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**Commonwealth Secretary's Message for the RLSS Malta Presentation Evening  
to be held at St Patrick's School, Sliema on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009.**

I am delighted to have the opportunity to congratulate all those receiving awards from RLSS Malta at this Presentation Evening in Sliema. The Royal Life Saving Society has had connections with Malta stretching back well over 50 years and I, as the new Commonwealth Secretary, am delighted in my first year in the role, to see so many people both in Malta, and across the Commonwealth receiving Society awards. I would also thank all those responsible for training the award recipients.

The global fight against drowning is a significant one. Advocates suggest that over 1 million people drown each year with near on  $\frac{3}{4}$  of these being children aged 0 – 19 years. It is through organisations such as the Royal Life Saving Society that we can help to reduce this global burden.

The Royal Life Saving Society trains well over two and a half million people worldwide each year in lifesaving, lifeguard and resuscitation skills and those receiving their well earned awards this evening are part of that total. It is through to dedication and commitment of lifesavers such as yourselves that we can make a difference.

I wish you all a very successful evening and hope that those receiving awards this evening will be motivated to continue to use their skills to train and support others in lifesaving and drowning prevention.

Yours in Lifesaving

*Francene Leaversuch*

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Commonwealth Secretary