

PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT ADOPTS A HEART SAFE POLICY

Recently the House of Representatives of Malta welcomed a donation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) received from the Malta Heart Foundation, in collaboration with two private companies, Technoline Ltd and Soteria Ltd.

The initiative was spurred by the Hon Albert Fenech MP, Chairman of the Foundation, who in a speech in Parliament last April, emphasised the need of a cardiac resuscitation system at the House of Representatives, an environment that can experience tense moments. He expressed his belief that this donation would serve to set an example and promote awareness of the importance of having such devices in public places.

Members of Parliament and employees working within the Institution were offered a certified training course in basic life support and the use of AED. During the training sessions it was revealed that sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) accounts for more than 63% of all cardiac deaths and that the only effective treatment for SCA is defibrillation. External defibrillation provides a brief effective therapeutic electric shock to the person's heart, in an attempt to restore its normal rhythm.

The training sessions were held in one of the Committee rooms at The Palace, Valletta. At the end of the last session held on Friday, 19th July, the Speaker of the House, Hon. Anglu Farrugia, together with the Hon Carmelo Abela, Government Whip, the Hon. Frederick Azzopardi, Opposition Deputy Whip, and the Hon. Albert Fenech, held a press conference in which he thanked the Malta Heart Foundation, Technoline Ltd and Soteria Ltd for the donation of the AED device and the training course. Also present at the press conference were Mr Nicky Sammut from Technoline Ltd, the company that donated the AED, and Mr Steve Micallef from Soteria Ltd, the company that offered the training course in basic life support and the use of AED.

19.7.13

STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

IL-PARLAMENT JADOTTA *HEART SAFE POLICY*

F'dawn l-aħħar ġimgħat il-Parlament Malti rċieva mingħand il-Malta Heart Foundation donazzjoni ta' apparat imsejjaħ *Automated External Defibrillator (AED)*. Dan sar b'kollaborazzjoni ma' żewġ kumpaniji privati, Technoline Ltd li tat l-apparat, u Soteria Ltd.

Din l-inizjattiva ittiegħdet mill-Onor. Albert Fenech f'diskors li kien għamel fil-Parlament f'April li għadda, fejn emfasizza l-ħtieġa ta' apparat għar-risuxxittazzjoni tal-qalb f'din l-istituzzjoni li minn żmien għal żmien tista' tesperjenza mumententi ta' tensjoni. Huwa kien esprima t-tama li din id-donazzjoni sservi ta' eżempju u u tqajjem kuxjenza dwar l-importanza ta' apparat bħal dan f'postijiet pubbliċi fejn jingabru ħafna nies.

Il-Membri Parlamentari kif ukoll l-istaff tal-Parlament ġew offruti kors ta' taħriġ fl-ewwel għajna u l-użu tal-AED. Matul is-sessjonijiet ta' taħriġ ġie żvelat li aktar minn 63% tal-imwiet konnessi mal-qalb huma kkaġunati minn *sudden cardiac arrest (SCA)* u li l-uniku trattament effettiv għal dan huwa permezz tad-*defibrillator*. Dan it-trattament jipprovdi xokk elettriku terapewtiku lill-qalb bit-tama din terġa' tibda taħdem b'mod normali.

Is-sessjonijiet ta' taħriġ saru f'waħda mill-kmamar tal-Kumitati, il-Palazz, il-Belt Valletta, bl-aħħar sessjoni tkun il-Ġimgħa, 19 ta' Lulju. F'konferenza stampa li ta fl-aħħar tal-laqgħa, l-*Speaker* tal-Kamra, l-Onor. Anġlu Farrugia, flimkien mal-*Whip* tal-Gvern, l-Onor. Carmelo Abela, id-*Deputy Whip* tal-Oppożizzjoni, l-Onor. Frederick Azzopardi, u l-Onor. Albert Fenech, irringrazzja lill-Malta Heart Foundation, kif ukoll lil Technoline Ltd u Soteria Ltd għall-ġest sabiħ li għamli meta taw lill-Parlament l-apparat tal-AED u t-taħriġ fl-użu tiegħu. Preżenti għall-konferenza stampa kien hemm is-Sur Nicky Sammut minn Technoline Ltd, u s-Sur Steve Micallef minn Soteria Ltd.

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