

BLUE LIVES

2026

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A MODERN 212-YEAR FORCE

CAN SOMETHING THAT IS 212 YEARS OLD STILL BE MODERN?

The answer is yes, with the right cultural change, mindset and willpower. The Malta Police Force is one of the oldest police forces in Europe, yet its story continues to be one of evolution, adaptation and progress. Its history remains a source of pride, but it is also a foundation on which a more modern, proactive and community-focused organisation continues to be built.

Welcome to this edition of *Blue Lives*, which brings together a collection of articles reflecting the ongoing journey of the Malta Police Force in an ever-changing world. The pages that follow highlight different aspects of modern policing, from intelligence-led investigations, digital transformation and forensic advancements, to road safety, victim support, community engagement, maritime cooperation and specialised operational units.

What emerges is the picture of a Police Force that is not standing still. Being 212 years old is therefore not a limitation, it is a strength. It gives the Malta Police Force a proud legacy to honour, while placing on it the responsibility to keep improving for the future.

This edition of *Blue Lives* celebrates that balance between tradition and innovation, experience and fresh thinking, service and progress.

A 212-year-old Police Force can indeed be modern. The articles in this edition show exactly how.

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SERVING MALTA WITH COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

Police Day is an occasion to recognise the invaluable contribution of the women and men of the Malta Police Force. It is a day of reflection, gratitude and pride, when we honour a profession that stands at the very heart of our communities and our democracy.

Every day, police officers face situations that demand courage, professionalism and sound judgement. They respond to emergencies, support victims, maintain public order, investigate crime and provide reassurance across Malta and Gozo. Their work is often demanding and carried out in difficult circumstances, yet they continue to serve with dedication.

As I assume responsibility as Minister for Home Affairs and Security, I do so with great respect for the remarkable progress achieved by the Malta Police Force over recent years and with a firm commitment to support its continued development. The transformation undertaken by the Force has been substantial, creating a more modern, professional and community-focused, ready to respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

The results of this collective effort are visible. Malta remains among the safest countries in the world, enjoying historically low crime rates and strong levels of public trust in its police service. These achievements do not occur by chance. They are the direct result of the commitment of police officers, civilian staff and leadership who have embraced innovation, accountability and continuous improvement.

Government has been proud to support this journey through investment in infrastructure, technology, training and legislative reform. Yet while resources are important, it is ultimately people who make the difference. The true strength of the Malta Police Force lies in the professionalism, integrity and dedication of its members.

As society evolves, so do the challenges facing law enforcement. Cybercrime, organised criminal networks, financial crime and new security threats require increasingly sophisticated responses. Meeting these challenges calls for modern tools and capabilities, but



Minister for Home Affairs and Security
Hon. Glenn Bedingfield

also continued commitment to the values that define public service: integrity, fairness, respect and compassion.

Looking ahead, Government remains committed to providing the Malta Police Force the resources, infrastructure and support needed to meet emerging challenges. We will continue investing in modern police stations, technology and specialised training, while strengthening our response to address cybercrime, online abuse and other threats. We will also support the wellbeing of police officers and civilian staff, recognising that a resilient workforce is the foundation of an effective police service. Through stronger community partnerships, targeted safety initiatives and smarter use of technology, we will continue working together to build safer communities and enhance the quality of life of all those who call Malta home.

The recently launched Corporate Strategy 2025–2030 provides a clear vision for the years ahead, preparing the Force for future challenges. Government remains fully committed to supporting the Malta Police Force in delivering safer communities, stronger public trust and smarter policing.

On this Police Day, I extend my sincere appreciation to every member of the Malta Police Force, past and present. Your service strengthens our nation, protects our communities and makes Malta a better and safer place for all.

Thank you for your dedication, sacrifice and unwavering commitment to the people of Malta.

THE YEARS OF REAL TRANSFORMATION

BUILDING A SAFER MALTA

Over the past years, the Malta Police Force has undergone a profound transformation, evolving from a traditionally structured organisation into a modern, community-focused, data-driven police service. This journey began with a recognition that change was necessary to address emerging societal challenges, strengthen public trust, and ensure that policing remained effective in an increasingly complex world.

The transformation was made possible through strong political and legislative commitment. Government support, governance reforms, investment in technology and infrastructure, and changes to the legal framework provided the foundations necessary for long-term institutional renewal. These measures ensured that transformation was not simply an aspiration, but a structured and measurable process.

At the centre of this success was the leadership of Commissioner Angelo Gafà and his team, supported by the Malta Police Governance Board, the Strategy and Transformation Team, senior management, and officers across all ranks. Together, they embraced a culture of accountability, innovation, and continuous improvement. Change became a collective endeavour, driven both from the top and through the commitment of officers who adopted new ways of working and serving the community.

There are still major changes to be implemented, but the results have been remarkable. Malta today enjoys record-low crime rates despite significant population growth and increasing social complexity. The Force has strengthened community policing, enhanced victim support services, expanded specialised units, embraced digital technologies and adopted intelligence-led approaches to crime prevention and investigation. Public trust and confidence have increased, while Malta continues to rank among the safest countries in the world, supported by exceptional investigative outcomes, including a 100% homicide clearance rate in recent years.



Chairperson Police Governance Board
Prof. Saviour Formosa

The successful conclusion of the Malta Police Transformation Strategy 2020–2025 marks the culmination of a period of unprecedented organisational renewal. The reforms implemented have become embedded within the Force's culture and operational framework, ensuring that progress is sustainable.

The recent launch of the Malta Police Corporate Strategy 2025–2030 signals the beginning of a new chapter. Building on the achievements of the past decade, the new strategy focuses on safer communities, stronger public trust, and smarter policing, ensuring that the Malta Police Force continues to deliver professional, effective, and trusted service to the people of Malta.

We do not intend to rest on our laurels, but hindsight reflection augurs well for the future.

 **STRIVE ON!**

SAFER COMMUNITIES, SMARTER POLICING

As we mark Police Day 2026, we do so with pride in our history, humility before our responsibilities, and confidence in the direction of the Malta Police Force. Police Day is more than a commemoration. It reminds us that our service is measured not only by what we have achieved, but by how prepared we are to protect, reassure and serve the community tomorrow.

Over the past six years, the Malta Police Force (MPF) has undergone one of the most significant periods of renewal in its two-century history. When we launched the *Transformation Strategy 2020–2025*, our aim was clear: to build a more trusted, agile, efficient and community-focused policing service. Such a strategy could not remain a document on a shelf. It had to become part of our daily work, our leadership, our decisions and our culture.

Today, transformation has taken root. More than 80% of the 49 initiatives included in the strategy were implemented, but the true measure of success lies beyond percentages. It is reflected in safer streets, more effective investigations, improved services, greater accountability and increased public trust.

The results are visible and are reflected in tangible public safety outcomes and enhanced police legitimacy. The 2022 NSO Survey reported that 90% of citizens trusted the Malta Police Force, while subsequent Eurobarometer findings showed trust in the MPF far outweighing that in political parties, the legal system and the media. Moreover, Malta ranks among the twelve safest countries worldwide. Reported crime has reached historic lows. Crime per capita has fallen by 40% over the past 20 years, while theft has declined by 70% over the same period, with 2025 marking the lowest number of theft reports on record. This significant reduction was achieved despite population growth, record tourism and a more complex operating environment.

Behind these figures is the work of dedicated officers and staff. Community policing is now present in every locality in Malta and Gozo. Our officers are closer to residents, local councils, schools, businesses



Police Commissioner
Angelo Gafà

and vulnerable persons. They are not only responding to crime; they are listening, preventing, reassuring and solving problems with the community.

We have also strengthened our capacity to address the crimes that cause the greatest harm. Every homicide since 2018 has been solved. The Gender-Based & Domestic Violence Unit established in 2020, has helped more victims come forward, with Malta now recording the highest reporting rate in the EU for such cases. This increase reflects reduced silence, greater accessibility and confidence that victims will be treated with professionalism, empathy and urgency.

Smarter policing has also meant investing in specialised capabilities. We strengthened our response to financial crime, cyber crime, drug trafficking and organised crime. We developed intelligence-led approaches, improved analytical capacity and adopted a follow-the-money mindset. Through the Digital Policing Unit, we accelerated the move away from manual processes. Dashboards, digital reporting, body-worn cameras, electronic ticketing and hand-held devices have enabled better decision-making, transparency and deployment. The Remote Reporting Unit has made certain services more accessible, while the Roads Policing Unit has strengthened road safety through trained officers and targeted enforcement.

Transformation was also about good governance. We strengthened internal audit, professional standards and anti-corruption safeguards. We introduced clearer policies, ethical guidance, security clearance protocols, random drug testing, integrity mechanisms and more transparent internal processes. The strengthening of accountability and good governance was not merely an internal assertion; it was also tested through external scrutiny. Whilst GRECO, the Council of Europe's anti-corruption monitoring body, noted the full implementation of recommendations concerning police communication, merit-based recruitment, promotions, mobility and transfers, the regulation of secondary activities, and internal reporting and whistleblower protection, the National Audit Office had during this period recognised the major reforms the MPF had effected in this area as a direct result of the implementation of the Transformation Strategy. Public trust cannot be demanded; it must be earned through fairness, consistency and accountability.

Equally important has been our investment in people. A police service can only serve the community well if its own officers and civilian staff are supported, trained and respected. Over these years, we improved uniforms, equipment, vehicles and workspaces. We invested in wellness, family-friendly measures, professional development and structured career pathways. Recruitment and training have been modernised, including stronger academic accreditation and greater opportunities for specialised professionals. Internal surveys show that 89% of our members feel proud to form part of the Force, 74% feel motivated to deliver public service, and 86% have witnessed positive achievements arising from the transformation journey.

These achievements give meaning to the title of our current Corporate Strategy: **Safer Communities, Smarter Policing**. This new strategy for 2025–2030 is not a departure from what came before. It is the next phase: a move from transformation to institutional excellence and sustainable progress.

The strategy rests on three pillars. First, ensuring public safety and security: preventing crime, improving operational readiness, using intelligence and data, protecting vulnerable people and combating emerging threats. Second, strengthening public trust and police legitimacy: building partnerships, promoting inclusivity, listening through feedback, increasing transparency and reassuring the public. Third, delivering smarter policing: adopting emerging technologies, developing professional excellence, optimising processes, encouraging innovation and sustaining officer wellness.

These pillars translate into 15 priorities and 75 commitments. They are not abstract ambitions. Each is supported by at least one action plan ensuring a practical roadmap for how the Malta Police Force will remain proactive, accountable and ready for the future. The end destination is clear: a society where people feel safe, where victims are supported, where officers are trusted, and where policing is shaped by evidence, values and partnership.

As we look back on the past six years, we can do so with gratitude and a shared sense of responsibility. I am grateful to every member of our organisation, civilian and sworn, who believed in change and made it possible. I am grateful to our partners, local and international, who worked with us. Above all, I am grateful to the public, whose trust remains our most important responsibility.

The true test of any period of transformation is whether it leaves the institution stronger, more resilient and better prepared for the future. Our duty now is to ensure that the progress achieved becomes enduring practice, and that the Malta Police Force continues to move forward with integrity, courage and compassion.

Together, as one Force and one community, we will continue building safer communities through smarter policing.

 **DOMINE
DIRIGE
NOS!**





From Transformation to Excellence

The Malta Police Force has come a long way over the past few years. The transformation journey launched in 2020 brought significant changes to the way policing is delivered in Malta and Gozo, helping create a Police Force that is more modern, more transparent and more connected to the communities it serves.

As of last year, that journey has entered a new chapter with the launch of the Malta Police Force Corporate Strategy 2025–2030, entitled Safer Communities, Smarter Policing, which builds on the achievements of recent years while setting a clear direction for the future. At its heart lies a simple but ambitious goal: ensuring that Malta remains one of the safest countries in the world while continuing to strengthen public trust and embrace innovation.

“A SIMPLE BUT AMBITIOUS GOAL: ENSURING THAT MALTA REMAINS ONE OF THE SAFEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD”

The strategy is built around three key pillars. While these may sound like strategic concepts, they are ultimately about something very practical - making communities safer, ensuring people feel supported and protected, and equipping police officers with the tools they need to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.



ROAD TO 2030
3 Pillars | 1 Goal | A Safer Malta

SAFER
COMMUNITIES
SMARTER
POLICING



The first pillar, Ensuring Public Safety and Security

focuses on preventing crime before it happens and responding effectively when incidents occur.

Community policing remains central to this approach. Officers will continue to work closely with residents, local councils, schools, businesses and voluntary organisations to better understand local concerns and address them proactively. New community initiatives, educational campaigns and partnership projects will encourage everyone to play a role in creating safer neighbourhoods.

At the same time, the Police Force is investing heavily in technology and intelligence to identify crime hotspots and emerging risks. Enhanced crime mapping systems, CCTV coverage in key areas and real-time analysis of crime trends will allow resources to be deployed where they are needed most. The aim is simple: to be present in the right place at the right time and to intervene before problems escalate.

Protecting vulnerable persons also remains a major priority. Dedicated projects are being implemented to strengthen support for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and other forms of abuse. Through closer cooperation with social agencies, NGOs and international partners, officers will be better equipped to identify vulnerability, provide assistance and ensure that those who need help receive it as quickly as possible.



The second pillar, Strengthening Public Trust and Police Legitimacy

recognises that effective policing depends on public confidence. Trust is not something that can be demanded; it must be earned every day through professionalism, transparency and meaningful engagement.

One way this is being achieved is through the continued expansion of community policing. Officers are increasingly becoming familiar faces within localities, engaging directly with residents, listening to concerns and working together to find solutions. New initiatives will further strengthen relationships with schools, businesses, local councils and community groups, creating partnerships that contribute to safer and more resilient communities.

The Police Force is also investing in better communication with the public. A new Customer Care Office and digital platforms are being developed to make it easier for people to provide feedback, ask questions and raise concerns. At the same time, greater transparency will be achieved through the publication of crime statistics, operational updates and progress reports, helping the public better understand the work being carried out on their behalf.

Inclusivity forms another important part of this pillar. Malta is a diverse society, and policing must reflect and respect that diversity. Initiatives are therefore being introduced to improve accessibility, strengthen engagement with different communities and ensure that police services remain fair, respectful and responsive to everyone.

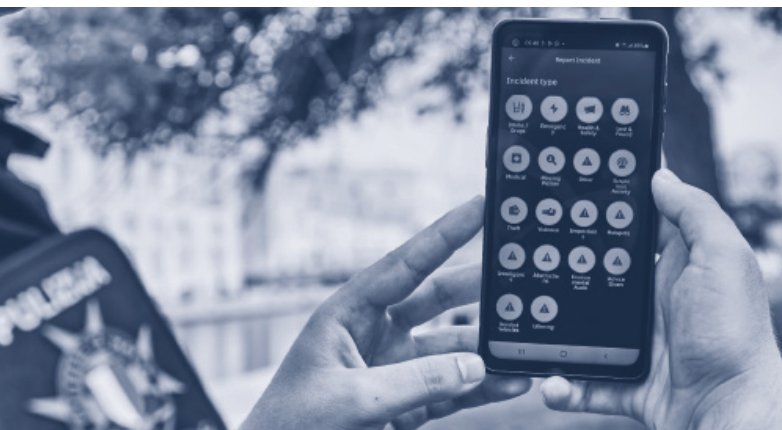


The third pillar, Delivering Smarter Policing

is about preparing the organisation for the future. Technology continues to reshape every aspect of society, and policing is no exception. The Corporate Strategy therefore places significant emphasis on innovation, digitalisation and evidence-based decision-making.

One of the most ambitious projects currently underway is the development of a new Integrated Case Management Solution. This modern digital platform will replace several outdated IT systems and bring together crime, intelligence and investigation data into a single environment. Officers will have faster access to information, reducing administrative burdens and enabling quicker, better-informed decisions.

Other initiatives include the use of advanced analytics, the exploration of artificial intelligence, enhanced cybercrime capabilities and the development of new digital tools that will improve communication between the police and the public. These investments are not about technology for its own sake. They are about making policing more efficient, more responsive and ultimately more effective.



15
strategic
priorities

75 commitments

1 vision

Equally important is the investment being made in the officers who deliver policing every day. They will continue to benefit from specialised training, leadership development opportunities, international exchanges and wellbeing programmes designed to support both professional growth and personal resilience. A modern police service depends not only on modern technology but also on a skilled, motivated and healthy workforce.

As Malta continues to evolve, so too must its Police Force. New forms of crime, technological developments and changing community expectations require an organisation that is flexible, forward-looking and ready to adapt. The Corporate Strategy 2025–2030 provides the roadmap for that journey.



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR HOME AFFAIRS
AND SECURITY

sigurtà

About the sponsor: The Ministry for Home Affairs and Security plays a fundamental role in the security and well-being of the Maltese islands. The ministry gives political direction and launches initiatives in security and defence, immigration and law enforcement.

MAJOR CRIME, MAJOR COMMITMENT

The latest Annual Crime Report presents an encouraging picture of public safety in Malta, reflecting the impact of prevention, visibility, intelligence-led policing and sustained operational work. Yet one of the clearest indicators of police effectiveness is not only the reduction of crime, but the ability to respond decisively when the most serious offences occur.

Few crimes affect society as deeply as homicide. Each case brings with it grief, uncertainty and public concern, while demanding an immediate, disciplined and highly coordinated investigative response. Since 2018, the Malta Police Force's Major Crime Department has maintained a strong track record, with all homicide cases being solved within short timeframes from their occurrence. This achievement reflects the dedication of investigators and the growing importance of science, technology and specialised expertise in modern policing.

Homicide investigations require absolute attention to detail from the very first moments. Securing the scene, preserving evidence, identifying witnesses, analysing movements and reconstructing the sequence of events

are all crucial steps. In such investigations, even the smallest trace can become a decisive piece of evidence when it is properly recovered, examined and interpreted.

This is where the Malta Police Forensic Science Laboratory plays a vital role. Advancements in forensic science have transformed the way serious crimes are investigated, providing investigators with scientific tools to digitally capture and enrol biometric data, and rapidly search against existing records and national databases to identify potential matches. Evidence collected at crime scenes can then be analysed, compared, and interpreted to support investigations and strengthen proceedings in court.



Forensic science does not replace traditional police work, it enhances it. Interviews, intelligence, CCTV analysis, timelines and investigative experience remain essential. However, scientific evidence provides an additional layer of objectivity. It can corroborate witness accounts, challenge false versions of events, identify suspects, exclude innocent persons and help establish what happened with greater clarity.

The success achieved in homicide investigations is therefore the result of close collaboration between units and departments. It is a multidisciplinary effort where speed must be balanced with precision and where every action taken in the first hours can influence the outcome of the entire investigation.

