



MEDIA RELEASE

MHRA – Tourism is the main pillar of Maltese economy

MHRA would like to express its concern on the confusing statements being made by Government concerning the tourism industry. One day Dr. Gonzi is quoted - during the launch of Government subsidies, to encourage hotel refurbishment, that the tourism industry is the main pillar of the Maltese economy, while shortly afterwards Dr Jason Azzopardi stresses that Malta is “not only a tourism destination” and goes on to downplay this crucial industry’s local role while also stating that tourism directly contributes no more than 12% of Malta’s GDP.

MHRA certainly does not deny that Malta’s economy is diverse and that the contribution towards our GDP by various other sectors should not be under-estimated. However if the Prime Minister has just stated that our country’s economy is mainly supported by tourism, it seems incongruent and inconsistent for another high official of the same administration to follow this up with an opposing statement.

The ripple effect created by the tourism sector is far greater than that produced by other sectors in our economy. Tourism indirectly supports in a substantial manner a number of service sectors such as restaurants, transport, retail, financial services and to a lesser extent also the real estate sector. Tourists visiting the Maltese islands have a marked incidence through their spend on all of these sectors.

The true overall impact of the tourism sector should not be minimised, but rather as the main pillar of the Maltese economy it should be supported, upheld and given the importance it rightly deserves.

Wednesday 17th June, 2009

About MHRA

The MHRA has been established since 1958 and today represents 70% of all hotels in Malta and 35% of all restaurants, collectively representing an investment of over Euros 1.1 billion and employing in excess of 20,000 people. For the past 50 years the MHRA has represented the interest of hoteliers and restaurateurs on the Island acting as a lobby group to ensure that the policy decisions taken on the Island are in line with what the tourism industry needs to flourish. For more information about the MHRA visit www.mhra.org.mt or call (356) 21 318133.