

## **Kamra tal-Periti Annual General Meeting 2020**

Held online on 10th December 2020

### **Agenda**

Welcome Address

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Reading and Approval of Minutes

President's Report

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Appointment of Auditor for 2020-2021

Presentation and Approval of Motions 2 & 3

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### **Welcome Address**

The meeting commenced at 18:00hrs. Perit Dr Amber Wismayer (AW) welcomed those present and opened the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting. She explained that, given the extraordinary circumstances of the past year, the 2020 AGM will be the first to be held virtually, and read through the Agenda.

### **Motion 1: Participation in AGM**

AW proposed a motion authorising the attendance all warrant holders irrespective of payment of the annual membership fee, and extending voting rights to all warrant holders participating. The motion was seconded by Perit Simone Vella Lenicker (SVL). A vote was taken and the motion was approved with 78% votes in favour, 7% votes against and 15% abstentions. The text of this is available at Annex A.

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes**

AW proposed a motion for the minutes of the KTP AGM 2019 held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019, which had been circulated to members, to be taken as read and approved. The motion was seconded by SVL. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved with 81% votes in favour, no votes against and 19% abstentions.

### **President's Report**

Outgoing President, SVL presented an account of the pertinent matters dealt with by the Council over the last year. The full speech is attached to these minutes as Annex B.

## **Matters Arising**

Following the conclusion of the President's Report, AW opened the floor for discussion, and asked the AGM whether there were any comments on the presentation or any matters arising for discussion.

An open discussion followed in which there were interventions from several members including the following:

Prof Alex Torpiano proposed a vote of thanks to outgoing President, Perit Simone Vella Lenicker, for her work on behalf of the *Kamra* in her role as President. He noted that her presidency was marked by two difficult years. He assured the General Meeting that her commitment was second to none and noted that the *Kamra* is stronger thanks to her work.

Perit David Xuereb stated that he had the opportunity to work with SVL and her team in Council. He has seen the *Kamra* grow tremendously over the past two years and has felt inspired by SVL's work as president over that time.

Perit Anthony Fenech Vella noted that the past years have been extraordinarily difficult and expressed appreciation for the Council's work. He highlighted the need for the Profession to come together.

Perit Joanna Spiteri Staines applauded SVL for her work role as President, particularly for not shying away from accepting responsibility on behalf of the profession, and for her courage, honesty and commitment.

Perit David Pace joined his colleagues in congratulating SVL and the members of the Council on the considerable work that had been done over these past particularly decisive years. He highlighted that the members of the Council are unpaid volunteers doing excellent work, and encouraged periti to support the incoming Council.

## **Presentation and Approval of Delegates' Reports**

AW explained that KTP delegates, representing the *Kamra* in various sectors, have submitted a report outlining their work over the last year. All reports were made available through the KTP website. To date, reports were submitted from delegates on the following committees, boards, councils etc:

- User's Committee (SVL)
- Intelligent Planning Consultation Forum (SVL)
- Climate Action Board (SVL)
- Building Regulations Board (SVL)
- BICC WG on Regeneration of Property (AW)
- ACE (Perit David Felice)
- ECCE (Perit Dr Jeanette Munoz Abela)
- FEANI (Perit Dr Jeanette Munoz Abela)

AW noted that, whereas not all delegates were received to date, more are expected and these will be made available on the KTP website.

## **Presentation and Approval of Audited Accounts**

Perit Andre Pizzuto (AP) presented an overview of the accounts for the last financial year ending 30th September 2020, as certified by the *Kamra*'s auditor, Mr. Silvio Muscat. Mr. Antonio Grech, the *Kamra*'s accountant, participated in the meeting on behalf of the auditor.

AP presented the accounts in detail. He reported a significant drop in income when compared to the previous year. This was largely due from a lack of sponsorship for the Galizia Awards, which were not held, and a drop in membership fees paid to the *Kamra*. This resulted in a substantial net loss.

The accounts were discussed. The comments were mainly related to disappointment around the low payment of membership fees and the action that could be taken to address the matter. AP noted that this situation will eventually shift and that members would be offered additional benefits for their support. He added that the new Periti Act includes provisions for a Certificate to Practice which will be issued annually by the *Kamra* subject to the perit having adequate PI and a minimum number of continuing education credits. The *Kamra* would also issue an official rubber stamp. These would entail an administrative fee.

Once the discussion was concluded, AP proposed a motion, seconded by SVL, to approve the financial statements. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved with 98% votes in favour, no votes against and 2% abstentions.

## **Appointment of Auditor for 2020-2021**

AW proposed a motion, seconded by SVL, to reappoint Mr. Silvio Muscat as Auditor for the *Kamra* for the period 2020-2021. A vote was taken and the motion was approved with 93% votes in favour, no votes against and 7% abstentions.