Solving a homicide can never undo the harm suffered by victims and their families. However, bringing offenders before justice is essential for closure, accountability and public confidence. The record achieved since 2018 demonstrates the Malta Police Force's commitment to ensuring that the most serious crimes are pursued with determination, professionalism and care.

Through the dedication of the Major Crime Department and the scientific support of the Forensic Science Laboratory, the Malta Police continues to show that modern policing is built not only on response, but also on evidence, expertise and trust.



DRIVING CHANGE: THE FIRST YEAR OF THE ROADS POLICING UNIT

During its first year of operations, the Roads Policing Unit has already left a clear and measurable impact on road safety in Malta. Established to strengthen enforcement, improve collision response and enhance the overall policing of our roads, the Unit has quickly become an important part of the Malta Police Force's wider commitment to safer communities.

Over the past year, the Police carried out more than 3,400 road checks across Malta and Gozo. This represents three times more road checks than in 2023 and five times more than in 2020. These operations were not only aimed at enforcement, but also at prevention. Visible and targeted policing on the roads helps discourage dangerous driving behaviour, promotes greater discipline among road users and contributes to a safer environment for all.

The results are already being reflected in national road safety figures. Serious road collisions decreased from 1,292 in 2024 to 1,154 last year, marking the lowest figure in 15 years, excluding the exceptional COVID period. When considered per capita, serious collisions were also at their lowest level in 20 years.

Beyond road checks and collision investigations, the RPU also played an important role in enforcing recent legal amendments targeting the production or distribution of material that portrays traffic offences in a way that normalises dangerous driving or encourages others to imitate such behaviour.

The effectiveness of the Roads Policing Unit is also the result of sustained investment in both people and resources. In recent months, more than €300,000 has been invested in state-of-the-art equipment and accredited training for officers. This investment has strengthened the Unit's technical capabilities, particularly in the reporting and investigation of serious traffic collisions, including work that is crucial for proceedings before the Courts.

Earlier this year, the Unit was further reinforced through an additional investment of more than €318,000 in new vehicles. These included four Skoda Octavia station wagons, specifically intended to support the Roads Policing Unit in responding to and investigating collisions involving injuries. The vehicles allow officers to carry specialised equipment and operate more efficiently on site, especially in situations where timely and accurate evidence gathering is essential.



Today, the role of the Roads Policing Unit extends beyond the enforcement of traffic regulations. Its officers are also entrusted with the investigation of serious road traffic collisions, requiring professionalism, technical knowledge and attention to detail. To support this responsibility, officers have benefitted from specialised training abroad and continue to receive the tools needed to carry out their duties to a high standard.

The RPU's first year has shown that focused investment, specialised training and consistent enforcement can deliver tangible results. Through its daily work on the roads, the Roads Policing Unit is helping to reduce harm, improve accountability and strengthen public confidence in road safety enforcement.

As the Unit continues to develop, its mission remains clear: to make Malta's roads safer for every driver, rider, passenger and pedestrian.



SKODA About the sponsor: Škoda, represented in Malta by Continental Cars Ltd., is committed to delivering vehicles that combine safety, reliability and modern technology. With a range of models designed for both every day and professional use, Škoda continues to support organisations and communities across Malta with practical and dependable mobility solutions.

THE ROAD TO ZERO TOLERANCE

Road safety depends not only on enforcement, but also on the ability of the Police to respond to emerging realities on our roads. One such reality is drug driving, an issue which the Malta Police Force has been monitoring for several years, particularly through evidence gathered following traffic collisions where individuals involved later tested positive during medical analysis.

In March 2026, important legal amendments were introduced to strengthen enforcement in this area. For the first time, Police officers can now carry out random roadside drug testing without the need for reasonable suspicion or a Court order. This marks a significant development in Malta's road safety framework, giving the Police more practical and effective tools to detect and deter driving under the influence of drugs.

Following proposals put forward by the Malta Police Force, the new legal framework allows roadside drug and alcohol tests to be carried out during road checks, when a traffic contravention is committed, or whenever such testing is considered necessary in the interest of road safety. In cases of traffic collisions involving injured persons, testing is now mandatory for all drivers involved.



About the sponsor: K&S Marketing, in partnership with Securetec, supports drug testing initiatives across Malta through the provision of Securetec DrugWipe®, one of Europe's leading drug testing systems. Working with law enforcement, public authorities, educational institutions and employers, we contribute to road safety, workplace drug detection and prevention efforts across the Maltese Islands.



The introduction of roadside drug testing complements the Malta Police Force's ongoing efforts to combat all forms of impaired driving. Over the past year alone, officers carried out 1,333 roadside breathalyser tests for alcohol, with 92 drivers found to be over the legal limit. Together with the new drug testing powers, these enforcement measures form part of a comprehensive strategy aimed at reducing preventable collisions and making Malta's roads safer for everyone.

This new capability is not simply about detecting offenders. It is about preventing dangerous behaviour, protecting responsible road users and reinforcing the message that driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol has no place on Malta's roads.

The amendments also reflect a stronger stance against driving under the influence. Penalties have been increased for persons found driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In the interest of public safety, the law provides for zero tolerance in relation to illegal drugs. In the case of cannabis, zero tolerance applies to drivers of commercial vehicles and vehicles used to carry passengers against payment. For private vehicle drivers, a legal limit applies, established through a blood test, in line with practices used in other European countries.

The testing process is carried out using specialised equipment produced by Securetec. A small saliva sample is collected using the Securetec DrugWipe. The sample is then placed into the Securetec WipeAlyser, which analyses the result and provides an indication of whether drugs are present and, if so, the type of drug detected.

Where cannabis is indicated, the driver is taken to a health centre for a blood sample, which is then confirmed by the laboratory indicated by law. In cases involving other drugs, a second saliva sample is collected on site and sent for laboratory analysis. Refusing to provide a required sample is also an offence and persons who refuse will be brought before the Courts.

Between March and May 2026, the Malta Police Force carried out 271 roadside drug tests, 29 of which resulted positive. These figures highlight both the importance of the new legislation and the need for continued enforcement.



SCAM ALERT!

Online scams have become increasingly sophisticated over this past decade, targeting individuals and businesses through deception and manipulation. Understanding common scam types and their warning signs can help prevent emotional distress and financial loss.

Romance Scams occur when criminals create fake online profiles to build emotional relationships with victims. After gaining trust, they request money for emergencies, travel expenses, or medical bills.

- Red flags include declarations of love very early in the relationship, refusal to meet in person or video chat, and repeated requests for financial assistance.

Business Email Compromise (BEC) scams target organisations by impersonating executives, vendors, or trusted partners. Attackers use convincing emails to trick employees into transferring funds or sharing sensitive information.

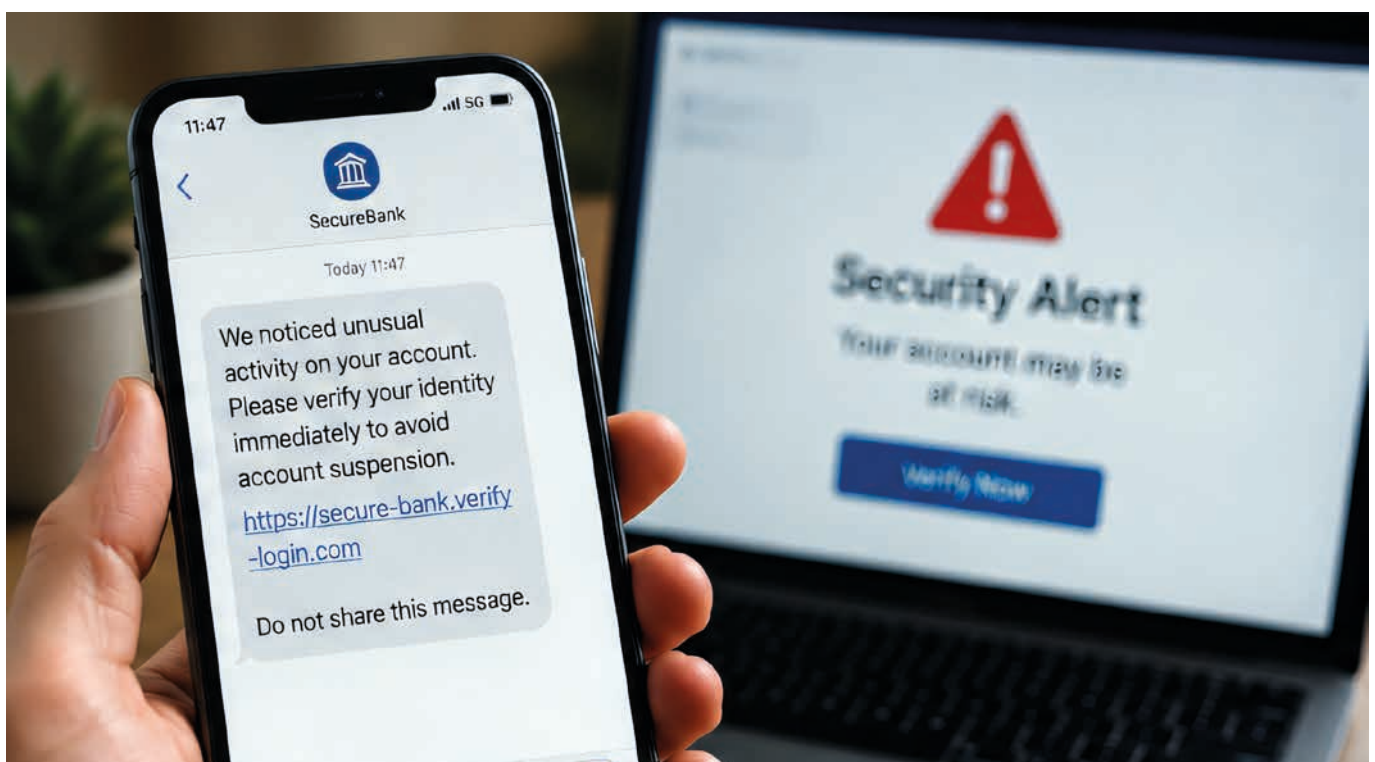
- Red flags include urgent payment requests, changes to banking details, unusual email addresses, and instructions to keep transactions confidential.

