

## Palace project launched



Photo shows Dr Gonzi addressing the news conference with Judge Bonello on his left.  
Photographer : Jeremy Wonnacott, DOI

The Palace in Valletta will eventually be dedicated solely for the President and all other offices currently operating from the building will be moved elsewhere.

Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi told a news conference this morning that the Palace would be restored to its original glory and alternative sites were to start being sought for operations not related to the President, including the Attorney General's office, the Community Chest Fund and Parliament. The armoury would also be moved to its original site.

The ground floor, Dr Gonzi said, would be converted into a special exhibition area for unique historic items.

He said that a plan for the restoration of the Palace was to start being drawn up and Judge Giovanni Bonello was being nominated as superintendent of the project.

Judge Bonello would be able to choose his own co-workers and specific legislation would be drawn up for specific projects in Valletta.

Dr Gonzi said that although there was no timeline for this project, the entrance to the city would be ready by the end of this legislature and this whole project would be a specific economic investment for the country.

## Comments

Gerald Fenech (1 week ago)

If there is a person who can oversee such a massive and complex project then its Judge Vanni Bonello. Sincere good wishes for his success from a friend.

Stephen Borg Cardona (1 week, 1 day ago)

Its a nice change that someone of unassailable integrity has been appointed to oversee a heritage project. This as opposed to the more usual appointments of people whose connection to the preservation of Malta`s Heritage are very difficult to discern and whose primary qualification usually appears to be connections, riches and power.

R. Cremona (1 week, 1 day ago)

Prosit - Prime Minister

Judge Bonello should be entrusted to lead other heritage projects

R. Caruana (1 week, 1 day ago)

Thank goodness for the appointment of Judge Bonello to head this project and not assigned to Heritage Malta!

Prosit to all, especially Dr Gonzi for his foresight and vision, so different from Dr Muscat and his team of whiners.

A. Mizzi (1 week, 1 day ago)

Well timed, by some Gonzipn strategy team to serve as usual as a diversive tactic like the President's Photo saga, from the stark realities and problems the country is currently facing.....

J Martinelli (1 week, 2 days ago)

@ A Farrugia

How much emptier are Joseph's promises? Dr. Gonzi is in a position to deliver, Joseph just looks on.

@ L Galea

I contribute my share of taxes where I live and when I visit in Malta. You benefit from what the NP government has delivered in the last 22 years less 22 months. Enough said.

Denis Catania (1 week, 2 days ago)

Where is this money coming from?? SURCHARGES!!

Anthony Magri (1 week, 2 days ago)

What is there to restore in the President's palace except reinstalling the Armoury in the hall instead of parliament, allocating a new site for parliament, transferring the AG somewhere else, Will the former parliament hall be transferred somewhere else, it does not belong to the palace, the tapestries perhaps yes but not the seatings. The public service commission will have to find another house. When will all this end or again will rather start..? Judge Bonello you have an impossible task to look after. It is not enough to have a free hand. You will not dispose of enough finances. You will lose patience waiting to do something. Gonzi will not be careless. It is enough that he has made a press conference and launched the project. That's enough glory for him. They will challenge you to hurry up, but they will not give you the tools. Knowing Gonzi, is enough to know what to expect. Hope they will not make a fool of you. They have all the ingredients for that.

J.Tonna (1 week, 2 days ago)

@ R.Gatt and Victor Vella - Thanks for your comments. You helped me hammering the nail in.

Didn't you notice it was 'dramatic irony'??

mario gellel (1 week, 2 days ago)

Mr. Gonzi, please no more gimmicks

R Agius (1 week, 2 days ago)

What a sad lot all of you who are so blinkered that you criticise everything the Govt proposes without even considering the benefits to us as a nation. Now we know why Joe Muscat changed the party initials to PL - PARTIT tal-LE!!!

LGalea (1 week, 2 days ago)

J Martinelli

Look who's talking!!!!

Are you going to contribute with your taxes so that Gonzi can make and finish all the grandiose projects that are being and will be announced on a daily basis up to 6 June?

