THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

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Press Release: The Gozo Business Chamber (GBC) notes with satisfaction the introduction of the reduced fare travel scheme by the Ministry for Gozo

The Gozo Business Chamber notes with satisfaction the initiative announced by the Ministry for Gozo regarding the reduced Gozo Channel fare travel scheme between Monday and Thursday for the month of July. This scheme was proposed in the technical committee set up by the Ministry for Gozo with the Gozitan employer groups, to discuss economic measures to incentivise the Gozitan economy.

Such a measure will help to attract domestic tourism during weekdays, thus generating the required economic activity which is essential at this point in time. Tourism impacts the Gozitan economy in many ways, not only in the accomodation and catering sectors, but also in other important economic segments such as the retail industry.

As indicated by the latest statistics on regional tourism issued by the National Statistics Office (NSO, *News Release* 110/220), domestic tourism contributes significantly to the the Gozitan economy. In 2019 domestic tourists accounted for 54.3% of the total tourism demand in Gozo. In 2019 the number of Maltese residents who stayed in Gozo and Comino totalled 215,272. This translated itself in 571,500 nights and generated an estimated total expenditure of € 35.9 million. Though these figures represented a decrease from the 2017 and the 2018 figures, the GBC believes that this measure will help to incentivise the Gozitan economy, making Gozo an attractive destination for this holiday period.

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Stqarrija: Il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex tinnota b'sodisfazzjon l-introduzzjoni ta' skema ta' vjaġġar bl-irħis introdotta mill-Ministeru għal Għawdex

Il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex tinnota b'sodisfazzjon l-inizjattiva mħabbra mill-Ministeru għal Għawdex relatata mat-traħħis fin-nollijiet tal-vapur għal min jivvjaġġa minn Għawdex bejn it-Tnejn u l-Ħamis, matul ix-xahar ta' Lulju. Din l-iskema kienet proposta f'kumitat tekniku mwaqqaf mil-Ministeru għal-Għawdex flimkien mal-gruppi ta' min iħaddem biex jiddiskuti miżuri ekonomiċi li jinċentivaw l-ekonomija Għawdxija.

Din il-miżura ħa tgħin biex tattira t-turiżmu domestiku matul il-jiem tal-ġimgħa, u hekk tiġġenera attivita ekonomika li hija tant essenzjali f'dan iż-żmien. It-turiżmu jimpatta l-ekonomija Għawdxija b'diversi modi, mhux biss fis-settur tal-akkomodazzjoni u l-*catering*, imma wkoll f' setturi ekonomiċi oħrajn bħal-industrija tar-*retail.*

Hekk kif indikat fl-aħħar statistika fuq it-turiżmu reġjonali maħruġa mill-Uffiċċju Nazzjonali tal-Istatistika (NSO, *News Release* 110/220), is-suq tat-turiżmu domestiku huwa mportanti ħafna għall-ekonomija Għawdxija. Fl-2019 dan kien jgħodd għal 54.3% tad-domanda globali turistika f'Għawdex. Fl-2019, in-numru ta'residenti Malta li qagħdu f'Għawdex jew Kemmuna ammonta għal 215,272. Dan issarraf

f'571,500 iljieli, u ġġenera nefqa globali ta' madwar € 35.9 miljun. Għalkemm dawn il-figuri rrapreżentaw tnaqqis mil-2017 u l-2018, il-Kamra tan-Negozju għal Għawdex temmen li din il-miżura ħa tgħin biex tinċentiva l-ekonomija Għawdxija, u hekk tgħin biex tagħmel lil Għawdex destinazzjoni attraenti matul dan il-perijodu ta' vaganzi.