

Palace Square project 'on track'



Works on the paving of Palace Square with lava slabs has picked up pace, with some three-quarters of the paving now completed.

The embellishment of the square in Valletta was taken in hand in June when the old surface was dug up. Infrastructural services, including new water pipes and cables were laid before the tile-laying started.

The square, which will henceforth be a pedestrian zone, is to feature water fixtures, new street furniture and modern lighting.

Parking for MPs is being reserved on both sides of Republic Street from Archbishop Street down to St Dominic Street, as well as a small part of Bakery Street, when the House is sitting. On other days, MPs have been allocated reserved parking in Republic Street between Archbishop and St Christopher Streets until 4.30 p.m Mondays to Fridays. MPs previously used to park on Palace Square.

A spokesman for the Resources Ministry, which is responsible for the works, said the project is on track. It is due for completion in late November.

A section of the facade of the Presidential Palace is also being cleaned and restored.

Comments

Mario Farrugia (3 days, 9 hours ago)

they should go to Hal-Far. They all have nice big cars. They can shout an argue as much as they like – LOL

Amy Joan Zahra (3 days, 20 hours ago)

Parking bays for MPs were allocated and the two disabled parking bays were scrapped and nothing was allocated for them!!!! I have just been to Valletta today....and no central disabled parking bays were to be seen!

Paul Borg (3 days, 21 hours ago)

@ Michael Bonnici: BANG ON! The idea of turning the Auberge de Castille into Parliament has circulated even in the highest official circles, they calculated that the the Prime Minister's direct needs fit in OK at the present Main Guard buildings without the need to expand upstairs. Guess who didn't like the idea of leaving his prestigious office?

So now the people will have to do without one of the few open squares in Valletta, so that the PM doesn't have to move.

And by the way, how come no one asking where Carnival is going to take place? Now that Palace Square will have stone benches, fountain, lamps, special flooring and new traffic plans, I don't think they will set up seating stands and allow Carnival trucks drive there, and anyway its smaller then Freedom Square. With Freedom Square built up, where will Carnival go? Out of Valletta it will die for sure, but who cares, its only a people's festival, not of the politicians.

Igalea (3 days, 21 hours ago)

Tony Gatt

Agree with you. They didn't even check what eu laws were being prepared by the Commission so they couldn't give their feedback.

Michael Bonnici (3 days, 23 hours ago)

From this news item the question of the siting of the House of Representatives is again on the cards.

While I still stick to my proposal to have the Main Guard as our national Parliament, my second choice is the Auberge de Castille.

The internal yard could be glass roofed and Parliament fits quite well. Ample space will be available within this building for every Minister and MP's office, committee rooms etc.,

Parking can be reserved in front of the Central Bank or next to upper Barrakka.

Michael Bonnici

A Fabri (4 days, 4 hours ago)

Design is very much contemporary ...sorry to say.

I did not know why the Dept. & and all Govt. top brains did not opt for a very baroque or classical approach.....taking in consideration that the square is in in front of the Grandmasters baroque Palace.

Did they ever imagine a floor figure , made up of lava / white granite / porfido slabs....

having the 8 pointed cross (our emblem) some 15mtrs in diameter.!!!

I d like to know opinion of bloggers

Charles Micallef (4 days, 5 hours ago)

@ Tony Gatt,

Did you know that Malta has more MPs per population than anywhere else, I wonder how many of the MPs will agree on reducing the number of MPs or how many of them will even be ready to discuss this issue!

Tony Gatt (4 days, 6 hours ago)

Why bother having MP's at all? All decisions are made in Brussels now anyway.

Charles Micallef (4 days, 6 hours ago)

@C. Farrugia

Another good location for Parlaiment could be St Elmo, but please not a new building 'clogging' the Entrance to our CITY!

C. Farrugia (4 days, 6 hours ago)

The House of Paliament should be housed in the Fort St Elmo. There is ample space for the MPs, their offices and also sufficient parking place. This will give scope to the restoration of the fort and bring some life to a part of Valletta which is not tops.

JB Caruana (4 days, 7 hours ago)

Good job for being on track....question is...Is in on budget?? Please enlighten us.

A. Borg Cardona (4 days, 7 hours ago)

Glad to see the project is on track. I can therefore conclude that the plan was to have these works carried out in the height of the tourist season, especially in these days when we really need to ensure that tourists get the best of us. I am sure that the tourists enjoyed all the noise, dust, mud, mess and perhaps learnt a few Maltese swear words too. I am positive that this was a unique esperience for tourists and that they will all come back for more. Oh, and thank you for taking away more parking space for us poor mere mortals who also need to go to Valletta every day to work.

Charles Micallef (4 days, 7 hours ago)

Why can't the old 'Main Guard' building shown in this photograph be turned into the Houses of Parliament? It is such an 'imposing' building situated in the perfect position and leave the proposed area for the new Parliament Buildings as an open space in the City's entrance which is so badly needed!

D. Fenech (4 days, 7 hours ago)

Come on, asking for an MP to walk down Republic street before a house sitting is ridiculous. First reason being security. I don't see anything wrong with this. What frustrate me are the actual cars they use, considering the bad economic times we're in and the WE are paying for these cars hux.

Franco Farrugia (4 days, 7 hours ago)

Only impractical people, or people who have nothing better to do, write the way they do below (Farrugia and Gatt) asking for MPs to walk down Republic Street. These

commentators show they have no idea how our part-time parliamentarians work, especially when they rush into the House to be on time for the voting.

J Farrugia (4 days, 7 hours ago)

when you want the people to obey and take you for your word, all MPs have to show us the way. Walk on foot to the House instead of being driven to the Palace. BY taking other people's parking areas is not the solution to the problem.

E Gatt (4 days, 7 hours ago)

Why don't MPs go to work on foot, bike, electric cab, water taxi or simply battle it out for the few remaining public spaces available like the rest of us?

The Times should ask our MPs if they agree with removing this privilege, and if they do, to sign a letter asking the Speaker not to allocate reserved parking to MPs.