THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

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Data: 08/10/2019

Stqarrija: Il-Proposti tal-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex għall-Baġit 2020

Il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex ħarġet b' numru ta' proposti għall-baġit 2020. Dawn il-proposti ġew ppreżentati fil-*Gozo Regional Committee*:

- **Il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal-Għawdex ipproponiet li l-proġett tal-mina bejn Għawdex u Malta għandu jkompli**. Il-Kamra pproponiet ukoll li l-iskart iġġenerat minn dan il-proġett għandu jintuża għat-tkabbir tal-faċilitajiet tal-irmiġġ fl-iMġarr, Għawdex. Dan il-proġett madanakollu għandu jkun akkumpanjat minn pjan ħolistiku li jiżgura l-iżvilupp sostenibbli tal-gżira ta' Għawdex. Dan għandu jwassal biex il-lokalitajiet f'Għawdex jibqgħu distinti bejniethom u li l-karattru uniku ta' kull lokalità jiġi ppreservat. Il-Kamra temmen li l-*Outside Development Zones* (ODZs) f'Għawdex m'għandhomx jintmessu. L-aċċessibbiltà trid tkun akkumpanjata minn pjan ta' żvilupp sostenibbli għall-gżira kollha kemm hi.
- **Faċilitajiet ta' parkeġġ aħjar biex jaqdu n-negozji fir-Rabat Għawdex.** Dan għandu jkun akkumpanjat minn pjan ħolistiku ta' ġestjoni tat-traffiku. Proposta li tressqet mill-Kamra hi li jkun hemm *multi storey parking facility* taħt l-art.
- **L-introduzzjoni tar-raba vapur fuq bażi permanenti.** Madanakollu għandhom ikomplu jiġu maħsuba soluzzjonijiet għall-operaturi kummerċjali Dan jista' jinkludi l-introduzzjoni ta' sistema ta' *pre booking* għall-operaturi kummerċjali. Din is-sistema għandha tiġi ntrodotta biss fuq vjaġġi ddedikati biss għal vetturi kummerċjali. Dan joffri lill-operaturi kummerċjali l-opportunità li jippjanaw aħjar l-attivitajiet ta' trasport tagħhom bejn iż-żewġ gżejjer. Il-Kamra tinnota wkoll li jistgħu jiġu kkunsidrati aktar servizzi dedikati għall-vetturi kummerċjali biss.
- **L-introduzzjoni ta' *fast ferry service*.**
- **L-introduzzjoni ta 'servizz ta' ħelikopter**, bi skeda li tkun allinjata mat-titjiriet ewlenin kollha, u bi prezzijiet li ma jiskoraġġixxux l-użu.
- **Twaqqif ta 'aġenziji li jikkumplimentaw ix-xogħol tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex**. Il-Kamra tinnota b'mod pożittiv l-isforzi biex titwaqqaf l-Awtorità għall-Iżvilupp Reġjonali ta' Għawdex. Il-Kamra hija tal-fehma li għandhom bżonn jitwaqqfu aġenziji speċjalizzati biex jikkumplimentaw ix-xogħol tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex, bħall-'Aġenzija Kultura Għawdex', u t-twaqqif ta' aġenzija ffokata fuq l-iŻvilupp Ekonomiku. Il-Kamra tinnota b'mod pożittiv li żdiedu n-numru ta' attivitajiet kulturali f' Għawdex. L-'Aġenzija Kultura Għawdex' għandha tkun responsabbli li tikkoordina b' mod ħolistiku dawn l-attivitajiet. Min-naħa l-oħra l-aġenzija għall-iŻvilupp Ekonomiku għandha: (a) tieħu ħsieb ix-xogħol relatat mal-miżuri ekonomiċi f' Għawdex, għalkhemm tibqa' taħt ir-responsabiltá tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex; (b) tospita *one stop shop* għall-entitajiet kollha relatati ma l-ekonomija f'Għawdex e.g. Malta Enterprise, Business First, Trade Malta eċċ .; u (c) tgħin lill-intrapriżi biex irawmu t-tkabbir ekonomiku permezz tal-parteċipazzjoni tagħhom f' konsorzji li japplikaw għall-proġetti tal-Unjoni Ewropeja.

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- **Soċjetà Ċivili**. Il-*Gozo Regional Committee* fi ħdan l-MCESD għandu jkollu baġit allokat u rappreżentanza permanenti fil-gżira.
- **Il-*Barts Medical School* u s-Servizzi tas-Saħħa**. Il-Kamra tinnota l-iżviluppi pożittivi fir-rigward tal-*Barts Medical School*. Il-Kamra temmen li għandu jkompli jkun hemm impenn qawwi fuq is-servizzi tas-saħħa f'Għawdex biex jiġi żgurat li jinżamm il-livell meħtieġ ta' servizz. L-iżvilupp soċjali u ekonomiku ta' Għawdex jimxu id f'id u servizzi fil-komunità b'saħħithom speċjalment fis-settur tas-saħħa se jiżguraw li Għawdex ikompli jimxi fid-direzzjoni t-tajba. L-iżvilupp tas-settur tas-saħħa f'Għawdex għandu jitqies ukoll f'perspettiva ħolistika. Minbarra l-*Barts Medical School*, wieħed għandu jikkunsidra wkoll qasam ta' speċjalizzazzjoni li Għawdex jista' eventwalment jiffoka fuqu fis-settur tas-saħħa.
- **Estensjoni ta 'Skemi Eżistenti**, bħat-tnaqqis ta' *stamp duty* fuq propjetajiet mixtrija f'Għawdex għandha tkompli.
- **The University of Malta Gozo Campus**. Il-Kamra temmen li għandu jerġa' jiġi maħsub ir-rwol strateġiku ta' dan il-post bit-twaqqif ta' fakultà speċjalizzata fil-Kampus ta' Għawdex u b'korsijiet li jiġu offruti biss minn dan il-post.

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Date: 08/10/2019

Press Release: The Gozo Business Chamber's proposals for the Budget 2020

The Gozo Business Chamber, has presented a number of proposals for the upcoming budget 2020. These proposals have been presented within the Gozo Regional Committee:

- **The continuation of the project of the subsea tunnel between Gozo and Malta.** The Chamber also proposed that the waste generated by this project should be used for the enlargement of the berthing facilities in Mġarr, Gozo. This project however should be accompanied by a holistic plan ensuring the sustainable development of the island of Gozo, such as for example that the green belts between localities are retained, and that the unique character of each locality is preserved. The Chamber believes that the present Outside Development Zones (ODZ) in Gozo should not be touched. Accessibility needs to be accompanied by a sustainable development approach.
- **Better parking facilities to serve Gozo's retail facilities in Victoria,** accompanied by a holistic traffic management plan. An underground multi-storey parking facility for Victoria should be considered.
- **The introduction of the fourth ferry on a permanent basis**. Solutions for commercial operators however should also be envisaged. This may include the introduction of a pre-booking system for commercial operators on trips dedicated only to commercial vehicles. This would offer commercial operators the opportunity to better plan their transportation activities between the two islands. The Chamber also notes that more dedicated services for commercial operators may need to be considered.
- **The introduction of the fast ferry service**;
- **The introduction of a helicopter service**, with a schedule which is aligned to all major flights, and with pricing that does not discourage usage.
- **Setting up of agencies which complement the work of the Ministry for Gozo**. The Chamber positively notes the endeavours to set up the Gozo Regional Development Authority. The Chamber is of the opinion that specialised agencies need to be set up to complement the work of the Ministry for Gozo, such as 'Aġenzija Kultura Għawdex', and the setting up of an economic development agency. 'Aġenzija Kultura Għawdex' would be a dedicated cultural agency that would ensure a holistic set-up and coordination which is required given the substantial number and calibre of events that are taking place in Gozo. On the other hand an economic development agency would: (a) take over the work related to economic measures of the Ministry for Gozo but would still be answerable to the Ministry; (b) host a one stop shop for all the entities related to the economy in Gozo e.g. Malta Enterprise, Business First, Trade Malta etc.; and (c) assist enterprises to foster economic growth through participation in EU projects and consortia.
- **Civil Society**. The Gozo Regional Committee within MCESD should have an allocated budget and a permanent representation on the island.
- **Barts Medical School and Health Services**. The Chamber notes the positive developments with respect to the Barts Medical School. There should continue to be a strong focus on health services in Gozo to ensure that the required level of service is maintained. Community and economic development are interlinked and strong community services especially in the health sector will ensure that Gozo will continue to progress in the right direction. The development of the health sector in Gozo should also be seen in a holistic perspective. Apart

from the Barts Medical School one should also consider an area of specialisation which Gozo could eventually focus on in the health sector.

- **Extension of Existing Schemes**, such as the reduced stamp duty for properties purchased in Gozo should continue to apply.
- **University of Malta Gozo Campus**. There should be a strategic rethinking of the Gozo Campus with the setting up of a specialised faculty at the Campus with courses which will be offered only from Gozo.