Clive Attard (1 week, 2 days ago)

Can we have a palace for people like myself and other workers whose only income from a part-time miserably-paid job hangs in the balance at this very moment, and if it weren't for us, the miserable conditions we have to put up with and our cheap labour, the country probably would be another Somalia?

victor vella (1 week, 2 days ago)

J Tonna

Li kieku kontu nies u mhux pupi f idejn erba mustaccuni ta gewwa tal partit il PL ga ilu fil gvern 11 il sena, imma hallata balata kontu ghadkom u tibqaw.

Lill missier il partit ghajjartuh Trajditur, lill Lino Spiteri cahhadtuh il leadershi, Lill George Abela itradejtuh u dan kollu ghax Alfred Sant u erba ta madwaru riedu hekk. Intom ma titghalmu qatt u ma tistax tiehu gost tirkbah elezjoni sempliciment ghax il poplu jixba bil

partit fil Gvern, trid tirbah elezjoni ghax ikollok alternativi ahjar ghat tmexxija tal pajjiz. Ghax inkella xi vroma ohra ser ikolna.

Victor Laiviera (1 week, 2 days ago)

Yes, Mr Darren Muscat - the renovation of the Palace is a wonderful idea.

The trouble is that we have seen so many "wonderful ideas" from this Gov that were announced with a fanfare of trumpets and then sank without trace that we cannot help being just a wee bit sceptical.

I'm sure you will forgive us.

Charles Micallef (1 week, 2 days ago)

I can never understand as to why a simply statement about the future of one of our historical palaces, has to be turned onto a political offence?

What is wrong with us?

Joe Cassar (1 week, 2 days ago)

Mr J Martinelli loses his cool and descends to personal insults.

Truth hurts, doesn't it?

R.Gatt (1 week, 2 days ago)

@J.Tonna

ROFLMAO!!! Fqajtni bid-dahk siehbi!

Jitla min jitla fil-gvern xorta ha jgerrimlek mill-but, u xorta ha jkollok thallas it-taxxi.

U jekk minghalik li qed itik xi haga zejda, iccekja sew ghax zgur li qed inaqarlek minn band' ohra! Biex intik ezempju wiehed li zgur kulhadd jiftakar - VAT u CET.

Ma tista toqghod fuq hadd biex igibek f'postok , trid tkun inti stess li taghmel minn kollox biex tasal fejn tixtieq tasal - u la ta' l-Ahmar u l' anqas tal-Blu!!

A farrugia (1 week, 2 days ago)

@ J Martinelli

The pride of the Maltese nation will not be restored by Gonzi`s empty promises. Is it not evident that Gonzi will be holding a press conference every day during the 30 day EP Campaign promising half baked ideas that will never see the light of the day.

The pride of our nation will be restored when OUR Government stops being bullied and ridiculed by Libya and Italy and start sworking seriously on this national crisis in the interest of the Maltese families.

Joseph Camilleri (1 week, 2 days ago)

I wonder if it ever occurs to the elves or to whoever issues orders to them.. that criticising everything the government does without exception only serves to diminish their credibility..

Mid-dehra x-xemx ser titla' biss meta jkun hemm Joseph Muscat fil-gvern.

Alexander Brincat (1 week, 2 days ago)

Well done to the Government for the project. Next is seeing realised all such projects when completed !!! What is next...the first Maltese on the Moon?

If we were to discard all the projects that have been mentioned but never done we would really have the first Maltese on the Moon. Maybe from up there things will start to be a little bit clearer. Who knows...one of the offices from the palace can be moved up there.

J Martinelli (1 week, 2 days ago)

Same words, same names, same LP sour grape brains (or lack of) doing their routine bashing but immune to Joseph's inane comments especially while being 'adored' by the usual gullible throngs.

Here is a project which will restore the pride of a nation, wantonly adapted to accommodate Parliament and other offices, which will shortly be restored to its former magnificence, and still unappreciated by some who see nothing but political opportunism.

The restored Palace will be one of a few talked about topics by visiting tourists who will provide the industry with the greatest and cheapest advertising possible.

Let us have more of such projects while not forgetting the urgent needs of other historical places such as Fort St. Elmo.

J. Tonna (1 week, 2 days ago)

Imma kif qatt ma jaghmel wahda tajba dal gvern?

Igri jghaddu l-4 snin li fadal halli mbaghad nibdew nghixu tassew. (????? .....

