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PRESS RELEASE

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KTP CALLS FOR IDENTITY-DRIVEN QUALITY DESIGN IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE THREE PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS

The Government of Malta's proposal to establish national parks at Manoel Island, White Rocks, and Fort Campbell provides a significant opportunity to make a fundamental shift towards long-term environmental stewardship, public accessibility, and cultural regeneration. The Kamra tal-Periti welcomes this direction while emphasising that the success of these flagship projects depends on rigorous planning, strong design leadership, and a clear identity for each site.

In this context, and as a response to the Government's *Shape Your Space* consultation through ParksInMalta.mt, the Kamra tal-Periti is publishing a comprehensive reply *Conserving Nature, Promoting Adaptive Reuse: Sustainable Stewardship of Malta's National Parks*. This publication outlines a vision for national parks in Malta and presents a framework to guide the transformation of these three major sites into Malta's national parks.

The new national parks will only succeed if they are identity-driven, embedded in a Baukultur principles, and their design procured by competition. The Kamra underscores the importance that the White Rocks, Manoel Island and Fort Campbell develop a unique, context-driven identity, grounded in their history. It also stresses how across all three sites, existing buildings are to be considered as assets and not obstacles, promoting adaptive reuse. Most importantly, the Kamra calls for open and transparent architecture design competitions, to ensure excellence, transparency and public trust in the procurement of the design services. The organisation of architectural design competition is a guarantee of high-quality design outcomes as it pitches the best design proposals on the basis of merit before an expert jury, as opposed to conventional tenders which award contracts on the basis of cheapest price, which seldom results in the best use of public funds in the long-term.

The Kamra is offering its technical assistance in the organisation and management of architectural design competitions as it has done on a number of occasions with various

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public entities in the past. Several other key proposals can also be found in [its detailed public consultation document](#).

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