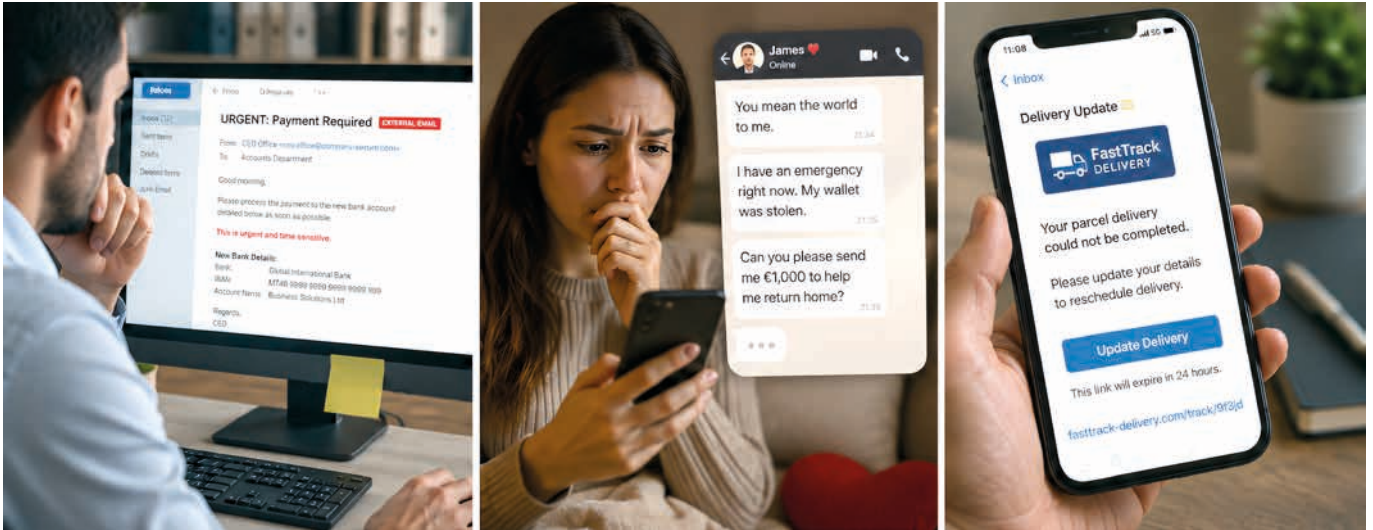
Recovery Scams often target people who have already lost money to fraud. Scammers claim they can recover stolen funds for an upfront fee. They may pretend to be lawyers, government officials like Police, Interpol, or cybersecurity experts.

- Red flags include guarantees of recovery, requests for advance payments, and unsolicited contact regarding previous losses.

Phishing Attacks are among the most common online threats. Criminals send emails, text messages, or social media messages that appear to come from legitimate organisations. Their goal is to steal passwords, banking information, or personal data.

- Red flags include unexpected messages, suspicious links, spelling errors, urgent security warnings, and requests for confidential information.





Investment Scams lure victims with promises of high returns and little or no risk. These schemes often involve fake trading platforms, cryptocurrency opportunities, or fraudulent investment programs.

- Red flags include guaranteed profits, pressure to invest quickly, lack of verifiable documentation, and difficulty withdrawing funds.

Card Payment Scams involve criminals stealing debit or credit card information to make unauthorised purchases or withdrawals. Scammers may obtain card details through fake online stores, phishing emails, card skimming devices installed on ATMs or payment terminals, or fraudulent phone calls claiming to be from a bank. Once the information is stolen, criminals can use the card details for fraudulent transactions.

- **Red flags** include unexpected requests for card details, websites without secure payment indicators, messages claiming there is a problem with your account and asking you to verify payment information, unexplained charges on

bank statements, and callers requesting your card number, PIN, or security code. To stay safe, only make purchases on trusted websites, monitor account activity regularly, enable transaction alerts, and never share your PIN or one-time passcodes with anyone

To stay protected, verify identities before sending money, independently confirm payment requests, avoid clicking suspicious links, and research investment opportunities thoroughly. Use strong passwords, enable multi-factor authentication, and be cautious when sharing personal information online.

While scammers continuously adapt their tactics, most rely on urgency, secrecy, trust, and unrealistic promises to deceive victims. By recognising the warning signs of romance scams, business email compromise, recovery scams, phishing attacks, and investment fraud, individuals and organisations can significantly reduce their risk and maintain a safer online environment.

TAKEAWAY MESSAGE

Think before you click, verify before you trust, and pause before you pay. A few moments of caution can protect your money, identity, and personal information from online scams.

RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Domestic violence is often described as a hidden crime. It can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, nationality or background and in many cases the signs are not immediately visible. This is why awareness and prevention remain among the most powerful tools in the fight against gender-based and domestic violence. By recognising warning signs early and knowing where to seek support, individuals and communities can help prevent situations from escalating into serious harm.

Malta has continued strengthening its response to domestic violence through awareness initiatives, specialised support services and legislation that promotes both protection and prevention. A key role in this effort is played by Aġenzija Appoġġ, within the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), which provides professional support, risk assessment services, shelter services and intervention programmes for individuals and families affected by domestic violence. Working closely with the Malta Police Force and other stakeholders, the agency helps ensure that victims receive support at every stage of their journey towards safety and recovery.

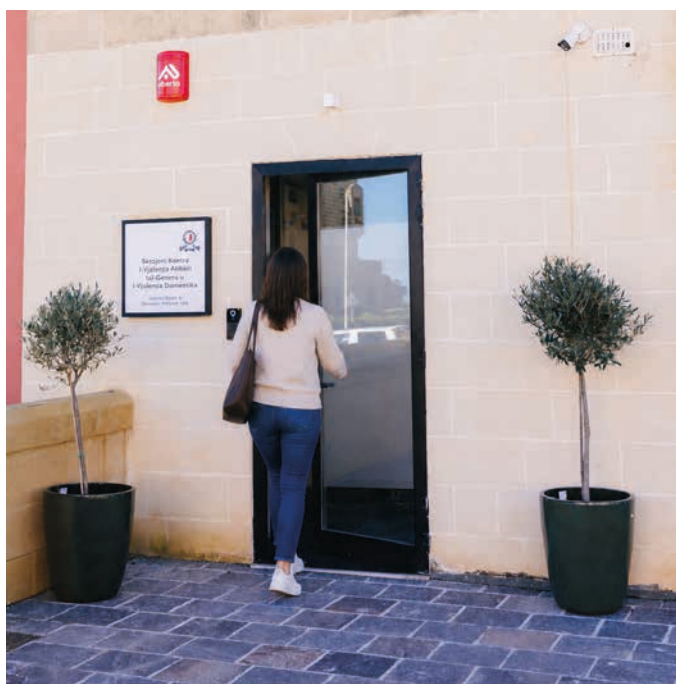
While domestic violence legislation has traditionally focused on investigation and prosecution after abuse occurs, the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act places greater emphasis on prevention and awareness. It gives individuals in intimate relationships

the opportunity to make informed decisions about their safety by verifying whether a partner has previous convictions related to domestic violence. The legislation also reinforces public understanding of what domestic violence truly means, recognising not only physical abuse, but also psychological, sexual, verbal and economic abuse, including threats, coercion and controlling behaviour. Importantly, children who witness violence within the home are also recognised as victims.

One of the strongest tools in prevention is recognising the warning signs early. Domestic abuse does not always begin with physical violence and can often develop gradually through patterns of control and intimidation. Some common warning signs include:

- Excessive jealousy or controlling behaviour;
- Isolation from friends or family;
- Constant monitoring of calls, messages or social media;
- Verbal insults, humiliation or intimidation;
- Threats towards the victim, children or pets;
- Financial control or restricting access to money;
- Sudden mood swings and aggressive behaviour;
- Fear of a partner's reactions or feeling constantly "on edge".

Raising awareness of these behaviours is essential, as many victims may not immediately recognise controlling or manipulative behaviour as abuse. Prevention is not solely the responsibility of victims. Friends, relatives, neighbours, colleagues and professionals are often among the first to notice signs that something may be wrong. Offering support, listening without judgement and encouraging someone to seek professional assistance can make a significant difference before abuse escalates further.





The Malta Police Force plays a crucial role through its Gender-Based & Domestic Violence Unit (GBDVU), which provides a specialised and victim-centred response to reports of domestic abuse. Victims may seek assistance through dedicated GBDV hubs designed to provide a safe and supportive environment. The recent launch of the Imtarfa GBDV Hub, complementing the existing hubs in St Lucia and Rabat, Gozo, represents another important investment in accessibility, victim support and specialised investigations.