## **Presentation and Approval of Motions**

Two motions were proposed by members of the Council. The full text of the motions is available at Annex A.

### **- Motion 2: Periti Act**

Motion 2 was presented in reference to the Periti Act, which had had its second reading in Parliament the previous day. AW read out the motion, proposed by herself and seconded by SVL.

SVL explained the motivation behind the motion. While the greater part of the Act is in line with what had been previously discussed with the *Kamra*, there were outstanding points of difference mainly with regards the composition and appointment of members on the Board of Professional Conduct, and the term of liability.

Whereas the Council proposed a composition of a chairperson, who is a retired judge or magistrate, and a pool of 10 periti from which the chair would select 4 depending on the case at hand, all of whom would be appointed by the *Kamra*. The latest draft presented in Parliament proposes the same

composition, however, with all members appointed by the Minister in consultation with the *Kamra*. This motion reaffirms the position of various General Meetings, that the members of the board should be appointed by the *Kamra*.

There are also issues with the Liability Period and retroactive cover. In his presentation to Parliament, the Minister noted the discrepancies which are still to be discussed, and expressed a desire to reach an agreement which is acceptable to the House, the *Kamra* and the Profession.

In the discussion which followed SVL's presentation, Perit William Lewis requested that separate votes are taken on the two points, however, no counter motion was presented. Profs Alex Torpiano noted the importance of this motion and of keeping it as one motion since all points were interrelated.

Following this discussion, a vote was taken on the motion as presented. The motion was approved with 94% votes in favour, 0 votes against and 6% abstentions.

### **- Motion 3: Building Regulations**

Motion 3 relates to the Legal Notice 136 of 2019. AW read out the motion, proposed by herself and seconded by AP.

SVL explained that L.N.136/19 had been the Government's reaction to building collapses. The *Kamra* had held two EGMs in 2019 to establish the principles on how the industry should move forward. The Council presented the direction to Government. In September, the Council received a draft legal notice which aims to establish the roles and responsibilities of the various actors on construction sites. A comprehensive response was submitted to Government. Council is disappointed that Government does not seem to be pushing forward the obligation for licensing, registration and classification of contractors – a basic principle fundamental to the modernisation of the building industry. Additionally, the *Kamra* continues to insist that the role of the STO is unnecessary. This had upset the traditional lines of responsibility as established in the Civil Code and should be reversed. The Government had given the Council a Letter of Commitment which promised to bring into force a number of changes, some of which have begun, for instance, the establishment of the Building and Construction Agency.

In the discussion which ensued, AP added that it was a step in the right direction that the *Kamra* was being consulted on regulations that are being drafted.

Following the discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Launch of Design Competitions**

AP announced the launch of the second series of a Design Competition to be held in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Accommodation as part of the Sustainable Communities Programme. The first edition was a success and the budget for this year has increased. Three NGO projects have been selected: YMCA Sheltered Housing in Valletta; MGRM Shelter for Victims of Discrimination and Dar is-Sebh Refurbishment of Apartment for Victims of Domestic Violence. Detailed information to

be released next Monday followed by an online briefing session (Wednesday) and a site visit (Friday) for those periti interested in participating.

## **Elections**

SVL explained the election context.

Four posts were vacant and four nominations were received, two of which were for members of the outgoing Council whose term had just come to an end. The new nominees, Perit Adrian Mangion and Perit Matias Camilleri De Marco introduced themselves briefly.

Since there were four nominations for four vacant positions, no election was held but a vote was taken to endorse each of the four members in turn. The votes were as follows:

- Perit Jeanette Muñoz Abela (endorsed: 85% of the vote)
- Perit Toni Bezzina (endorsed: 66% of the vote)
- Perit Adrian Mangion (endorsed: 88% of the vote)
- Perit Matias Camilleri De Marco (endorsed 85% of the vote)

There was one nomination for the post of vice-President: Perit Dr Amber Wismayer. A vote was taken and she was endorsed as vice-president (93% of the vote). AW will retain the role of Hon. Secretary for another year to see her term through.

A vote was taken to endorse Vice-President, Perit Andre Pizzuto, as president. He was endorsed as President (100% of the vote).

Perit Vella Lenicker's term as president is now coming to an end and she will remain in the Council as Past President. She congratulated Perit Pizzuto and Perit Dr Wismayer and wished them every success.

## **Address by Incoming President**

Perit Pizzuto addressed the members present. He presented the priorities which would set the agenda for the Council in the coming year.

The full text of the presentation is included in the Annex D.

## **Concluding Remarks**

AW adjourned the KTP 2020 AGM.