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Sir Anthony Mamo's State Funeral

Malta's emotional farewell to the 'people's President'



For a day Malta's vibrant capital city stopped to bid farewell to one of the most respected personalities the country has had in recent history. Hundreds of people paid their respect to Sir Anthony Mamo, the first President of Malta, during Friday's State Funeral.

The emotional atmosphere was clear in the streets in Valletta as Sir Anthony's coffin was carried on a gun carriage from the President's Palace, where his body was lying in state, to St John's Co-Cathedral, while bells tolled solemnly and flags were hoisted at half mast.

Sir Anthony passed away on Thursday 1 May 2008 at the age of 99. His departure has immediately brought a reaction by the people who remember one of the most important days in the history of Malta, when these Islands became a Republic lifting Sir Anthony to being the first Head of State of the Republic of Malta.



"We know him as a person of sound values, honesty and integrity; who knows how many of these were coming from the moments during which he had Christ guiding him in silence," said Archbishop Paul Cremona during the homily of the funeral mass.

*The people gathered outside the church, many of whom had met him one time or another, told **maltastar.com** that he was a very humble man. "He is the face with which I associate Malta becoming a Republic, yet I cannot but not remember him as a friend and one of us," said a man in his sixties who said he knew Sir Anthony in the public service.*

Other people said he was a humorous person who had a joyous smile and loved life, but loved even more his country. "He was a President and that is how I will remember him, but he was one of us as well kien tal-poplu (he was part of the people)," said another woman in Valletta.





In the morning people queued to see Sir Mamo's body lying in state at the entrance of the Presidential Palace in Valletta. The cortege then started at around 1300hrs as the coffin of Sir Anthony draped in the Maltese flag was carried on a gun carriage through Republic Street. An ensign walked behind the coffin carrying Sir Anthony's decorations and following were his family members.

At the end of the funeral mass, the cortege led by an 80-strong AFM guard and the AFM band proceeded solemnly through Republic Street. Following the cortege were also President Eddie Fenech Adami, Chief Justice Vincent Degaetano, Speaker Anton Tabone, Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi and Acting Labour leader Charles Mangion. The cortege ended at the City Gate from where the coffin was transported to Casa Arkati. The funeral service will be held privately at Birkirkara before burial at the Addolorata Cemetery.



