

The Gozo Diaries



November, 2004

The refurbish of the children's ward at the Gozo General Hospital is well underway. In the first phase, the old electrical and plumbing systems were replaced with new ones. This will enable the systems to take the heavier loads as new services are installed including an air-conditioning system, a computer and internet service and cable TV. The hot and cold water systems were also upgraded. All infrastructural works were carried out by the hospital staff. Once this phase was completed a number of association volunteers together with committee members and hospital staff moved in to plaster and decorate the walls in child-friendly colours. This went on for a straight ten days each day commencing at 08:30 in the morning and ending well into the late evening. At the end of it the volunteers but more so Steve and Maria were thoroughly exhausted, but satisfied!. The next step will be to install new soft furnishings, TV sets, computers and paint colourful murals to complement the revamped children's playroom. Watch this space for more details.

September, 2004

A full refurbishment of the Gozo General Hospital's Paediatric Ward is to commence on Monday 4th October 2004. Refurbishment will include:

- Repainting of all the ward and replacement of water pipes
- Increasing capacity of electrical system's capacity by having more power points close to each bed
- Replacement of current air-conditioning arrangements with a number of individual split units
- Installation of terrestrial and satellite T.V. in each room
- Computer internet access points by each bed and T.V. console games,
- Telephone sets with external lines (Easy line) in each room
- Refurbishment of playroom and equipment
- Work in annexed yard to make this accessible, safe and usable by patients
- Sandblasting and re-spraying of beds
- Replacement of bedside lockers
- New set of matching curtains, bedspreads in a suitable colour scheme
- Replacement of pantry furniture
- Area adjacent to pantry to be partitioned off as a milk room.

Full details of the works will be announced at a press conference for the media to be held on Friday 1st October 2004 in the Gozo Hospital's boardroom.

6th February, 2004

Meeting with Gozo General Hospital Superintendent and staff (same as above excluding Mr. Frank Masini). The engineer and work technical officer handed Steven Delicata the required reports listing in detail a breakdown of the estimate for the full refurbishment of the Paediatric Ward together with diagrams showing the new electrical installation layout in all single and four-bedded rooms. It was taken into consideration the fact that the changes are going to be permanent as unlike St. Lukes's Hospital in Malta, there are no future plans for the Gozo Hospital to be moved to newer premises. For this reason it was previously agreed by the Daniel Delicata Memorial Association and Dr. Livori that the paediatric ward will be given a full overhaul that will last many years. The staff explained that many items in the ward are outdated and

newer modern versions will help make their work easier while improving the general environment of the ward. Examples of these are the overhead lights on each bed, the bedside tables, the air-conditioning system, the electrical system and the hot and cold water systems. Due to this general approach, the report of estimates given to Mr. Delicata amounted to thousands of Maltese Liri. For this reason, Steven and Maria decided that the Minister for Gozo, Mrs. Giovanna Debono be informed in another meeting during which they hope that Mrs. Debono will support this project further by partly financing some of the expenses.

22nd January, 2004

Meeting with Gozo General Hospital Superintendent Dr. Anthony Livori and his staff including Head Of Paediatrics Dr. Mercieca, Nursing officer Paediatric Ward Ms. Rita Galea, Engineer Mr. Sonny Debrincat, and Work Technical Officers Mr. Frank Masini and Mr. Francis Grech. During this meeting Steven and Maria Delicata (o.b.o. The Daniel Delicata Memorial Assc.) discussed what needed to be changed or improved inside the ward in question. It was also agreed that as new services such as internet, cable television and air-conditioning are going to be introduced, the present electrical and plumbing system has to be upgraded as this is over 30 years old. As the works are going to be extensive, the welfare of the patients was discussed as regards to their displacement while the works are being carried out as the association and hospital staff do not wish to cause discomfort and inconvenience. In order to start planning the target date of commencement of this project as well as the estimated duration and forecasted expenses, Steven asked the engineer and work technical officers to prepare a report listing all the electrical installation and plumbing alteration requirements. A meeting was set for the 6th February 2004.

Regarding the displacement of patients during the works, Dr. Mercieca and his staff agreed with Dr. Livori that it will be better to move these to another unused ward which is situated one floor below and which is in excellent condition.

The Gozo diaries are an account of the refurbishment work being performed by the association at the Gozo General Hospital's paediatric ward and will be updated from time to time.