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NONE 

STQARRIJA MILL-UFFIČĊJU TAL-ISPEAKER

Diskors mill-Ispeaker Anġlu Farrugia fl-okkażjoni tas-Sette Giugno 2022

Għada s-7 ta' Ġunju – minbarra li Malta tfakkar l-irvellijiet li seħhew fis-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 ftit 'il bogħod minn fejn ninsabu llum – ser inkunu qegħdin nagħlqu xahar mill-bidu tal-14-il Legiżlatura, allura xahar minn meta l-Parlament reġa' beda xogħlu wara l-elezzjoni ġenerali tas-26 ta' Marzu 2022. Ta' min jinnota li b'79 Membru, dan huwa bla dubju l-akbar Parlament fil-mitt sena storja tiegħu, anniversarju li proprju ċelebrajna s-sena li għaddiet. Minn dawn id-79 Membru, 34 minnhom – kważi nofshom – huma Membri ġodda, filwaqt li 22 huma nisa. Dawn iż-żewġ aspetti jawguraw tajjeb sabiex tassew ikollna demokrazija parlamentari li tkun dejjem relevanti għaž-żminijiet tal-lum u tassew rappreżentattiva tas-soċjetà tagħna.

Dan nara li għandu wkoll rabta mal-avvenimenti tas-Sette Giugno tal-1919 li qegħdin infakkru llum.

Bħalma nafu s-Sette Giugno huwa simbolu ta' perjodu fl-istorja ta' pajjiżna kkaratterizzat minn protesti kbar fil-Belt minhabba problemi ekonomiċi li kien jinsab fihom il-pajjiż, ewlenin fosthom il-prezzijiet għoljin tal-ħobż, bil-konsegwenza li ħafna Maltin kienu qed ibatu l-ġuħ. Din is-sitwazzjoni rriżultat f'taqlib politiku kbir. Hawn ta' min jgħid illi l-Kostituzzjoni ta' dak iż-żmien ftit li xejn kienet tagħti saħħa lill-Maltin sabiex jipparteċipaw fit-tmexxija ta' pajjiżhom. Dan l-isfond ta' nuqqas ta' awtorità politika li tista' tmexxi fl-aħjar interess tal-pajjiż, wassal biex tliet familji – ċjoè Cassar Torregiani, Francia u Farrugia – li kienu l-importaturi ewlenin tal-qamħ f'pajjiżna, spiċċaw fil-mira tal-poplu Malti li fis-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 tela' l-Belt biex jipprotesta.

Kaġun ta' dik il-protesta, f'dik il-ġurnata u l-għada, spiċċaw tilfu ħajjithom erba' persuni – li huma mfakkra fuq dan il-monument li ninsabu quddiemu – Manwel Attard, Karmnu Abela, Ġużè Bajada u Wenzu Dyer. Dan wara li l-64 suldat Inġliż li kienu qegħdin hemm biex iferrxu lin-nies waqt protesta mill-Maltin, fetħu n-nar u użaw il-forza fuq il-folla.

Minn diversi dokumenti ta' dak il-perjodu johroġ li fil-protesti ta' Ġunju 1919, minbarra dawn l-erba' rġiel, kien kien hemm sa erba' persuni oħra li nqatlu jew ġew feruti gravi b'riżultat tat-tiri li ġew sparati jew inkella b'daqquq tal-bajunetta. Vittma minnhom, pereżempju, kien missier li mar biex jara fejn hu ibnu, imma peress li rreżista l-arrest, spiċċa ġie maqtul b'daqqa ta' bajunetta. Mhux inqas minn 19-il persuna oħra sofrew ġrieħi, saħansitra żaġġuġħ ta' 15-il sena. Dan kollu jixhed kemm il-Maltin ma kellhom ebda awtorità fejn tidhol iż-żamma tal-ordni f'pajjiżhom.