Domestic violence prevention begins long before a police report is filed. It starts with recognising the warning signs, challenging harmful behaviours, supporting those who may be at risk and ensuring that help is accessible when needed. Through continued collaboration between the Malta Police Force, Aġenzija Appoġġ and other partners, we are strengthening our ability not only to respond to domestic violence, but to prevent it. Awareness saves lives and every conversation, intervention and act of support can make a difference.







SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS, FIGHTING RACISM, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Building trust, understanding and cooperation within Malta's increasingly diverse communities lies at the heart of the work carried out by the **Malta Police Force Community Cohesion Team**. Through daily engagement with residents, community leaders, organisations and vulnerable groups, the Team continues to strengthen relationships between the Police and the public, promoting inclusion, dialogue and mutual respect across society.



Officers from the Malta Police Community Cohesion Team engaging with community members during the "Unity in Action" Community Engagement Day in Valletta, reinforcing dialogue, trust and cooperation through community policing.

In carrying out this important role, the Community Cohesion Team works closely with several stakeholders, among them the Human Rights Directorate, one of the Malta Police Force's main partners in the promotion of equality, non-discrimination and social cohesion. Together, both entities collaborate with public authorities, civil society and communities to turn these principles into practical action and meaningful engagement.

This collaborative approach was particularly visible during Malta's Anti-Racism and Diversity Week 2026, organised in March in the context of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Delivered within the framework of the National Action Plan Against Racism 2025–2030, the Week brought together institutions, communities and stakeholders to promote

dialogue, address discrimination and highlight inclusive practices. It provided an opportunity to transform policy commitments into tangible community engagement, with the Malta Police Force and the Human Rights Directorate jointly supporting activities that encouraged open dialogue and direct interaction between institutions and the public.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN PRACTICE

One of the Week's flagship initiatives was the Community Engagement Day – "Unity in Action", held in front of the Parliament of Malta in Valletta. The event brought together diverse communities, non-governmental organisations, representatives from the Integration and Anti-Racism Consultative Council, the Human Rights Directorate and the Malta Police Community Cohesion Team. Throughout the day, interactive stands, informal discussions and community-led activities provided spaces for dialogue, information-sharing and direct engagement between institutions and the public. The open setting enabled meaningful exchanges, with representatives engaging directly with each other and with the public, listening to experiences and reinforcing messages of cooperation and mutual respect.



Teams from migrant communities, the Malta Police Community Cohesion Team and partner organisations coming together during the Community Cohesion Cup football tournament in Birżebbuġa, using sport as a platform for inclusion and mutual respect.

REACHING DIVERSITY THROUGH SPORT

The collaborative effort between the Human Rights Directorate and the Malta Police Force was also reflected in the Community Cohesion Cup, a football tournament held in Birżebbuġa. Teams from migrant communities participated within this event, thus using sport as a universal language that transcends cultural and social barriers.

The tournament fostered teamwork, respect and positive interaction in an informal yet powerful setting. Events such as these underline how community policing initiatives can build lasting relationships and challenge stereotypes, strengthening trust both on and off the pitch.



A joint exchange meeting between the Malta Police Community Cohesion Team, civil society organisations and public authorities, highlighting collaborative approaches to addressing racism and strengthening social cohesion.

STRENGTHENING DIALOGUE ACROSS SERVICES AND EDUCATION

Beyond public-facing activities, the Community Cohesion Team participated in structured exchanges aimed at strengthening cooperation and improving service delivery. A joint meeting with Migrant Women Association Malta

and the Human Rights Directorate focused on enhancing coordination between institutions and identifying ways to better respond to the needs of migrant communities.

This approach was equally reflected within educational settings. A special assembly at the Naxxar Induction Hub, organised with the International Learners Directorate and supported by Community Liaison Officers, brought students and educators together to celebrate diversity and discuss the importance of anti-racism and inclusion in schools. These conversations contribute to creating learning environments where every student feels valued, respected and supported.

THE MALTA POLICE COMMUNITY COHESION TEAM WAS AT THE HEART OF THE ANTI-RACISM AND DIVERSITY WEEK.

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Anti-Racism and Diversity Week served as a reminder that building an inclusive society, free from discrimination and racism, is a shared responsibility. Guided by the Human Rights Directorate's mandate to promote equality and non-discrimination, the Week highlighted the importance of anti-racism and diversity within Maltese society and showed how human rights principles can be translated into practice through collaboration with public authorities, civil society and communities. Collaboration with the Malta Police Force Community Cohesion Team, who have an important role in the fight against racism, demonstrated how joint efforts can strengthen trust, support inclusive practices and encourage meaningful engagement with diverse communities. Together, these actions contribute to a more cohesive society in which human rights are actively upheld, and diversity is recognised as a collective strength.

MORE BOOTS ON THE GROUND

A stronger community presence and more visible policing are at the heart of a new initiative launched earlier this year. The introduction of the Police Patrol and Community Support Officers (PPCSOs), which currently consists of 34 officers, marks another important step in strengthening the relationship between the police and the public, while enhancing accessibility and reassurance within local communities. A further 26 prospective PPCSOs are currently undergoing training and are expected to join the initiative in the near future.

These officers play a key role in reinforcing the existing Community Policing model by increasing the uniformed presence on the streets, particularly in localities where visibility is most needed. Whether in town centres, residential areas or popular public spaces, PPCSOs are there not just to observe, but also to interact, assist and engage with the community.

Although PPCSOs do not hold executive police powers, their role remains highly significant. They support police officers by addressing minor offences, guiding members

of the public and serving as an essential link between the community and police officers. This added presence is expected to help deter antisocial behaviour and improve the overall sense of safety in towns and villages.

Their responsibilities also include identifying problem areas, or “hotspots”, conducting targeted patrols, gathering on-the-ground information and referring it to the Police’s Central Intelligence and Analysis Unit. Beyond supporting enforcement efforts, PPCSOs also participate in local events, public outreach initiatives and activities





aimed at building trust and mutual respect between the police and the public.

To prepare for this important role, PPCSOs undergo specialised induction training at the Academy for Disciplined Forces. This programme equips them with the skills needed to operate effectively and confidently within the community.

In the lead-up to this initiative, three local Community Police Officers visited Thames Valley Police in Milton Keynes, UK, last year as part of a learning exchange. During the visit, they had the opportunity to join patrols, speak with local residents, assist in operations targeting shop theft and experience first-hand how PPCSOs operate in the UK. These insights helped shape Malta's own model to better suit local needs.

With PPCSOs now being deployed in neighbourhoods across Malta, the Malta Police Force is once again demonstrating its commitment to modern, proactive and community-based policing. This initiative promises not only a stronger presence on the streets, but also stronger community bonds, safer public spaces and a police force that is truly part of the community.

As the role continues to evolve, PPCSOs are expected to become an increasingly important part of everyday community life across Malta and Gozo, helping to build a safer and more connected society for the years ahead.



About the sponsor: For over 50 years, GSD has refreshed Malta as the exclusive bottler of Coca-Cola products and distributor of leading global brands. Employing 350+ people, GSD drives economic growth, sustainability, and innovation through quality operations, environmental initiatives, and a people-first culture dedicated to creating positive impact across Maltese society.

A STRONGER FLEET FOR A STRONGER RESPONSE

When an urgent call comes in, the public often sees only the outcome: officers arriving quickly, taking control of a difficult situation and restoring safety. Behind that response stands the Rapid Intervention Unit, one of the Malta Police Force's most visible and relied-upon operational sections.

The RIU plays a central role in supporting frontline policing across Malta. Its officers are trained and equipped to respond swiftly to incidents requiring immediate intervention, public order support, high-visibility patrols and assistance to other specialised units. Their work often places them at the centre of fast-moving situations, from public safety concerns and crime prevention patrols to requests for assistance from the general public and other specialised departments.

During the past year alone, the RIU's approximately 90 officers covered more than 612,000 kilometres on

patrol, an increase of around 21,500 kilometres over the previous year. These figures reflect both the scale of the unit's daily work and its constant presence within the community.

This year, the Malta Police Force continued to strengthen the RIU through a major investment in a new fleet of specialised Alfa Romeo Stelvio vehicles. The project was co-funded through the Internal Security Fund 2021–2027 and aims to increase protection in public areas by enhancing mobility, visibility and surveillance coverage. 16 specialised vehicles were procured through



this project, with an expenditure of €1,006,656 excluding VAT. Through additional national funding, a further 14 vehicles were also procured, bringing the overall investment to €1,824,000 excluding VAT and delivering a brand-new fleet of 30 vehicles.

These vehicles are fitted with reinforced side windows and brakes, primary weapon racks, emergency lights, sirens, control devices and communication systems, among other specialised features. Their lighting systems also include vehicle-to-vehicle synchronisation and dynamic variable intensity patterns, which reduce sharp lighting effects when vehicles are stationary. This improves safety for approaching traffic and creates a calmer working environment for officers at the scene.

The investment in equipment was complemented by the introduction of a new operational uniform for the RIU. Developed following consultation with RIU officers, the uniform was designed to improve comfort, mobility, ventilation and practicality during long hours of duty and deployments. While remaining consistent with the Malta Police Force's working uniform, the new black design gives the unit a distinct identity suited to its operational role.

