



AWARDS AND APPRECIATIONS

1.0 THE AWARDS

- 1.1 The awards may be granted to individuals, particular groups in the community, or associations for distinguished service to the country, the locality of Mellieħa, in different walks of life in line with Article 16 of the Local Government Act (Cap. 363) and the criteria listed below. The awards shall be on two levels, namely:
 - “*Ġieħ il-Mellieħa*”; and
 - “*Rikonoxximent il-Mellieħa*”.
- 1.2 The highest award is “*Ġieħ il-Mellieħa*”.
- 1.3 The awards shall be announced on *Jum il-Kunsill tal-Mellieħa* (Mellieħa Local Council Day).
- 1.4 The awards shall be granted by the Mellieħa Local Council, hereinafter called the “Council”, upon a recommendation by the Advisory Board, hereinafter referred to as “The Board”. The Board shall be presided by an independent Chairman, and assisted by the Mayor and a Councillor from the minority political group, and two members from the general public, one of them being female, together with the Council Executive Secretary, who shall have the function to record the minutes of the meetings.
- 1.5 The Board shall peruse and evaluate all the eligible nominations and within ten days from the closing date shall forward its recommendations to the Council.
- 1.6 In addition to the consideration of the Board’s recommendations, the Council may add to them other nominations from the List of Eligible Persons, and decide for which award a person, or organization, qualifies.
- 1.7 Nominations shall be evaluated by the Council during an *ad hoc* sitting.
- 1.8 The award decision shall be taken following a Council resolution, unanimously approved by the members in attendance.
- 1.9 An award may not be granted if the level of merit is considered as insufficient.

2.0 NOMINATIONS

- 2.1 Nominations shall be submitted on the prescribed forms available from the Council's office, or online.
- 2.2 Nominations can be submitted by individuals, associations, or other entities.
- 2.3 The Mayor, Councillors and Council employees may not in any way be involved in the nomination process.
- 2.4 Nominations shall be signed by a proponent, a seconder and not less than ten **other signatories whose name appears on the latest issue of the Mellieħa Local Council Electoral Register.**
- 2.5 Board may call upon the proponent to give further explanation concerning any nomination submitted.
- 2.6 Concurrent nominations for the two awards, pertaining to the same person or entity, by the same proponent, seconder and signatories, shall be rejected.
- 2.7 Nominations shall be submitted in the case of associations, or group of individuals, if their contribution was of a collective nature.
- 2.8 Nominations of persons, groups of individuals, and associations from outside the locality, shall also be considered, provided that their work is somewhat connected with the locality, as defined in the Local Government Act (Cap. 363).
- 2.9 Nominations that are not entertained in their first year, shall remain valid for the following five years and become ineligible thereafter. Upon the lapse of said term, nominations must be resubmitted through the prescribed form.

3 ELEGIBILITY

- 3.1 Only those persons, group of persons, or other entities that have distinguished themselves with excellence through: culture, philanthropy, sports, humanitarian initiatives, academic achievements, politics, the environment, or in other fields, for the benefit of the locality of Mellieħa and/or the country, are considered as eligible for the awards.
- 3.2 An ex-Mayor who has served at least one term shall automatically qualify for "Ġieñ il-Mellieħa", even if still serving as a Councillor.
- 3.3 Serving Members of Parliament cannot be nominated, unless having served as Mayors, or Councillors immediately prior their election as MP's.
- 3.4 The eligibility of a former Mayor who has been removed, by a vote of no confidence, or has resigned for some reason or another, must be discussed on its merits by the Board.

- 3.5 Councillors who have served for one term, who have not be subsequently elected, shall be eligible for “Rikonoxximent il-Mellieħa”, however, one who served for two terms shall be eligible for “Ġieħ il-Mellieħa”.
- 3.6 The eligibility of ex-Councillors who for some reason or other have not served their full term, shall be discussed and decided upon by the Council.
- 3.7 “Ġieħ il-Mellieħa” shall only be awarded once.
- 3.8 A nomination awarded “Rikonoxximent il-Mellieħa” shall remain eligible for “Ġieħ il-Mellieħa” in the next five years, in line with Article 2.9 of these criteria.
- 3.9 “Ġieħ il-Mellieħa” may only be awarded to one nominee, while “Rikonoxximent il-Mellieħa” may not be awarded to more than three nominees, in one edition.
- 3.10 An award may be withdrawn in the event of a person being convicted of a serious criminal offence, or in the opinion of the Board and/or the Council is of an unfit character.

4. Appreciation

- 4.1. Without the need for a nomination, the Council may express official Appreciation to persons, associations, and groups of individuals whose work has served as a role model to society, and/or have performed their ordinary duties honestly and efficiently in an altruistic manner in its simplicity, and/or helped others deal with difficulties in life.
- 4.2. Persons, group of persons, or entities nominated for an award shall not be eligible for an expression of Appreciation.
- 4.3. Only one Appreciation per edition may be expressed.

5. The Insignia and Medal

- 5.1. The “Ġieħ il-Mellieħa” insignia shall be made of solid gold that includes the Council coat-of-arms, together with the words “Ġieħ il-Mellieħa” engraved underneath.
- 5.2. The “Rikonoxximent il-Mellieħa” medal shall be gold plated that includes the Council coat-of-arms, together with the words “B’Rikonoxximent” underneath.
- 5.3. A diploma bearing the official seal of the Council with an explaining of the award significance shall be presented together with the insignia, or medal.
- 5.4. A medal shall be presented in the case of “Rikonoxximent il-Mellieħa” and a gold insignia in the case of “Ġieħ il-Mellieħa”. If these are awarded to an association, religious community, or other entities, who are not part of a

constituted body, a medal or insignia will be awarded as the case may be. A commemorative plaque will be presented in case of "Appreciation".

5.0 ARCHIVE

- 5.1 An official register shall be kept by the Council to recall the merits upon which, the award had be granted.

6.0. GUESTS OF HONOUR

- 6.1 Individuals, groups of persons, and associations that have been honoured over the years shall be considered as guests of honour in official Council events