in 1948

A booklet of 1967 assuring the Maltese emigrants that they were welcome in Australia

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Ħidma Parlamentari Ġunju 2017 – Diċembru 2019		Parliamentary Work June 2017 – December 2019
Seduti fil-Plenarja	287	Plenary Sittings
Laqgħat tal-Kumitati Permanenti	300	Meetings of Standing Committees
Stqarrijiet Ministerjali	25	Ministerial Statements
Mozzjonijiet	288	Motions
Mozzjonijiet Privati	28	Private Members' Motions
Mozzjonijiet għall-Ewwel Qari ta' Abbozzi ta' Liġi	117	Motions for First Reading of Bills
Liġijiet mgħoddija mill-Parlament	89	Acts enacted by Parliament
Liġijiet approvati b'votazzjoni fi stadju tat-Tielet Qari	7	Acts approved upon division at Third Reading stage
Mistoqsijiet Parlamentari	12,354	Parliamentary Questions
Dokumenti mqiegħda fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra	4,243	Documents laid on the Table of the House
Diskorsi tal-Aġġornament	200	Adjournment Speeches
Deċiżjonijiet tas-Sedja	37	Rulings by the Chair
Membri Parlamentari li siefru fuq xogħol parlamentari	246	Members of Parliament on parliamentary duties abroad
Delegazzjonijiet parlamentari barra minn Malta mmexxija mill-Ispeaker/mid-Deputy Speaker	38	Parliamentary delegations abroad led by the Speaker/ Deputy Speaker