Beyond vehicles and uniforms, however, the RIU's true strength lies in its people. Late last year, this was clearly demonstrated during a dramatic rescue in Mosta, when two RIU officers saved a 14-year-old girl trapped inside a



smoke-filled penthouse. Acting without hesitation, they entered the building, reached the girl and brought her safely back to her relieved parents.

This rescue is only one example of the many difficult and sensitive situations RIU officers respond to on a daily basis, including suicide attempts, persons in distress, violent incidents and other dangerous situations where immediate police intervention can make all the difference.

Such moments show what rapid intervention truly means. It is not only about speed, equipment or visibility; it is about courage, judgement and service. Through continued investment and the dedication of its officers, the Rapid Intervention Unit remains ready to respond when the public needs it most.



About the sponsor: Designed around the everyday needs of the R.I.U. officers, this Alfa Romeo fleet reflects Wiztronic's commitment, innovation and drive. Through close collaboration with the Malta Police Force, each vehicle was equipped, upfitted and configured with precision, enhancing safety whilst providing a calmer and more effective environment in the field, integrating all onboard systems through our Whelen CORE main unit. *Leading the market with passion!*

MALTA POLICE RHIB MAKES HISTORY IN BLACK SEA DEPLOYMENT

Between July and October 2025, the Malta Police Force reached a significant milestone in its maritime operations when one of its RHIBs (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats), ME55, was deployed to Romania as part of a Frontex operation in the Black Sea. This marked the first time that a Malta Police RHIB had ever been deployed outside Malta, representing a major step forward in international policing and maritime cooperation. The mission was supported by Mariner Shipping, whose assistance in transporting the RHIB to and from Romania played an important role in making this historic deployment possible.

The deployment formed part of a Frontex-led pilot project known as a *Multipurpose Maritime Operation (MMO)*, bringing together officers and assets from various European countries to support the Romanian Coast Guard in Mangalia, along the Black Sea coastline. Operating under the Maltese flag, the RHIB worked closely with Romanian Coast Guard vessels in joint patrols aimed at safeguarding maritime borders, supporting search and rescue operations, and monitoring coastal activity.

One of the most unique aspects of the mission was the multinational crew composition. While the Maltese captain remained in command of the RHIB, the crew itself included officers from Portugal, Romania, Greece and Latvia, all assigned through Frontex. The operation therefore became not only a maritime mission, but also a practical exercise in teamwork, communication and coordination between officers from different policing and maritime backgrounds.

Operating in the Black Sea presented conditions very different from those typically encountered in Maltese waters. Maltese officers experienced strong sea currents, rapidly changing weather conditions and sudden drops in temperature that could create dense fog within minutes, significantly affecting visibility and navigation. These challenging conditions required constant risk assessments, careful planning and continuous monitoring of both crew wellbeing and sea conditions.

Each operational day began with detailed safety inspections and risk evaluations before the RHIB departed Mangalia harbour. Patrols focused on coastal surveillance, identifying potential hazards, monitoring tourist areas and assisting in search and rescue situations when necessary. The mission also included specialised

training exercises on rough sea recovery techniques, casualty handling, thermal imaging systems and night vision equipment.

A major highlight of the deployment was participation in a joint international exercise involving Frontex, the Romanian Coast Guard, fisheries authorities and military bomb disposal units. During the scenario, the Maltese





RHIB successfully demonstrated advanced rescue capabilities, including the use of an unmanned lifeguard vehicle (ULV) and specialised recovery equipment to safely retrieve persons from the sea.

Beyond the operational achievements, the deployment showcased the professionalism, adaptability and capability of Malta Police officers on an international stage. It was a historic mission that strengthened cooperation with European partners while further enhancing the Malta Police Force's growing maritime expertise. This commitment to international maritime cooperation with Frontex continues, with the Malta Police Force embarking on another similar overseas deployment this spring on the island of Lemnos, Greece.



About the sponsor: Mariner Shipping Services Ltd, forming part of Hili Company in Malta provides reliable maritime and logistics solutions, specialising in vessel agency services, cargo handling, freight forwarding, customs clearance, and port operations. With extensive local expertise and a commitment to efficiency, the company supports seamless shipping and logistics activities, connecting businesses and markets through Malta's strategic maritime hub.

STRENGTHENING MALTA'S FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

THE EVOLVING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MALTA POLICE FORCE AND BANK OF VALLETTA

In recent years, cooperation between the Malta Police Force and Bank of Valletta has developed into a model of modern, intelligence-driven public-private partnership. This collaboration, which has been formally underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities, reflects the shared commitment to safeguard Malta's financial system, strengthen resilience against financial crime, and enhance public protection in an increasingly complex risk environment.

As Malta's largest banking institution, with more than 350,000 active customers, Bank of Valletta plays a systemic and strategic role in the functioning of the national economy. Its scale, transaction footprint, and centrality to both households and businesses place the bank at the heart of the country's financial infrastructure. For this reason, close alignment between BOV and national law-enforcement authorities is indispensable in detecting, preventing, and responding to financial crime...

A PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON COMMUNICATION, INTELLIGENCE AND SHARED OBJECTIVES

The MoU and the continuous operational collaboration between the Malta Police Force and BOV have been instrumental in establishing structured, trusted, and timely channels of communication. This has enabled:

- Mutual understanding of emerging trends and typologies, allowing both the Police and BOV's Anti-Financial Crime teams to respond proactively to evolving threats.
- Stronger investigative support, with smoother coordination in ongoing cases where rapid information exchange is critical.
- Collaborative initiatives focused on public education, particularly around fraud, cyber-enabled scams, social engineering, and other rapidly evolving risks.

This approach aligns with an increasingly recognised international reality: that financial crime threats, especially fraud, are growing at a pace that necessitates coordinated, intelligence-led responses. A recent analysis referenced by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) shows that emerging fraud risks now impact

up to 15% of the adult population across jurisdictions, highlighting the scale of the problem and the need for deeper collaboration between financial institutions and authorities.

ALIGNMENT WITH EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL BEST PRACTICE

The formalisation of the relationship between the Malta Police Force and BOV mirrors recommendations put forward at the European level. The European Banking Federation (EBF) has emphasised that the new EU AML/CFT legislative package represents a major step toward addressing longstanding fragmentation across the Union. Within its "four strategic priorities", the EBF has strongly advocated the expansion of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a core pillar of the modern AML/CFT framework. One of the EBF's strategic recommendations, that of 'Promoting Trusted Intelligence-Led Approaches Through Public-Private Partnerships' is fully aligned with the Malta Police-BOV model. According to the EBF, effectively combating financial crime requires:

- Seamless, legally-grounded information exchange
- Trusted collaboration between public institutions and private-sector actors
- Operational PPPs supported by the new EU AML Rulebook
- Robust safeguards that balance efficiency with data protection

The BOV-Police MoU represents a practical application of these principles, ensuring that Malta's financial ecosystem is aligned with modern EU expectations and international best practice.



PROTECTING THE PUBLIC: A SHARED MISSION

A key area of collaboration has been the growing focus on public awareness and financial crime prevention, particularly fraud and scams that continue to evolve at speed, with joint efforts including:

- National awareness campaigns
- Customer education initiatives
- Targeted communication designed to protect vulnerable groups
- Faster intelligence feedback loops between the Police and the Bank

LOOKING AHEAD: A PARTNERSHIP THAT WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN

In the months ahead, both BOV and the Malta Police Force are expected to deepen their cooperation through additional initiatives, including joint public engagements, awareness activities, and operational enhancements. This forward-looking approach ensures that collaboration

remains dynamic, relevant, and responsive to new forms of financial and cyber-enabled criminality.

The MoU has laid the groundwork for a sustainable, intelligence-driven partnership that supports Malta's commitment to financial stability, public protection, and international AML/CFT standards. As financial crime evolves, so too will the mechanisms by which both entities work together, thereby ensuring that safety and trust by the Maltese public remain firmly at the centre of this collaboration.



Bank of Valletta

About the sponsor: Bank of Valletta has been a cornerstone of Malta's economic landscape for over 50 years, enjoying a strong market position as Malta's leading financial services institution. The Bank provides retail and business clients with a suite of services, offered through a network of branches, business and investment centres, financial well-being centres, 24x7 services and corporate and wealth management arms. BOV is an institution trusted across generations, leading by example in sustainability and active in its support to the various stakeholders and communities that it serves.

PROTECTING EVIDENCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

In today's world, CCTV footage often plays an important role in helping investigators understand what happened before, during and after an incident. A few seconds of video can help confirm a timeline, identify movements, support witness accounts or provide crucial evidence in court. Behind this process is the work of the Malta Police Force's centralised CCTV Unit, operating within the Malta Police Forensic Science Laboratory.

The Unit provides specialised support in the extraction, analysis and enhancement of CCTV footage linked to police investigations. Its role goes beyond simply collecting video material. Every request is handled through a structured process designed to ensure that footage is obtained lawfully, stored securely and preserved in a manner that protects its evidential value.

A key part of this work is carried out by Forensic Downloading Officers, who are responsible for retrieving CCTV footage from relevant locations while maintaining the original format and associated data. This is essential because digital evidence must be handled carefully from the very first stage. Proper documentation, secure

transfer and a clear chain of custody help ensure that the material can later be relied upon during investigations and judicial proceedings.

Once footage is obtained, it may also be examined by Forensic Analysts and Enhancers. Their work can include reviewing video sequences, clarifying timelines, enhancing images, extracting still frames or preparing material that can assist investigators and the courts. Importantly, the original footage remains preserved, while any enhancements are carried out on working copies in line with forensic procedures. This helps safeguard both accuracy and transparency.



