

Valletta's lion to flutter up above

Juan Ameen

The flag is hoisted from a 16-metre pole. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

Anyone entering Valletta from Ġlormu Cassar Avenue will now come under the watchful eye of its emblematic golden lion on a huge red flag, fluttering on a 16-metre pole overlooking the harbour.

The flag – the size of a double-decker bus – would celebrate the capital city, its rich heritage while bringing it back to life, Valletta Mayor Alexiei Dingli said.

The flag was raised for the first time yesterday on a 16-metre-high pole erected next to the bastions in car park adjacent to the Central Bank.

Speaking before the flag was hoisted, Dr Dingli said the project had been thought up by the previous local council but it took some times for the necessary permits to be issued.

“I believe that the city's emblem should not only be brought out during a football match but should be there for everyone to see,” Dr Dingli said.

The council wanted to create awareness about its rich heritage and the ongoing works to bring it back to its former beauty while also increasing its visibility on a local and European level.

“Valletta is one of the principal candidates to host the European Culture Capital in 2018 and it's important that it receives the recognition it deserves,” Dr Dingli said.


However, Dr Dingli denied the flag initiative was intended to stir the long-standing rivalry with neighbouring Floriana – which is this weekend marking the 400th anniversary of its patron saint, with the wording ‘San Publju - Patron ta' Malta’ brightly lit up across St Anne Street.

Before it was hoisted for the first time, the flag was blessed by Mgr Anton Galea, rector of Our Lady of Victory Church in Valletta. It was then raised by Dr Dingli to the Vangelis's dramatic track Conquest of Paradise.




The flag, which will be raised every morning and come down every evening, will be maintained by the local council.

Comments

Tony Gatt(2 days, 3 hours ago) 

Issa meta nkun qieghed nikteb ic-cekk tad-dawl u l-ilma, jew tal-gass, jew xi multa li nkun iddubbajt mil-wardens fil-belt, jew xi kanna ohra li drajna niddubbaw, inhares lejn il-bandiera hamra bl-iljun fuqha u forsi anke nibda nkanta l-innu Malti u nhossni aktar patrijott. Halluna ha nghixu!

E.SciclunaCamilleri(2 days, 4 hours ago) 

Red and beautiful. It's like being in Tienamen Square in Beijing. Long live the People's Democratic Republic of Valletta!


M.Cachia(2 days, 1 hour ago)

Oh Dear


Countries in which Flags are predominantly red:

- 1) Norway - Monarchy
 - 2) Denmark - Monarchy
 - 3) Montenegro - Democratic Republic
 - 4) Taiwan - Democratic Republic
 - 5) Canada - Monarchy
 - 6) Turkey - Democratic Republic
 - 7) Morocco - Monarchy
- et, etc, etc

So kindly stop using the China card - it only highlights your lack of general knowledge

adrian galea(2 days, 5 hours ago) 

so why is it pathetic to hoist a flag? Its not going to make or break anything, i just think that some people are just miserable and would be cynical about anything.


Dr.Emmanuel BEZZINA,MA,LL.D.(2 days, 9 hours ago) 

I like our Valletta Major - he is young and though not born and bred in our Capital,he has been the only Major to show effective interest in the welfare of our Citta` Umilissima.This ceremony to which I was courteously invited but chose to oversee it from a distance due to a pressing appointment was indeed impressive even though perhaps there was not the necessity of such a huge organ for our bastioned Capital.

I recommend a suitable hymn for such an occasion,in Maltese,by a local Composer:TLUGH L-ORGANU TAL-BELT VALLETTA.Vangelis CONQUEST OF PARADISE is fantastic music,pompous enough for a grandeuse occasion,but we were not conquering anything here but showing our super organ in the form of a double-decker golden-lion with a red background Flag.Hence why when we commemorate this event within a year,this local hymn should be ready.A


Competition should be held in this sense.

VALLETTA has been undergoing extensive restructuring under the Mayorship of DR ALEXEI DINGLI and his Council. I abhor the idea of a RED/BLUE Faction in our Local Council - all should travail in the interests of the Capital. As to rivalry among Councils, this amounts to healthy competition as long as it is reasonable.


s.koludrovic(2 days, 10 hours ago) 

Well at least someone got a job raising and lowering the flag. Hope they supplied him with a watch to keep the right times.

LOL! one less unemployed, I hope he's a local lad.

ofsadni(2 days, 12 hours ago) 

Was MEPA in its right senses when it approved this in an 'Area of High Landscape Value of the Harbour Fortifications' ???

MARGARET RICHARDS(2 days, 12 hours ago) 

ONLY IN PATHETIC MALTA.COM!!!

M.Cachia(2 days, 10 hours ago)

Dear Ms. Richards - as you are most probably british by extraction here is my response to your only in malta:

http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_cvDg9dDRhMA/TFhvaMZ-NLI/AAAAAAAAABOo/PZAIEYdX8Zo/s1600/Blog+England+Flag+council+house+front+onPict9052.jpg


Cheers

E.Falzon(2 days, 4 hours ago)

@M.Cachia what not another whinger is it? whats it got to do with the foreigners any way, its our business what we do and don't do in OUR COUNTRY RIGHT.

DA. Debono BSc(2 days, 4 hours ago)

@ Cachia thats putting her in place, well done my friend., but looking at both flags the one in Valletta and the St George's flag i know which one i prefer. Be proud of our heritage and above all to be Maltese living in a CRIME FREE country. From Perth/Australia

AFabri(2 days, 13 hours ago) 

Again how pathetic.....please Mr. Dingli we want original ideas for our capital. Note that it's nice to let know the bloggers that our Vilhena Green Lion was much before flagging on the big mast of Floriana Local Council !!!

Charmaine Marmara'(2 days, 13 hours ago) 

well done ..i like it