Galea. L (1 week, 2 days ago)

Expect a lot of similar announcements in the coming days as vote-catchers for the EP elections.

You can fool all the people for some time.

You can fool some people all the time.

But you cannot fool all the people all the time.

Sandro Galea (1 week, 2 days ago)

The people who cannot appreciate the value of restoring the Palace to its full potential are the same people who said no to Europe, no to the Euro, and no to so many other things.

In all these initiatives, what counts is what brings more and better jobs for Maltese families.

A revived Palace restored to its full glory in our Capital City will increase the value of what Malta has to offer to the tourists who visit our islands.

Andrew Camilleri (1 week, 2 days ago)

Grumble grumble grumble grumble. Goodness some people can be so tedious. Can't the government ever do something good, for goodness sake? Someone like Victor Laiviera would be the first to praise the initiative were it a Labour government. The difference is a person who is not blinkered by petty party politics, like me, would also praise it in such a case, because it is a good initiative.

Darren Muscat (1 week, 2 days ago)

I don't understand, To me this sounds like a wonderful idea! I can't understand how some of you people always complain, about everything ... I wonder if Gonzi decides to abolish all taxes, (wont happen I know, just assume!) what would you complain of? lack of taxes?

Joseph Borg (1 week, 2 days ago)

A futile attempt to deviate the public's attention from the country's real problems.

Albert Galea (1 week, 2 days ago)

I would suggest that parliament should be built in between the Delimara power station and the proposed Incinerator

Victor Laiviera (1 week, 2 days ago)

Does the function of the President really need such a vast edifice all to itself? Especially since the President and his family do not actually live there? And isn't the Community Chest fund always chaired by the wife of the current president and thus closely linked to the presidency? Surely there is not harm in it having an office actually in the building?

Joe Cassar (1 week, 2 days ago)

Craft Village renovation - promised in about 7 Budgets, never done, finally abandoned.

No 1 Dock - always in the pipeline, never done.

Cirkewwa Terminal - The Never Ending Saga

State of the roads - disastrous (now blamed on Labour Gov of 20 years ago)

Now we have another project to add to the list - isn't life interesting?

salvu calleja (1 week, 2 days ago)

Dear Prime Minister

Don't you think people have other issues in mind!!? So please stop treating the intelligence of this nation like we are watching an illusionist show,,,,.As somebody is saying I believe that people are doing better than those who govern.

joe mifsud (1 week, 2 days ago)

Aren't two palaces not enough for the president? Please tackle the real things mister Gonzi.

Rev Joe Inguanez (1 week, 2 days ago)

Well done! I wish to see the "all" the armoury which was exhibited during my primary school days.

Frans H Said (1 week, 2 days ago)

The Choice of Judge Dr Giovanni Bonello is excellent. This is a person who would not be intimidated and has the Maltese history and patrimony at heart. Regarding alternative premises I suggest two alternatives (a) The number of large edifices in Republic Street and Merchants Street. (b) The so called Main Guard. The rooms behind the colonade have no importance especially the buildings abutting on Strait Street. The basement can

also serve as a car part for the deputies thus liberating St Georges Square. Good luck Dr Bonello, you are capable of doing an excellent job

Jo Said (1 week, 2 days ago)

I agree to the idea that the Palace would be restored to its original state and dedicated for the President's use as well as for the public's access to view exhibitions for historical items.

I have to praise Lawrence Gonzi's initiative on this one. It makes a lot of sense. What we have been told is where Parliament is being shifted to, however.

Mario Tabone-Vassallo (1 week, 2 days ago)

Prosit tassew. Decizjoni ghaqlija u prattika.

J Farrugia (1 week, 2 days ago)

Dear Prime Minister please refrain from giving time frames on certain project which you have no control over them should something from out of the blue crops up. And things have a habit of cropping up, so if you dont want the Opposition and the People to call you names, DONT GIVE DEADLINES even if you are pressured to do so. When things are completed then yes, give the deadline. As to Parliament site, I suggest that you consider the following sites: Fort St Elmo, that ruined place which was used for the filming of Midnite Express and AUBERGE DE BAVIERE. The less we see of Parliament the better.

A Farrugia (1 week, 2 days ago)

Can the Prime Minister focus on what matters to the hard working families, SME`s, the unions and the middle classes?

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