Central to this process is the Digital Evidence Management System, known as DEMS. DEMS serves as the secure digital repository for CCTV footage and any other digital evidence. Through this system, authorised officers can access evidence in a controlled and traceable manner. Every action is logged, helping to maintain accountability, protect sensitive information and ensure that digital evidence is shared only with those who have a legitimate investigative need.

The introduction and continued use of DEMS reflects the Malta Police Force's commitment to modernising the management of digital evidence. As video evidence becomes increasingly common in police work, secure systems and specialised expertise are essential to ensure that investigations are supported efficiently while respecting legal safeguards and privacy obligations.

The CCTV Unit therefore represents an important link between technology, investigation and justice. Through its work, footage captured by cameras is transformed into properly managed evidence, strengthening the ability of the Malta Police Force to investigate crime professionally, protect the integrity of proceedings and serve the community with greater effectiveness.



REGISTER YOUR CCTV WITH US



The Malta Police Force is inviting members of the public, businesses, local councils and other organisations to register their CCTV systems through a voluntary online form.

CCTV footage can play an important role in investigations. It may help officers identify persons, vehicles, movements, timelines and other details connected to an incident. In many cases, footage must be identified quickly before it is overwritten or lost.

By registering your CCTV system, you can help investigating teams locate possible sources of footage more efficiently when an incident occurs in your area.

**SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON
THIS INITIATIVE**



About the sponsor: SOLVING FOR SAFER. Safety and security are at the heart of everything we do at Motorola Solutions. We build and connect technologies to help protect people, property and places. Our technologies support public safety agencies and enterprises alike, enabling the collaboration that's critical for safer communities, safer schools, safer hospitals and safer businesses. Learn more about our commitment to innovating for a safer future for us all at www.motorolasolutions.com.

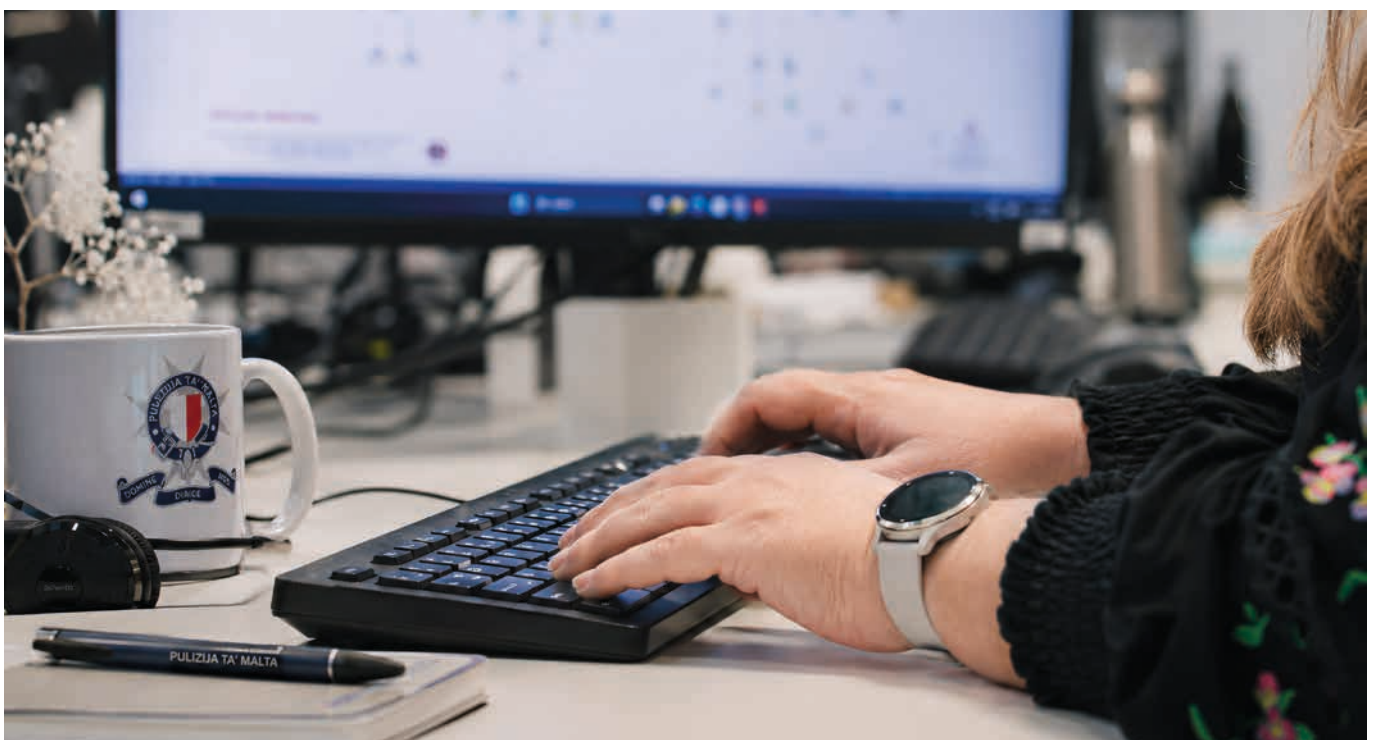
CONNECTING THE DOTS: i2 AND COUNTER-TERRORISM

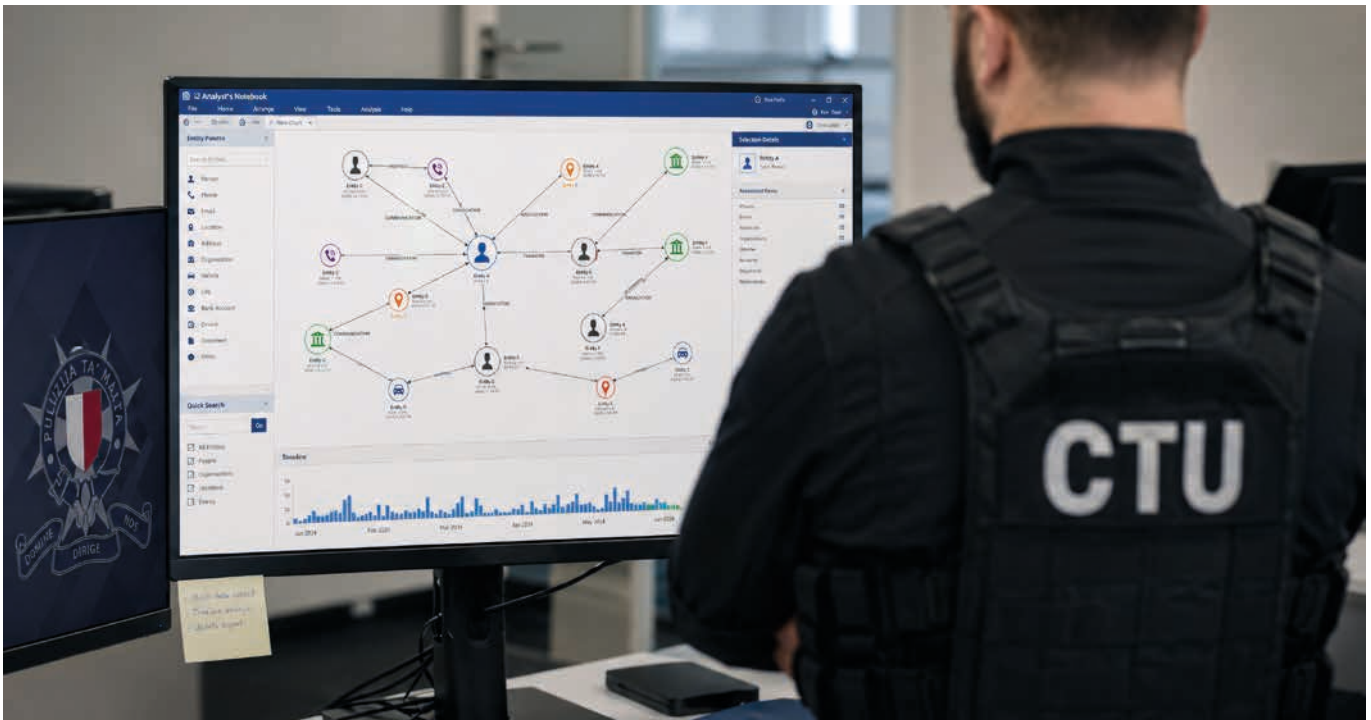
In an increasingly complex security environment, the ability to analyse information quickly, accurately and securely has become essential to modern policing. Financial crime, organised criminal activity and terrorism-related threats are often interconnected, crossing borders and involving sophisticated networks that require equally advanced investigative tools. In response to these evolving challenges, the Malta Police Force has continued investing in technology that strengthens intelligence-led policing and enhances its capacity to protect both national security and the financial interests of the European Union.

Through the project entitled ***“Enhancement to MPF’s Capacity to protect EU’s financial interests through i2 System,”*** the Malta Police Force has expanded its use of the advanced i2 visual analysis solution. Co-funded through European Funding under the Internal Security Fund 2021–27, the project involved the acquisition of additional i2 licences and the upgrading of existing equipment, with a total expenditure of €881,844.78 excluding VAT. The system is also being supported through a maintenance and support agreement financed from national funds, ensuring its continued operation and effectiveness. The

project was delivered in collaboration with PTL Limited and i2 Group, combining advanced intelligence analysis technology with local implementation expertise to ensure the successful deployment and adoption of the solution across the Malta Police Force.

