



## THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER

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### **The Present Situation at the Gozo Law Courts**

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The Gozo Business Chamber is presently concerned with the situation at the Gozo Law Courts. Mainly the Chamber would like to point out to the following issues:

- The **inadequate facilities presently available at the Gozo Law Courts**, which are neither accessible to people with disabilities, nor adequate to host the operations of a modern and functioning Court of Law.
- The **lack of sufficient and trained staff** capable of supporting the normal and efficient administration of a Court of Law, which many times results in sittings being delayed.
- The **absence of specific grades within the Gozo Courts, mainly the absence of marshals resident in Gozo**. This is a grave shortcoming, as with the solutions that are being proposed, it would mean that after office hours the communication of decrees, their implementation, and execution would be delayed. Having non-resident marshals crossing over to Gozo, would mean that certain illegal actions would not be prevented from happening, as the marshal would need to be summoned from Malta after office hours to communicate, implement and execute a decree.

A fully functioning Court of Law in Gozo along the years has progressed with the developments of the regional set-up of the island. The Chamber is concerned that the present situation may lead to certain services being hived off from the Gozo Law Courts and to its importance being gradually diminished. The present situation and the solutions being proposed are not acceptable, as these would continue to accentuate the regional disparities that are frequently faced by the Gozitan population.

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Incorporated by Public Deed on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1999

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