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The Speaker of the House of Representatives Meets Ambassadors of Guatemala, Lebanon and Vietnam

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Carmelo Abela, held courtesy meetings with three ambassadors who have recently presented their credentials to the President of the Republic of Malta, Myriam Spiteri Debono, at Parliament on Wednesday evening.

The Speaker first met with the Ambassador of Guatemala, His Excellency Santiago Palomo Vila. Discussions focused on bilateral relations between Malta and Guatemala and opportunities to strengthen ties through greater cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the importance of exploring opportunities for cooperation in various sectors. Both sides also acknowledged the potential for closer links between their respective business communities and educational institutions.

The Speaker also stressed the importance of multilateralism, respect for international law, human rights and sustainable development, recognising Guatemala as a constructive partner within the United Nations.

In his second meeting, the Speaker welcomed Lebanon's Ambassador to Malta, Her Excellency Carla Jazzar. Discussions centred on diplomatic relations between the two countries, which date back to 1975, and the need to further strengthen cooperation across various sectors.

The Speaker underlined the importance of ties between the two parliaments and expressed his wish to see greater contact and exchanges between Malta's House of Representatives and the Lebanese Parliament, including through parliamentary committees. It was noted that parliamentary diplomacy could provide an important platform for addressing shared challenges affecting the Mediterranean region, including peace and security, migration, humanitarian assistance and economic resilience.

During the third meeting, the Speaker met with Vietnam's Ambassador, Her Excellency Nguyen Phuong Anh. Discussions focused on the longstanding friendship between the two countries, following the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1974, and opportunities to take bilateral ties to a new level.

The Speaker acknowledged Vietnam's economic development and growing international role, while expressing Malta's interest in further strengthening relations with the country, particularly in trade, maritime services, technology, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and digital innovation.

The importance of maritime cooperation was also highlighted, including through joint training programmes, research and collaboration between maritime institutions in the two countries. Education and cultural exchanges were identified as further areas with the potential to bring the two peoples closer together.

Throughout the three meetings, Speaker Abela reiterated the importance of Malta continuing to strengthen its relations with countries around the world through dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy.