

09 June 2021

HSBC Malta Foundation supports Torri l-Abjad restoration, conservation and rehabilitation

Torri l-Abjad (White Tower) in l-Aħrax tal-Mellieħa has been inaugurated after an extensive restoration project carried out by Din l-Art Ħelwa with the support of the HSBC Malta Foundation. The inauguration took place in the presence of Mellieħa Local Council Mayor Dario Vella. Originally built by the Knights in 1658, and redeveloped in around 1716, the project to rehabilitate the iconic Torri l-Abjad has taken three years to complete. The HSBC Malta Foundation has been the lead supporter of this extensive and challenging three year project which has seen the imposing heritage building being restored from a decaying and abandoned site to one that will house student and meeting facilities, a visitor centre and didactic areas focusing on the marine environment.

Simon Vaughan Johnson, HSBC Malta CEO said: “The restoration of this magnificent tower has been one of HSBC Malta Foundation’s most significant local cultural heritage projects. The public can soon fully enjoy this historical site which, thanks to the excellent work by Din l-Art Ħelwa, will become a centre not only for historical education but also for raising awareness of our rich environmental heritage.”

The renovation project also includes the addition of new dormitories as well as a visitor centre and teaching facilities. These are intended to help visitors embrace the historical, cultural and environmental heritage of the site and its surroundings.

Prof Alex Torpiano, President of Din l-Art Ħelwa said: “Visitors to the site can now discover both the history of the tower and explore the natural features of its surrounding area with didactic facilities focusing particularly on the marine environment. Thanks to the support of the HSBC Malta Foundation, which shares Din l-Art Ħelwa’s vision to protect Malta’s cultural heritage, we have had the resources necessary to restore Torri l-Abjad to its former glory.”

HSBC Malta Foundation volunteers also participated in planting a total of 35 African Tamarisk trees in Daħlet ix-Xmajjar which is in the immediate vicinity of the tower. These trees compensate for another 35 that had been uprooted during the clearing of the tower site as per ERA’s policy under the expert guidance of the Foresta 2000 rangers from the Għadira Nature Reserve.



PHOTOCAPTION: From left - Dario Vella, Mellieħa Local Council Mayor, Simon Vaughan Johnson, HSBC Malta CEO and Prof Alex Torpiano, Executive President, Din I-Art Helwa

HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.

HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. is a member of the HSBC Group, whose ultimate parent company is HSBC Holdings plc. HSBC Malta provides a comprehensive range of financial services which are all designed to meet the expanding requirements of its large client base of personal and corporate customers. These include Wealth and Personal Banking, Commercial Banking and Global Markets. Registered in Malta number C3177. Registered Office: 116, Archbishop Street, Valletta VLT 1444, Malta. HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. is regulated and licensed to carry out the business of banking and investment services in terms of the Banking Act (Cap.371 of the Laws of Malta) and the Investment Services Act (Cap.370. of the Laws of Malta) by the Malta Financial Services Authority. HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c is enrolled as a tied insurance intermediary for HSBC Life Assurance (Malta) Limited under the Insurance Distribution Act, (Cap 487 of the Laws of Malta).

HSBC Group

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of HSBC, is headquartered in London. HSBC serves customers worldwide from offices in 64 countries and territories in its geographical regions: Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,984bn at 31 December 2020, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.