THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

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

Il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex tilqa' b'sodisfazzjon lil l-Gvern jagħraf ir-rwol importanti tas-settur privat u li Għawdex issa huwa meqjus kontributur importanti fl-ekonomija nazzjonali.

B'mod nazzjonali il-Karmra tinnota b'sodisfazzjon:

- It-tkomplija għal sena oħra tar-**rata mnaqqsa fuq il-boll tat-trasferiment tan-negozju**;
- L-inċentivi **biex in-nies ikomplu jaħdmu wara l-etá tal-pensjoni**. Hekk ma jintilifxx dak il-kapital uman importanti, l-esperjenza tagħhom u l-kontribut pożittiv li jagħtu fis-suq tax-xogħol.
- Il-**miżuri għas-sostenbilta**. Dan jgħodd per eżempju għall-proposti fuq il-karozzi elettriċi, u l-immaniġġjar tal-ilma. Bħala Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex nemmnu ħafna fis-sostenibiltá tal-gżira Għawdxija. Infatti waħda mill-proposti tal-Kamra kienet li jkun hemm **pjan ta' żvilupp sostenibbli għal Għawdex**.

Wieħed jara wkoll li r-rata mnaqqsa tat-taxxa tal-boll fl-akwiżizzjoni ta' propjeta f'Għawdex, kif ġiet proposta mill-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex se tkompli.

Il-Kamra tixtieq ukoll li ċerti investimenti kif proposti minnha jkomplu jiġu kkunsidrati. Dawn jinkludu fost l-oħrajn investiment strateġiku fiċ-ċentru tal-Univerżitá f'Għawdex.

Fil-qasam tal-ekonomija il-Kamra tilqa' b'sodissfazzjon:

- t-tkomplija tal-**Gozo Employment scheme**, u l-**Film Fund** għall-produzzjonijiet ta' films f'Għawdex
- il-ħolqien ta' **awtorita reġjonali għal Għawdex** biex il-bżonnijiet ta' żvilupp f' Għawdex jiġu ndirizzati, għalkhemm wieħed għandu wkoll jaħseb għal ħolqien ta' aġenziji bbażati f' Għawdex li jgħinu fit-twettiq ta'ċerti miżuri f' setturi mportanti bħall-kultura u l-ekonomija;
- Il-bżonn li jiġu mfittxija niċeċ godda għal Għawdex. F'dan il-qasam il-Ka tilqa' b'sodisfazzjon **skema biex biex jiġu attirati konferenzi f' Għawdex**;
- Il-**Gozo *Business Scheme*** li ħa tara t-titjib tal-i*start up tax credit* għal negozji f' Għawdex, kif ukoll inċentivi għal dawk il-kumpaniji li jirrelokaw f' Għawdex;
- Il-ftuħ tar-***Research Innovation Hub***, u tal-**Barts Medical School**; u
- T-tkomplija tal-proġett għal **zona ddedikata lill-Intapriżi ż-żagħar**.

L-aċessibilita kien ukoll punt fokali ta' dan il-baġit. Il-Kamra tinnota b'mod pożittiv li l-introduzzjoni tar-raba' vapur se tkun fuq bażi permanenti, u li se jkompli x-xogħol fuq il-fast ferry u t-tieni *fibre optic*

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cable. Fil-qasam tat-trasport bil-baħar il-Kamra temmen li għandhom jiġu ddedikati iktar servizzi għall-vetturi kummerċjali.

Il-Kamra tinnota wkoll li hemm pjan ċar fuq it-tkomplija tal-proġett tal-mina. Il-Kamra temmen bis-sħiħ li dan il-proġett għandu jkompli bla waqfien.

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Date: 15/10/2019

Press Release: Reactions of the Gozo Business Chamber for the 2020 Budget

The Gozo Business Chamber welcomes the fact that the Government recognizes the important role of the private sector and that Gozo is now considered an important contributor to the national economy.

On a national level the Chamber notes with satisfaction the:

- Continuation for another year of the **reduced stamp duty on the transfer of businesses**;
- **Incentives for people to continue working beyond retirement age**. In that way their important and positive contribution to the labour market is not lost.
- **Sustainability Measures**. This applies to measures such as for example those related to electric vehicles, and the management of water resourses. The Gozo Business Chamber believes in the sustainability of the island of Gozo. One of its proposals was the formulation of a sustainable development plan for the island.

It is important to note that the reduced stamp duty on the acquisition of property in Gozo, as proposed by the Gozo Business Chamber will continue.

The Chamber also notes that some of its proposed measures such as the strategic investment on the University of Malta Gozo Centre should still be included for further consideration.

On the economic front the Chamber also welcomes the :

- Continuation of the **Gozo Employment scheme**, and the **Film Fund** for the production of films in Gozo;
- the creation of a **regional authority for Gozo** to cater for its development needs, though the Chamber believes in this case, that there need to be Gozo-based agencies for important sectors such as culture, and the economy;
- The need to continue to seek new niches for Gozo. In this area the Chamber welcomes the scheme to attract conferences in Gozo;
- The **Gozo Business Scheme** which will see an improvement in the tax credit for start-ups in Gozo, as as well as incentives for companies to relocate to Gozo;
- The opening of the **Research Innovation Hub**, and the **Barts Medical School**; and
- The completion of the project for an area dedicated to SMEs.

Accessibility was also another focal point of this budget. The Chamber positively notes that the fourth ferry which was introduced on a temporary basis, will now operate on a permanent basis. Moreover the work on the fast ferry and the fibre optic cable will continue. As regards sea transport the Chamber believes that more dedicated services for commercial vehicles should be considered.

The Chamber notes that there is a clear plan for the completion of the subsea tunnel between Gozo and Malta. The Chamber believes that this project should continue in earnest.