Xi jfisser dan kollu? Il-Maltin riedu jimxu 'l quddiem. Il-Maltin riedu jaraw li jkollhom ħajja aħjar. Riedu li jkollhom awtorità fuq it-tmexxija ta' ħwejjigħom. Irridu niftakru li f'dak iż-żmien il-Kostituzzjoni ma kienet tagħti l-ebda jedd lill-Maltin fit-tmexxija tal-pajjiż, lanqas f'dawk il-materji lokali li kienu jaffettwawhom b'mod



dirett. Kif nafu, dan seħħ sentejn wara, fl-1921 bl-ghoti tal-Kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner, magħrufa wkoll bħala l-Kostituzzjoni tas-self-government. Minkejja dan il-pass 'il quddiem, ta' min jinnota li d-dritt tal-vot biex wieħed jeleġġi r-rappreżentanti tiegħu kien limitat biss għal dawk iċ-ċittadini maskili li kellhom il-proprietà. L-ebda mara, anke jekk sid ta' proprjetà permezz ta' wirt, pereżempju, ma kellha dritt għall-vot. Kellhom jgħaddu kważi 30 sena oħra, biex fl-1947 daħal id-dritt tal-vot għall-mara.

Kif inhu xieraq, ta' kull sena nfakkru dak li ġara fis-Sette Giugno imma naħseb li illum, meta għandna Parlament b'rappreżentanti aktar friski, li magħhom qegħdin iġibu firxa usa' ta' esperjenzi, u li żgur kollha jaspiraw lejn futur aħjar għal pajjiżna, għandna nieqfu u nirriflettu dwar kif kull wieħed u waħda minna jista' jikkontribwixxi għall-mixja demokratika ta' pajjiżna. L-avvanzi li għamel il-poplu Malti fis-Sette Giugno tal-1919 kienu strumentali biex tibda l-mixja 'l quddiem, anke jekk b'passi żgħar, lejn il-kisba tal-ewwel Kostituzzjoni li tat il-jedd lil missirijietna li jmexxu l-materji interni tal-pajjiż. L-istess nistgħu ngħidu li ġara fix-xhur li għaddew, fejn bil-qbil taż-żewġ partiti ewlenin fl-interess tad-demokrazija parlamentari rappreżentattiva ta' pajjiżna, tressqu u għaddew numru ta' emendi għall-Kostituzzjoni u għal-liġi elettorali biex tiżdied ir-rappreżentanza femminili fil-Parlament. Grazzi għal dan il-mekkaniżmu, li thaddem għall-ewwel darba fl-elezzjoni tas-26 ta' Marzu ta' din is-sena, il-Parlament Malti, wara tant snin, għandu rappreżentanza iktar denja ta' din il-parti sostanzjali tal-popolazzjoni permezz ta' 22 deputati nisa. Għall-ewwel darba fl-istorja tiegħu l-Parlament għandu rappreżentanza femminili ta' 28%, li għalkemm għadha 'l bogħod ferm mill-mira ta' 40%, tista' żgur titqies bħala pass fid-direzzjoni t-tajba.

Kif jgħallmuna l-ġrajjet tas-Sette Giugno u dawk li seħhew warajhom, il-kisbiet il-kbar spiss ikunu jafu l-bidu tagħhom f'passi żgħar. Dawn il-ġrajjet huma wkoll xhieda tal-fatt li kull żvilupp politiku ta' ċertu importanza qatt mhu faċli u li biex wieħed jimplimenta tali żvilupp irid jibqa' dejjem iħares 'il quddiem. Għalhekk issa huwa importanti li l-partecipazzjoni u l-kontribut tan-nisa fil-Parlament jinħassu u jagħmlu differenza, inkluż fis-16-il Kumitat parlamentari u fid-diversi organizzazzjonijiet interparlamentari li l-Parlament Malti jipparteċipa fihom. Dan tal-aħhar huwa importanti anke minħabba l-fatt li ċerti organizzazzjonijiet internazzjonali jissanzjonaw lil dawk id-delegazzjonijiet parlamentari nazzjonali li ma jkollhomx rappreżentanza xierqa tas-sess femminili bit-tnaqqis tan-numru tal-voti li tali delegazzjoni kieku kienet tkun intitolata għalihom. Din hija sanzjoni li l-Parlament Malti diġà esperjenzaha.

