

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE HON. MINISTER OF LABOUR AND
SOCIAL WELFARE

Shop Hours in Gozo

Subsection (1) of section 7 of the Shops and Hawkers (Business Hours) Act, 1957, lays down that "all shops shall be closed for the serving of customers on Sundays and Good Fridays" while subsection (2) of the same section provides that "notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), all shops in Victoria (Gozo) may remain open for the serving of customers in each case up to 10 a.m. on Sundays".

2. The Gozo Civic Council have recommended that the concession granted to the shops at Victoria be extended to the shops in all the villages in Gozo on the grounds that:

- (a) the need to 'protect' shop employees in Gozo, as far as their hours of work are concerned, is not felt in that Island, especially in the villages since the shops in Gozo are mostly owner-run;
- (b) the local situation in Gozo is totally different from that in Malta, and in most cases what applies to Malta insofar as shop employees are concerned, does not hold good for Gozo, and this difference should be reflected in the law governing Shops and Hawkers.

3. The General Retailers and Traders' Union was consulted by the Director of Emigration, Labour and Social Welfare and found no objection to the extension being granted. They were of the opinion that such a step would not affect shops in Malta.

4. The Hon. Minister of Labour and Social Welfare who has studied the Council's proposal has no objection to extending the facilities at present enjoyed by the shops in Victoria to all shops in the villages of Gozo, and he feels that the point is not controversial since general opinion in Gozo is for and not against the proposed concession.

5. Hon. Ministers are therefore asked to say whether they agree that the appropriate amendment to the Shops and Hawkers (Business Hours) Act, 1957, be prepared and introduced in the Legislative Assembly with a view to enactment.

L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta