

## Parking in Valletta and waning business

**Monica Muscat, Valletta**

As a Valletta resident and car owner, I wish to contest the declaration that the lack of parking places is denting business in Valletta (Valletta Businesses Pin Fall In Trade To Parking Problems, February 25). I do not believe this is so because even other major shopping towns in Malta are feeling the downward trend. This situation was brought about by different circumstances. Have the business people not yet realised there is a world recession still in full swing? And what about the franchise shops that open around Malta with a primary shop in Valletta – selling the same items and nearer the customers' residence? As for the fact that the business community cannot afford to wait till June to see some improvement, I can only tell them they do have to wait, just as the residents are. It is not said, however, they will be getting their way. I guess some surprises are in store for all!

I am sure if all the members of the new committee set up by the Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry do not expect to park their cars on Valletta streets, there would be 300 more car spaces for shoppers to use!


On one point I do agree. Too many spaces are being allocated (or abused) by public figures. But I am sure this problem will be solved – after next June.

No one need hold his breath, however! It will be months before things settle down – only to start again with “grumbling and polemics”!

As for their willingness to “offer their experience and expertise”, may I remind them the residents do have priority right of parking. Not so the business community. But we residents do have our experience and expertise too and we intend to make use of it.


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## Comments

Marvin Mizzi(8 hours, 39 minutes ago) 

The Valletta residents are just having to endure the arrogance of those who have to Valletta just for pleasure..... on weekends holidays or when there are other activities we either cannot leave our houses or else we cannot go back..... No there are not enough parking spaces for the the Valletta residence and yes we can park in the White spaces those are for everyone the green parking spaces are so very few and for the privileged as they are not found in all the streets. Apart from that for the information on the many of you many a time the blue slots that are for the residents between 7pm and 7am are used by no residents. Maybe you also do not know you get right to park in residential parking not by your residence or ID .... but by leaving the car for a number of nights in the city.... so you find a number of government cars and company

cars.... so lets where the real problems are then move forward as a city needs its residents also to be called a city other it is just a shopping arcade... and Valletta is definitely not just that.

Sean Grima(11 hours, 11 minutes ago) 

i wonder why there are so many parking spaces reserved for valletta residents, when it is always said that the population there is decreasing. the system is abused by valletta residents who park in the areas not reserved for them, so their visitors can park in the valletta residents' spaces!

DVella(10 hours, 3 minutes ago)


No they can't my dear . . . if a non-resident parks in a resident's reserved space he will get fined . . . rest assured. There are several people who can confirm this from bitter experience!

Charles Busuttil(5 hours, 38 minutes ago)


What the Valletta residents do is park in the white parking space and leave the reserved parking space for other residents, maybe for their own relatives to park in.

Tony Mizzi(4 hours, 8 minutes ago)

@ Charles Busuttil, How much I wish that what you say is the truth !!!!!!! However, kindly advise me in all your wisdom in which part of Valletta this facility to decide where to park and where not to park. exist. IN all honestly, the reality I face every day is much different. Roaming around, hoping to find some place not far away from my home. This is the daily reality of A Valletta resident. You, who come once in a while to shop or go to the theatre realise how difficult it is to park in Valletta. We, residents have to face this reality on a daily basis.


Adrian Borg Cardona(11 hours, 41 minutes ago) 

"Too many spaces are being allocated (or abused) by public figures" - you forgot to mention all the thousands of exemptions dished out by the company running the CVA - these are not for shoppers but for people working in Valletta! i do hope you will enjoy living in a museum in a few years time, Ms Muscat, because that is exactly what is going to happen to Valletta! My wife and I with friends used to enjoy coming to Valletta in the evening, but we have given up as parking is such a problem.


mario camilleri(11 hours, 43 minutes ago) 

Monica you seem to know something that others dont.

What is going to happen after June? Change the name of Valletta to Mdina 2.?

P. Montebello(12 hours, 36 minutes ago) 

Dr Austin Gatt, this letter mirrors exactly the arrogant mentality that you have managed to install in some Valletta residents.

Carmel Cilia(13 hours, 37 minutes ago) 

When the new Arriva bus service takes over I humble think that it would be the death toll of business in Valletta and I would explain why.

To date with the main centre of every bus in malta being Valletta a commuter who has to catch two buses on his way back from work would have to use the Valletta terminus. Once here if he has some spare time and need to buy anything he would


pop into the city for a quick shop of to sift around.

With the new direct bus service from point to point the amount of passengers getting to the Valletta bus terminus is going to be reduced drastically.

This was evident even in this week of carnival. Just go and talk to those at the Kiosks at city gate and they would tell you the meagre business they had this week.

I might and hope to be wrong but all indications tend to point that way.

We just have to wait and see, but by then the situation would be irriversable.

Joe Borg(13 hours, 54 minutes ago) 

Dear Monica,

If you are the same Monica the Secretary Valletta Nationalist Section then what you said is not very credible!!

It is obvious that you will not write against your party!! How many friends and relatives of your earn a living from working in Valletta?

I have tried several times going into Valletta on evenings to relax and have a bite, but after driving around Valletta several times looking for a parking, I gave up and drove of to somewhere more accessible.

Not that all the parking was taken up, but the white parking space was, whilst most of the Green and Blue where empty.

Conclusion.... you are intelligent enough to reach a conclusion.

M Mifsud(12 hours, 24 minutes ago)

So, according to you, Ms Muscat is not credible because she's a member of a PN committee. Tassew Bravu!


Joe Borg(10 hours, 35 minutes ago)

@ M Mifsud

Prosit,

Even you managed to notice this!

When people with vested interest write in a news paper, they should declare there interests.

Paul Borg(14 hours, 50 minutes ago) 

Brace yourself Monica , for a barage of comments. I am a resident and a Valletta business man. You are being selfish and uncompassionate in your letter. I employ 8 Valletta residents, and if I dont survive this turmoil ,then my employees will have to seek employment outside Valletta, if they find one. I also think that all the green spaces should be Blue, meaning used by everyone and evacuated after 7.00pm.

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