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**PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

*Farewell visit of the Apostolic Nuncio to Malta to the Speaker of the House of Representatives*

Apostolic Nuncio to Malta, Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai, paid a farewell courtesy visit on the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Anġlu Farrugia, at the Parliament House.

During the meeting, Speaker Farrugia expressed his sincere appreciation for the Apostolic Nuncio's service to Malta and for his contribution to the strengthening of the long-standing relations between Malta and the Holy See. He commended Archbishop Tai-Fai for his commitment to dialogue and cooperation, as well as for his engagement with the Maltese authorities and society during his tenure.

The Speaker referred to the established Parliamentary Friendship Group between Malta and the Holy See and stressed that it is important that an immediate meeting is held between both sides aimed at enhancing the already cordial relationship that exists between Malta and the Holy See. The Speaker recalled that recently there were three occasions when the PFG had to travel to the Vatican for discussions and meet the Pope. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstance, the visits had to be postponed.

Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai, in turn, thanked the Speaker for the cordial welcome and for the constructive relationship maintained with the House of Representatives. He reflected on his time in Malta with gratitude and conveyed his best wishes to the Maltese Parliament and the people of Malta.

The meeting reaffirmed the mutual respect and close ties between Malta and the Holy See, founded on shared values and a tradition of collaboration.