Proprju ftit tal-ġimġhat ilu pereżempju, f'laqgħa tal-Unjoni Interparlamentari, organizzazzjoni importanti li fiha jipparteċipaw il-parlamenti nazzjonali tal-istati membri kollha tan-Nazzjonijiet Magħquda, kien hemm diskussjoni dwar il-gwerra bejn l-Ukrajna u r-Russja li fiha Malta pparteċipat b'mod sħiħ u attiv. Dakinhar, kieku d-diskussjoni waslet għal vot, Malta kien ikollha żewġ voti inqas minħabba li fil-kompożizzjoni tad-delegazzjoni ta' pajjiżna b'mod konsistenti ma kienx hemm partecipazzjoni ta' membru parlamentari femminili.



Nemmen li bhala pajjiż indipendenti, sovran u newtrali kif *entrenched* fil-Kostituzzjoni Maltija, ninsabu fl-aħjar pożizzjoni sabiex nargumentaw b'konvinzjoni fuq l-importanza tad-diplomazija, inkluż dik parlamentari, kull fejn ikun hemm kunflitt, gwerra jew nuqqas ta' qbil bejn pajjiż u ieħor. Huwa essenzjali li l-parlamenti – li huma r-rappreżentanti ewlenin tal-popli – jiddjalogaw bejniethom, kemm fuq livell bilaterali kif ukoll fuq livell multilaterali. Bhala Parlament aħna dejjem ninsabu lesti li niddjalogaw ma' parlamenti nazzjonali ta' naħa u ta' naħa oħra mingħajr ebda kondizzjoni. Għalhekk il-partecipazzjoni parlamentari sħiħa u attiva f'dawn l-organizzazzjonijiet internazzjonali bħall-Unjoni Interparlamentari, l-Assoċjazzjoni Parlamentari tal-Commonwealth, l-Assemblea Parlamentari tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa, u oħrajn, hija importanti.

Dan iwassalni għal riflessjoni oħra li nemmen li għandna nagħmlu illum, dik dwar kif inkunu aktar effiċjenti fil-ħin li aħna nallokaw għad-dibattitu fil-Parlament. Perezempju, meta wiehed iqis in-numru akbar ta' membri parlamentari li għandhom id-dritt jtkellmu fuq kull mozzjoni, abbozz ta' ligi jew materja oħra, nemmen li għandna mill-aktar fis naraw li jsir it-tibdil meħtieġ fl-Ordinijiet Permanenti tal-Kamra tad-Deputati sabiex jonqos il-ħin massimu allokati għall-interventi fil-Kamra. M'għandix dubju li kwalunkwe intervent jista' jsir f'20 minuta jew inqas. Jekk forsi hemm bżonn aktar ħin sabiex jintlaħaq qbil dwar l-emendi necessarji għall-Ordinijiet Permanenti, anke kif gara f'leġislaturi preċedenti, il-Kamra għandha taqbel dwar mozzjoni ta' proċedura li tistipula li l-ħin massimu ta' intervent fil-Parlament ikun ta' 20 minuta. B'dan il-mod nemmen li l-ħin tal-Kamra jista' jsarraf f'aktar xogħol fl-interess tal-gid komuni, kif wara kolloxx huwa mistenni mir-rappreżentanti tal-poplu Malti.

Materja oħra li nemmen wasal iż-żmien li nerggħu niddiskutu hija l-dik tal-ħin li fih jiltaqa' l-Parlament, fejn dan ikun jakkomoda aħjar l-eżiġenzi professjonali, familjari, personali u anke akkademiċi tan-numru akbar u firxa aktar wiesgħa ta' Membri Parlamentari. Hemm ukoll il-kwestjoni tal-introduzzjoni tal-Membri Parlamentari full time u tal-għajnuna li l-gruppi parlamentari għandhom jingħataw. Dan kollu għandu jiffirma parti mid-diskussjonijiet li nara li għandhom jingħataw spinta biex il-Parlamentari jkun jistgħu jaqdu dejjem aħjar il-mandat tagħhom, anke, jekk hemm bżonn, permezz ta' riallokazzjoni tar-riżorsi li digà qed jingħataw.

