

# REPORT ABOUT EFFICIENCY OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Ministry of Justice and Local Government

July 2001

The annual report issued by the Ministry of Justice and Local Government compares the activities of the Councils on a year by year basis. It classifies the major categories of activities, including maintenance of urban and non-urban roads, cleanliness, up-keeping of public gardens, latrines and other functions of the local Councils. For objective comparison from year to year, it has a system of giving them a mark - 10 signifying perfection, while less than 6 requires some improvement, and less than 4 indicates close to disaster.

It is of interest to look at the situation in Gozo. This is a summary taken from this Report:

## **Rabat**

There has been a downward trend compared to last year. A drastic reduction in efficiency was noticeable in 9 categories compared to previous year. It was stable in 4 other categories. Unacceptable levels were found in the following categories: Condition of roads, and cleanliness of roads (4 points). Need of improvement noted in Also Traffic Indicators and cutting of grass (6 points each)

## **Ghajnsielem:**

There was a downward trend in overall result. On three categories it obtained good points (9). Level of grass-cutting increased from 4 last year to 8 this year. However poor results were noticed in the condition of non urban Streets condition (4), Urban streets (6), public latrines and public gardens (6), cleanliness of streets, (5)

## **Gharb**

This council also showed a downward trend from last year in eight categories. Public latrines (3, down from 10 previous year), condition of urban streets (3 down from 8 previous year). The condition of streets (urban and non-urban) general cleanliness and cutting of grass were rated 5, 2, 3 and 4 respectively. The Report concludes that the Gharb local council is at a critical point.

## **Ghasri**

Overall the results are classified as poor. It obtained results only at a level of 6 and below. In particular, urban road cleaning, traffic indicators, condition of urban and non-urban roads and cutting of grass were marked 5,3,2,3,5 respectively

## **Kercem:**

This council obtained an average standard overall. In 6 out of 12 categories it obtained 7 points or more.

Lowest levels were obtained in urban, non-urban road conditions, cleanliness, and upkeep of public gardens, (5,2,2,5, points respectively).

## **Nadur**

This appears to have obtained satisfactory results overall. In 12 out of 19 categories it obtained 7 marks or more. In 11 functions it obtained the highest marks over the average in Gozo However there is a downwards tendency compared with last year.

Poor marks were obtained in condition of urban roads and non-urban roads, conditions of public latrines, and standard of cleanliness of non-urban roads. (4,3,5,3 respectively).

## **Qala:**

Overall kept a good level. Worst areas include condition of non-urban streets, cleanliness of nonurban streets, and public gardens cleanliness, (3,4,5 points respectively)

## **San Lawrenz**

This council has improved overall by 6 points over last year. There are however, reductions in some categories. Worst points obtained in urban street cleanliness, public latrines, Traffic indicators, , (urban, non urban), cleanliness of non-urban streets (5,4,4,4,5 points)

## **Sannat**

In this council the majority of marks were above 7. However, it showed lower points compared to previous year. Lowest points

obtained in condition of roads, both urban and nonurban , clealiness of non-uban roads, cutting of grass: (5,4,5,5 points respectively)

#### *Xaghra*

This council obtained acceptable levels, but reduced points compared to previous year. Worst conditions to be found relatin gto urban and non urban roads, and cleanliness of no-urban roads, (5,5,4 points respectively).

#### *Xewkija:*

There has been a marked improvement on grass cutting in non urban roads (from 1 up to 9). Worst points obtained for condition of non urban roads,, cleanliness of urban streets, and public gardens cleanliness, (2,2,5 points respectively).

#### *Żebbuġ:*

This Council has kept a good level but there was a reduction overall. Worst offenders were:: traffic signals, cleanliness of beaches, removal of alka from beaches, conditon of roads, Public garden cleanliness, and cleanliness of non-urban roads (5 points or less).

#### *Some conclusions:*

The value of this Report is to hold a mirror up to Local Council activities in Malta and Gozo. In giving an objective mark, it tries to compare

progress or regress from year to year, and this should help the individual Councils to examine areas that appear to be going down the drain, while at the same time offer encouragement in those areas where some progress has been made - good brownie points.

The overall comments in the Report indicate that some Local Councils are obviously doing much worse than others. This is a sobering conclusion, and it would be well for the Councils thus involved to have a good soul-searching to examine why exactly their administration has been found wanting.

In general there seems to be general agreement about the poor condition of the roads. We do not need reports to inform us of these - all of us are well aware of the atrocious conditions. What this Report highlights is that they appear to be getting worse rather than improving. One could say that this is the result of lack of funds. However the same cannot be said of other standards which do not depend so directly on spending cash. One cannot understand a deterioration of services such as cleanliness in latrines or upkeep of gardens when one presumes that the number of staff employed has not been reduced since last year. One would have thought that a more adequate level of supervision might produce the required results.

### **Land Registration in Gozo**

The Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo has started the electronic registration of agricultural land available in Gozo. This project is partially financed by the European Union.

Through aerial surveys we now know that there are 50,000 'pieces of agricultural land' covering an area of 41 square km. There are about 5,000 registered full-time and part-time farmers in Gozo.