While the i2 system is primarily utilised by the Central Intelligence and Analysis Unit, its benefits extend across several specialised departments, including the Financial Crime Investigation Department, the Risk Analysis Unit, the Major Crimes Department and the Malta Police Counter-Terrorism Unit. For the Counter-Terrorism Unit,





access to enhanced analytical capabilities represents an important step forward in supporting investigations, intelligence development and threat assessment.

Terrorism-related threats are increasingly transnational and complex in nature. They may involve hidden networks, indirect associations, suspicious financial activity, travel movements and communication links that are not immediately visible through traditional investigative methods. The i2 system assists investigators and intelligence analysts by bringing together information from multiple sources and presenting it in a visual and structured manner. This enables users to identify patterns, links and relationships that may otherwise remain undetected.

For the Counter-Terrorism Unit, this capability is particularly valuable. By supporting the rapid integration and visualisation of complex intelligence, the system strengthens the Unit's ability to assess threats, monitor potential extremist activity and identify connections between individuals, entities and financial transactions. It also contributes to more informed decision-making and supports cooperation with other national and international law enforcement and intelligence partners.

As part of the implementation of the project, PTL Limited delivered specialised training to analysts and sworn officers on the functionality of the i2 system and its new features. This training ensures that officers are better equipped to gather, interpret and analyse intelligence efficiently, while making full use of the technology available to them.

Aligned with the Malta Police Force Corporate Strategy (2025–2030), this investment reflects our continued commitment to data-driven policing, inter-departmental cooperation and the use of emerging technologies. Through the enhanced use of the i2 system, the Malta Police Force is not only improving its response to financial crime, but also strengthening its wider operational capacity in areas that are vital to public safety and national security.

By empowering specialised units with advanced analytical tools, the Malta Police Force is reinforcing its role in safeguarding Malta, supporting international security efforts and contributing to the protection of the European Union's financial interests.



About the sponsor: PTL Limited is an ISO-certified IT solutions provider delivering mission-critical systems for over 75 years. Trusted for API-PNR passenger targeting systems and intelligence-led policing solutions, PTL also delivers cyber security, digital health, and enterprise IT solutions, combining secure infrastructure, AI, advanced analytics, and integration expertise across government and regulated industries.

A LIFELINE FOR VICTIMS

For many victims, the end of an incident does not mean the end of fear, trauma or uncertainty. Whether following a crime, a domestic violence incident, a serious accident or another traumatic event, victims often face emotional, psychological and practical challenges that continue long after the immediate danger has passed. Through the combined efforts of the Malta Police Force and the Victim Support Agency (VSA), victims are provided with immediate protection, specialised support and continued assistance to help them recover and rebuild their lives. Behind every police intervention exists a wider support network dedicated to ensuring that victims are not left to face recovery alone.

IMMEDIATE PROTECTION AND SUPPORT

The Police Support Response Team (SRT) plays a vital role in providing immediate assistance and protection to individuals in situations requiring urgent intervention. The team supports victims involved in domestic violence, gender-based violence, serious accidents, vulnerable person cases and other high-risk circumstances where specialised care and sensitivity are essential.

Working closely alongside frontline police officers, the SRT provides a more victim-centred response focused on safeguarding individuals, assessing immediate risks and ensuring that appropriate protective measures are taken without delay. Beyond crisis intervention, the team also helps bridge the gap between emergency response and long-term assistance by facilitating referrals to the Victim Support Agency (VSA) and other specialised entities.

BEYOND THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Following an intervention by the SRT, victims are often referred to the Victim Support Agency to receive tailored assistance based on their individual needs and circumstances. This referral process is carefully coordinated to ensure continuity of care, build trust and encourage long-term engagement with support services.

The VSA adopts a victim-centred approach, recognising that every individual's experience and recovery journey is different. Through trained professionals and specialised support workers, victims are offered a safe and confidential environment where they can express concerns, process traumatic experiences and begin rebuilding confidence and stability.

The agency also assists victims with a range of practical needs that may arise following a traumatic





experience. This may include guidance on legal rights and procedures, support throughout criminal justice proceedings, assistance in accessing compensation schemes, and referrals to specialised services such as housing, healthcare, counselling or social support. By helping victims navigate these challenges, the VSA reduces uncertainty and empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their future.

A LIFELINE FOR HIGH-RISK VICTIMS

An important development in strengthening victim protection has been the introduction of the Domestic Violence (DV) Panic Alarm System for victims assessed as being at high risk.

Following the submission of a police report and a professional risk assessment, eligible victims are issued with a discreet panic alarm device that provides an additional layer of safety and reassurance during particularly vulnerable periods.

The system is directly connected to a dedicated platform accessible to both the Police Command & Control Room (119) and the Victim Support Agency. In emergency situations, victims can activate the alarm through a panic button, immediately alerting the authorities while simultaneously transmitting their exact location in real time.

This technology allows for a rapid and coordinated response, significantly enhancing the ability of the Police and support services to intervene swiftly and potentially

prevent further harm. For many victims, knowing that help is only one button away provides reassurance and peace of mind during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Beyond the emergency response itself, the VSA continues to monitor and support victims making use of the system, ensuring that they remain connected to professional assistance and that any additional emotional, practical or safety needs are continuously assessed.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR VICTIMS

The collaboration between the Malta Police Force and the Victim Support Agency remains fundamental to the effectiveness of this support framework. Strong communication, coordinated interventions and established referral pathways ensure that victims experience a seamless transition from immediate crisis response to long-term support and protection.

This integrated approach reflects national priorities as well as European Union standards on victims' rights, which emphasise dignity, safety, respect and access to appropriate support services.

Through initiatives such as the DV Panic Alarm System, the work of the SRT and the specialised services offered by the VSA, victims are provided not only with immediate assistance, but also with the long-term care and support necessary to rebuild confidence, regain stability and move forward with resilience.



**NATIONAL VICTIM
SUPPORTLINE – 116 006**

PRESERVING OUR PAST, INSPIRING OUR FUTURE

The Malta Police Museum preserves and showcases the rich history, heritage, and institutional memory of the Malta Police Force. Located within the Police General Headquarters in Floriana, it highlights the evolution of policing in Malta and reflects two centuries of service to the Maltese people.

The concept of establishing a museum dedicated to the history of the Malta Police Force dates back to the early 1980s. The first museum was inaugurated on 11 July 1994 at Police General Headquarters and later refurbished in 2012. In 2023, the museum was relocated to a more prominent location within Police Headquarters. This move provided an opportunity to reimagine the museum's role and enhance how the Force's history, artefacts, documents, and personal stories are presented.

Recognising the importance of preserving and interpreting this heritage, the Malta Police Force entered into a collaboration agreement with Heritage Malta in 2024. Through this partnership, professional expertise

has supported the museum's refurbishment, curation, interpretation, and visitor experience.

The project is being implemented in four phases and aims to modernise the museum while making it more accessible and engaging for visitors. It reflects the Force's commitment to ensuring that its story remains visible and relevant to serving officers, retired members, researchers, students, and the wider public.

The first phase, entitled The History of the Malta Police Force, was completed in May 2026. This section presents a chronological journey through the development of policing in Malta, illustrating how the





Force evolved from early public order responsibilities into a modern organisation delivering specialist operational, investigative, intelligence, and support functions.

Through interpretative panels, historical documents, photographs, and original artefacts, visitors can trace the development of justice, public order, and law enforcement in Malta. Among the highlights are historical documents linked to the early years of the Force, including records associated with the office of the first Commissioner of Police. Visitors can also view material connected to the British period, including the landmark ordinance introduced following Governor Sir Thomas Maitland's reforms, which laid foundations for Malta's modern policing and justice systems.

The museum's collection reflects the diverse responsibilities carried out by the Malta Police Force throughout its history. Visitors can explore historical uniforms, equipment, communication systems, vehicles, medals, documents, photographs, and items linked to specialist units and former Commissioners of Police. Together, these exhibits provide insight into the people, events, and milestones that have shaped policing in Malta.

Future phases will further enrich the visitor experience with exhibitions exploring specialised police

sections, police transport through the years, medals and insignia, firearms, and other significant policing artefacts. A dedicated section will also pay tribute to officers whose courage, loyalty, and commitment to duty have helped shape the history of the Force and left a lasting legacy for Malta.

More than a repository of historical objects, the Malta Police Museum serves as an important cultural and educational resource. It safeguards the memories and achievements of generations of police officers while helping visitors understand the role of policing in Malta's social, legal, and administrative development.



About the sponsor: As the guardian of over 8,000 years of history, Heritage Malta is the national agency for museums, conservation practice, and cultural heritage. Established by the Cultural Heritage Act of 2002, the agency proudly manages over 90 museums and landmarks, national monuments, and underwater sites. The agency has three main objectives. It is committed to building a strong emotional connection with the Maltese community, while raising our international profile by inspiring and engaging visitors to visit Malta, hence making the necessary income to ensure the agency's longevity and self-sustainability. Through its various activities, Heritage Malta promises to safeguard and ensure a future for a heritage which is part of us, and to inspire generations to come.



About the sponsor: Motors Inc. is a leading automotive and mobility provider in Malta, representing world-renowned brands including Kia, Hyundai, Leapmotor, Fiat, Jeep, Alfa Romeo, IVECO, Fiat Professional, and Cantieri Renier. Committed to excellence, the company delivers vehicle sales, aftersales services, parts, and mobility solutions tailored to both private and commercial customers.

