



# Għaqda Residenti Sliema

Sliema Residents Association  
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**Subject :** Re-launch of the Sliema Residents Association – L-Għaqda Residenti Sliema terga tqum

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## **Re-launch of the Sliema Residents Association**

The first Annual General Meeting of the newly re-established Sliema Residents Association/Għaqda Residenti Sliema (SRA) was held on the evening of Thursday 22nd October 2009. The large audience took an active part in the proceedings.

The Annual General Meeting was the culmination of a formal process by which the SRA's new statute and future policies have been agreed. Formal registration of the SRA with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations has also been completed.

In his opening address, Mr Gatt explained the mission statement of the SRA is *'to safeguard, conserve and improve the quality of life of all Sliema residents'*. It is committed to represent and promote the communal interests of the residents of Sliema so that they may live in a safe, healthy, peaceful and decent environment.

An overview of the work carried out by the provisional committee set up in May 2009 was given; these included a number of objections to major development applications starting with the Villa Bonici mega project. SRA's publicity for this case resulted in over 400 individual objections being received during the short consultation period allowed.

The provisional SRA committee also issued a number of press releases and took part in a several TV and Radio programs to express concern regarding *'sustainable development'* problems in Sliema and the related traffic, parking and air pollution issues.

The AGM audience was informed of a new sub-committee which will monitor day-to-day problems in Sliema and report to the relevant authorities as necessary. Mr Gatt stated that the SRA is not a 'customer care' organization so residents should still refer their daily difficulties to the local council in the first instance.

Mr Gatt concluded by asserting that there is much work to be done which cannot be accomplished by the committee members alone. He appealed to those present to help in the SRA's work and urged other residents to join to strengthen the SRA.

Replying to queries as to whether the SRA duplicated the role of the Sliema Local Council, the committee emphasized that SRA was not a shadow of the local council. A need has been felt for an autonomous organization to safeguard resident's rights and legitimate interests. SRA will be able to act as pressure group when and where required; conversely it would support the local authorities whenever possible.

Towards the end of the meeting the SRA announced a new Sliema Residents Association web site at [www.sra.org.mt](http://www.sra.org.mt) and a new email address [info@sra.org.mt](mailto:info@sra.org.mt) which will facilitate better communications between the SRA members, the committee and the general public. The purpose of the website is to connect and inform. Apart from other relevant data, all the new planning applications within Sliema published by MEPA each Saturday are also posted on the website the same day to allow residents the maximum time for consultation.

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### **L-Ghaqda Residenti Sliema terga tqum**

L-ewwel Laqgħa Generali Annwali ta' l-Ghaqda Residenti Sliema / Sliema Residents Association (SRA fil qosor) saret nhar il-Hamis 22 ta' Ottubru 2009. Udjenza imdaqqsa mhux hazin hadet sehem attiv tul il-laqgħa.

Il-Laqgħa Generali Annwali kienet il-qofol ta' process formali li biha l-istatut il-gdid kif ukoll policies gew imwaqqfa. L-SRA iffinalizzat ukoll applikazzjoni ta' l-istess assocjazzjoni biex tissieheb fi hdan il-Kumissarju għal Organizzazzjonijiet Volontarji.

Fid-diskors tal-ftuh, is-Sur Gatt spjega l-*mission statement* ta' l-SRA hu '*biex tipprotegi, tippreserva u ittejjeb il-kwalita' tal-hajja tar-residenti ta' tas-Sliema kollha*'. L-SRA twieghed illi tirraprezenta u tippromwovi l-interess komuni tas-Sliemizi kollha sabiex dawn jghixu hajja pacifika u dicenti kif ukoll f'ambjent mhux ta' dannu għall-sahhithom.

Gie spjegat fil-qosor ix-xogħol li għamel il-kumitat provizorju li gie mwaqqaf f'Mejju ta' 2009. Dan kien jinkludi numru ta'oggezzjonijiet lil MEPA kontra applikazzjonijiet għal zvilupp ta' binjiet imdaqqsa, fosthom l-applikazzjoni għal-bini ta' għadd ta' appartamenti għoljin fil-gonna ta' Villa Bonici. Għal din ngabru ma' l-400 oggezzjoni mir-residenti tal-madwar.

Il-kumitat provizorju hareg ukoll ammont sostanzjali ta' stqarrijiet għall-istampa kif ukoll ha sehem fi programmi kemm televizivi kif ukoll fuq ir-radju. Permezz ta' dawn l-SRA esprimiet ruhha rigward l-izvilupp mhux sostenibbli gewwa tas-Sliema kif ukoll problemi tat-traffiku, parkegg u tniggis ta' l-arja.

Waqt il-laqgħa, l-mistiedna gew mgharrfa dwar sotto kumitat li twaqqaf sabiex jara l-problemi z-zgħar li jweggħu r-ras ta' kuljum gewwa tas-Sliema u jirraportaw dak kollu li jsibu lill-awtoritajiet koncernati. Izda s-sur Gatt sahaq illi l-SRA mhux '*customer care service*' u r-residenti xorta għandhom jibqgħu jirraportaw l-inkonvenjenzi għand l-awtoritajiet ikkoncernati l-ewwel.

Is-Sur Gatt tenna illi hemm hafna xogħol xi jsir u dan ma jistax isir biss mill-membri tal-kumitat wahedhom imma hemm bzonn ta' ghajnuna mir-residenti ukoll. Huwa talab lil-dawk prezenti biex jghinu fix-xogħol ta' l-SRA kif ukoll iheggeg izjed residenti biex jidhlu membri ma' l-assocjazzjoni.

Qamet mistoqsija jekk l-SRA hux qieghed jidduplika r-rwol tal-Kunsill Lokali. Il-Kumitat sahaq u enfasizza li l-SRA huwa awtonomu u indipendenti mill-Kunsill. L-iskop ta' l-assocjazzjoni hija biex

thares l-interessi u d-drittijiet tar-residenti. B'hekk l-SRA tkun tista taghmel pressjoni fuq l-awtoritajiet koncernati meta jkun il-bzonn, kif ukoll biex jaghti palata meta jkun misthoqq.

Lejn l-ahhar tal-laqgħa, l-SRA habbret illi għandha sit elettroniku għid [www.sra.org.mt](http://www.sra.org.mt) kif ukoll indirizz ta' e-mail [info@sra.org.mt](mailto:info@sra.org.mt). B'dan is-sit għid, l-SRA ser tkun tista tikkomunika ahjar mal-membri tagħha kif ukoll mal-pubbliku Sliemiz. Apparti minn artikli nformattivi, dan is-sit fih ukoll dawg l-applikazzjonijiet għal-zvilupp għewwa tas-Sliema li l-MEPA tohrog kull nhar ta' sibt. Dan jagħti cans lir-residenti biex ikunu jafu fejn l-izvilupp ikun ser isir u b'hekk ikunu jistghu joggezzjonaw fil hin.

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