# THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

**The Brokerage, Level 4A, St Marta Street, Victoria VCT 2551, Gozo, Malta**
**Tel: (+365) 21550305**
**E-mail: info@gozobusinesschamber.org**
**Website: www.gozobusinesschamber.org**


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## Press Release: The Health Sector in Gozo

The Gozo Business Chamber notes with satisfaction the opening of the home for the elderly 'Dar San Ġużepp'. The Chamber has always pointed out to the need for investment to be undertaken in the health care sector in Gozo, and this important addition should continue to ensure that our elderly are well taken care of. Gozo faces specific challenges in this respect. According to census data Gozo has seen significant increases in the 60+ age brackets between 2011 and 2021. According to the same data, while the old age dependency ratio in 2021 in the Malta region stood at 27.1%, in Gozo this was 33.5%. The Chamber hopes that such an investment will ensure a more equitable situation between the two islands.

This together with other recent initiatives such as the opening of the new health centre in Victoria, the new community clinic in Qala, and the new MRI machine at the Gozo General Hospital augurs well for the island of Gozo. Within this context the Chamber reiterates the need for a new hospital for Gozo. Gozo's population has increased from a little over 31,000 people in 2011, to a little over 39,000 people in 2021. While noting the exceptional services currently being provided by health care service providers in Gozo, the Chamber believes that the new hospital will help Gozo on a number of levels. Primarily it will ensure more quality health care services to be delivered from Gozo, thus lessening the need for travel to the main island, sometimes at short notice, for sick persons. Moreover, the new hospital would also complement the activities of the medical school of the Queen Mary University in Gozo. The recent developments show that quality health care services for Gozitans, should not be an option but a duty of the State, and a right which all Gozitans should have access to.

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BOV Bank of Valletta

**Member of the Network of Insular Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the EU (Insuleur)**
**Member of the Observatory on Tourism for Islands Economy (OTIE)**

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## Stqarrija għall-Istampa: Is-Settur tas-Saħħa f'Għawdex

Il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex tilqa' b'sodisfazzjon il-ftuħ tad-dar tal-anzjani 'Dar San Ġużepp'. Il-Kamra dejjem saħqet fuq il-ħtieġa ta' investiment fis-settur tas-saħħa f'Għawdex, u dan l-investiment ġdid għandu jiżgura li l-anzjani tagħna jingħatalhom dak is-servizz li jixirqilhom. Għawdex għandu sfidi partikolari. Skont l-aħħar ċensiment Għawdex ra żidiet sinifikanti bejn l-2011 u l-2021 f'dawk il-faxxi ta' eta' 'il fuq minn sittin sena. Skont l-aħħar ċensiment ukoll l-*old age dependency ratio* fl-2021 f'Malta kien ilaħħaq is-27.1%, waqt li f'Għawdex dan ilaħħaq it-33.5%. Il-Kamra tittama li dan l-investiment jiżgura sitwazzjoni iktar ekwa bejn iż-żewġ gżejjer.

Dan flimkien ma investimenti oħra reċenti bħaċ-ċentru ġdid tas-saħħa fil-belt Victoria, il-klinika komunitarja fil-Qala, u l-magna ġdida tal-MRI fl-iSptar Ġenerali ta' Għawdex, jawgura tajjeb għall-gżira Għawdxija. F'dan il-kuntest il-Kamra terġa' ttenni l-ħtieġa ta' sptar ġdid għal Għawdex. Il-popolazzjoni fil-gżira Għawdxija żdiedet minn ftit iktar minn 31,000 ruħ fl-2011, għall-ftit iktar minn 39,000 ruħ fl-2021. Filwaqt li l-Kamra tinnota s-servizz ta' saħħa ta' kwalita' preżentament offrut, hija temmen li sptar ġdid għandu jgħin lil Għawdex fuq diversi livelli. Primarjament dan għandu jiżgura li iktar servizzi ta' kwalita' jiġu offruti minn Għawdex, u għalhekk inaqqas il-ħtieġa li l-marid jivjaġġa lejn Malta għall-kura medika. Barra minn hekk sptar ġdid jikkumplimenta l-attivitajiet tal-iskola medika tal-Univerżita *Queen Mary* li tinstab f'Għawdex. Kif juru l-iżviluppi riċenti, servizz ta' saħħa ta' kwalita għall-Għawdxin, ma għandux ikun għażla imma dmir tal-Istat, u dritt li l-Għawdxin kollha għandhom ikollhom aċċess għalih.