

MEMO FOR CABINET  
by the  
MINISTER OF HEALTH

The Emptying of Cesspits in Gozo

Following the enactment of Ordinance No. XI of 1961 a Civic Council for Gozo and Comino was set up as provided in the said Ordinance. The Council was defined as a statutory local government body having a distinct legal personality and capable, in such capacity, of doing all such things and entering into such transactions as are incidental to or conducive to the exercise and performance of its functions under this Ordinance.

The functions of the Council are listed at Section 24.

In January 1963, the Chief Government Medical Officer addressed a letter, of which a copy is attached, to the Chairman, Gozo Civic Council, informing the Council that no provision was being made by the Medical and Health Department for the emptying of cesspits in Gozo and that such provision had been made in the estimates of the Gozo Civic Council under Public Cleansing Service. Reference was also made to minute 36 on file Treas. 2063/62 by Crown Counsel, Dr. Frenco, who advised that it would be more appropriate if calls for tenders for the cesspit emptying service were to be made directly by the Gozo Civic Council.

This ruling appears to have been accepted and the service was provided accordingly, until the matter was raised in 1967 by the Council as a result, it seems, of the large quantities of liquid matter that was being emptied from a cesspit constructed by the Public Works Department for the disposal of sewage from two hotels at Marsalforn.

At a meeting in October 1968, held at the Office of the Administrative Secretary and attended by representatives of departments concerned, the Senior Crown Counsel submitted a different interpretation on the Council's functions in this respect ~~and~~ in as much as cesspit emptying is not implicitly laid down as part of the Council's responsibilities.

In Malta the cesspit emptying service is part and parcel of the Public Cleansing Service. In Gozo, the Public Cleansing Service has always formed part of the Council's functions. It is, therefore, the Department's view that once this latter Service is the responsibility of the Council, the emptying service with which it is closely bound should also be the Council's responsibility.

The cesspit emptying service was set up some years back and was intended to relieve the hardship of residents in areas where a public sewerage system had not yet been laid down and for which, it was then considered, they could, as other taxpayers, lay a justifiable claim. It was considered a temporary measure supplementing the sewage system and diminishing as the system was gradually extended.

Hon. Ministers are asked to take an early decision on this matter as the Gozo Civic Council have decided (sic) to discontinue the service of cesspit emptying as from 1st April, 1969.

MH 1780/67

28th March, 1969.

C O P Y  
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MH 136/63

25th January, 1963.

The Chairman,  
Gozo Civic Council  
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With reference to the call for tenders for the emptying of cesspits for the twelve months commencing 1st April, 1963, no reference has been made to Gozo in the tender documents prepared by this Department.

Provision for this service was duly made in the estimates for the current year of the Gozo Civic Council under Public Cleansing Service (emptying of cesspits and removal of slop £1045) and in minute 36 on Treas 2063/62 Dr. V. Frendo, the Crown Counsel wrote as follows:-

"I think it would be more appropriate if calls for tenders were to be made directly by the Gozo Civic Council in terms and in accordance with the provisions of Section 34 of Ordinance No XI of 1961 and relative standing orders. (21.5.62)."

This information is being given to enable you to take such action as you may consider appropriate to ensure continuity of this important service as from the 1st April, 1963.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Administrative Secretary.

(Sgd) C. COLEIRO  
Chief Government Medical Officer

L-ARKIVI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA