

A Police Force for Tomorrow

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Reforming the Malta Police Force was deemed a difficult task. Many have tried, and many have faltered. This time around, we are determined to succeed. The past years have shown a commitment to understand the past, anchor the present reality, and dare to dream and transform. The transformation of the Malta Police Force is now unstoppable, and can only gather momentum as the changes gather pace.

Is the process to change a centuries old entity easy? By no means, but the main differences for the current transformation revolve around two elements: the drive to change from within and the uptake to services by the public.

Are there pain points? Of course, there are. As society changes, the 2000+ officers experience changes like never before, both in physical reality and in virtual worlds. Are they really

changing? The public can answer that question: more officers on the ground, online and media presence, an ever-requested Community Policing service, victim support, specialisations in specific areas such as intelligence, drugs and financial crimes, rapid intervention, community engagement, upskilling, civilianisation, a focused senior management structure, and a change-oriented Commissioner, to name a few.

At the end of all this process, there is only one task that needs to filter to the ultimate client, the citizen. The task is to instil public trust in the MPF, a task that steadily shows gradual take-up and positive public reactions. COVID-19, already a memory for many, exhibited the resilient aspect of the Force, an entity ready to guide, enforce, and lead under quasi-impossible scenarios. Post-COVID changes and the return of normality are depicting a society-centric Force that morphs its actions into societal changes: leaps from the passive reactive mode enshrined in past decades.

The Malta Police Board of Governors is engaged in overseeing the transition process, leading to the transformative outcome of the entity. It seeks to instil changes that ensure trust, as well as the structural changes required to fulfil the 5-year Strategy deliverables.

There is much to do, but the drive is in place at all levels. This is sustained through a core policing focus by all officers, the uptake of the Transformation Strategy by all, and adherence to the path we travel.