



## A POSITIVE REACTION TO THE PACKAGE OF FINANCIAL MEASURES

The **Malta Employers' Association** stated that the package of financial measures presented by the government is **one of positive financial assistance and the result of collective consultation**. The **Chamber of Commerce** meanwhile stated that **it is satisfied with the measures to help the businesses** most hit by Covid-19, this while praising the spirit of dialogue with which the government proceeded in this matter. The **Malta Chamber of SMEs** insisted that **these measures will give a lifeline to businesses in need** so that they can safeguard jobs. The **Gozo Business Chamber** and the **Gozo Tourism Association** stated that the **financial incentives give importance** to the special circumstances affecting Gozitan businesses. The **Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association** praised the **Prime Minister's dedication to see that the tourism industry is in a position to overcome the challenges** posed by Covid-19. The **General Workers Union** meanwhile stated that the measures **ensure a guaranteed minimum wage for those working in the most affected sectors**.



## THE BANKS' CONTRIBUTION

The **Bank of Valletta** announced **supporting measures for its clients** who are affected by the economic situation brought about by Covid-19. BOV has **launched a moratorium of no less than 3 months on capital as well as on interest** which will be applied both for home loans and personal loans. **The limit for overdrafts and credit cards without extra charges has been increased**. Charges on new scheduling of home loans and personal loans were also removed, as have charges on the extension of withdrawals and use of credit facilities.





## NEW CASES

**19 new cases of Covid-19 were confirmed in the last 24 hours.** 8 of the cases are related to travel abroad, 4 who already had contact with individuals infected with the virus who had already been identified by the health authorities, while 7 were infected through local transmission, with the source of the virus not yet ascertained. Among these new cases there is an elderly person of **81 years who so far does not seem to have complications.** The other elderly person of 61 years is still at the ITU **but is not in a critical state.** The total number of persons who so far have tested positive for the virus is now **129.**



## SWABS AND TESTS

The number of swab tests have **accelerated in order to identify those who have the virus and to isolate them immediately in order to reduce its spread.** As from yesterday, the pathology laboratory at Mater Dei Hospital **started taking swabs at four different time slots during the day instead of three,** as per previous practice. In fact, in the last 24 hours, **488 swabs were taken.** Malta remains among the countries which takes the most swabs, and so far **3,819 have been taken:** of these, 2,605 were taken from people presenting symptoms and 1,218 were taken from people who were admitted to hospital with breathing difficulties. The number of positive cases from such tests depend on each and every one of us. **We need to work together in order to not compound the spread of the coronavirus.**





## INSPECTIONS ON THOSE UNDER QUARANTINE

The Police, together with the Health Authorities and officials from the Civil Protection Department, conducted **329 inspections in Malta and Gozo**. During these inspections, **one person who was caught breaking the law was fined**. As ever, the appeal remains that **everyone should be responsible and cooperate with the directives that are being issued by the authorities**.



## ESTABLISHMENTS ARE REMAINING CLOSED

Food and drinking establishments have **continued observing the regulations imposed upon them to remain closed** in order for the spread of Covid-19 to be reduced. In the last 24 hours, **800 inspections were carried out in Malta and another 150 in Gozo**. No one was caught breaking these regulations. **The appeal remains that of cooperation**, both from clients and from the **public to not congregate in front of take-away establishments, but to keep their distance**. You can report abuses on **21692447**.





## HELPLINES

**111** – For those who feel **symptoms of COVID-19** or who wish **further information**

**2204 2200** – For Maltese residents **who were caught in one of the high-risk countries and wish to return to Malta**

**21411 411** – For those in **mandatory quarantine** who require provisions of food and medicine

**153** – For those who require **information** about the **financial measures** administered by the **Department for Social Security**.

**144** – For those who require **information** about the **financial measures** administered by **Malta Enterprise**.

**25981000** – For those who have **questions about the educational sector and the impact of the coronavirus**

**21692447** – For **hoteliers and tourists** who have questions about the announced measures.

**25903030** – For **elderly persons bereft of support** who need medicines, ready-made meals or food products (fruit and vegetables).

**25469111** – For those who work in the **gaming industry**.