Punt ieħor li aċċennajt għalih f'diversi okkażjonijiet oħra u li naħseb li wasal iż-żmien li naraw li jitwettaq huwa dak tas-citizen's right of reply, ċjoè mekkaniżmu fejn ċittadin ikollu d-dritt li jirrispondi għal dak li jkun intqal dwaru fil-Parlament. Insostni li filwaqt li huwa essenzjali li l-privileġġ parlamentari jinżamm biex ebda deputat ma jibza' jgħid il-verità, daqstant ieħor huwa importanti li hadd ma juza l-privileġġ parlamentari b'mod abbużiv u li jagħmel ħsara lil persuni fiżiċi jew ġuridiċi li ma jistgħux jirrispondu u jiddefendu lilhom infushom fil-Parlament. Sal-lum persuni li jhossu li fil-konfront tagħhom saru dikjarazzjonijiet skorretti minn xi Membru Parlamentari waqt li jkun qed jindirizza lill-Kamra jew lil xi kumitat, m'għandhom l-ebda rimedju, anke jekk forsi dawk il-persuni jkunu qed ibatu l-konsegwenzi ta' dak li ntqal fuqhom fil-Parlament jew ikunu għaddejja minn proċeduri fil-qrati.



Hemm diversi mudelli, b' mod partikolari fil-Commonwealth, li wiehed jista' jikkonsidra li jadotta meta jigi biex jintroduci din il-procedura parlamentari. Mudell interessanti huwa dak li jintuza fil-Parlament ta' New Zealand, fejn huwa l-Ispeaker li jara u jiddeciedi jekk dak li jkun intqal fil-Parlament minn xi Membru taht il-privilegg parlamentari, setax kellu impatt negattiv fuq cittadin, f'liema kaz, minghajr ma jidhol fil-mertu tal-kumment li jkun ta lok ghall-ilment, jippermetti li fir-rekords tal-Kamra tidhol ukoll il-kjarifika li jkun ghamel tali cittadin. F' mudelli oħrajn fil-Commonwealth l-Ispeaker jirreferi l-ilmenti li huwa jircievi ghall-konsiderazzjoni u d-decizjoni ta' kumitat parlamentari.

Minkejja li dan il-kuncett ma hux daqstant komuni barra l-Commonwealth, dan m'ghandux izommna lura milli ndahhlu din il-procedura parlamentari li ttiprovdi rimedju lil dawk ic-cittadini li jhossu b' mod gusifikat li l-privilegg parlamentari kien abbuat fil-konfront tagħhom. Dan kif ghamilna ffit tas-snin ilu bil-qbil taz-zewg nahat tal-Kamra meta introducejna mizuri biex cittadini ma jkollhomx ghalfajn javvicinaw Membru Parlamentari biex jipprezentaw petizzjoni lill-Parlament. Illum cittadin jaf li jekk il-petizzjoni tieghu tkun tissodisfa l-kriterji stabbiliti, din se tersaq quddiem il-Kumitat Permanenti dwar il-Petizzjonijiet. Ghalhekk, bhalma l-Parlament ghamel passi 'l quddiem f' dan ir-rigward, hekk ukoll nemmen li hu opportun li nibdew naraw kif nindirizzaw din il-kwestjoni delikata izda importanti tas-citizen's right of reply.

Meta nharsu lura lejn l-izvilupp tal-Parlament tagħna tul il-ffit izjed minn mitt sena mill-grajjiet li qeghdin infakkru illum napprezzaw ahjar kif demokrazija parlamentari hajja titlob li nibqghu dejjem naraw x' jista' jsir biex inkomplu nsahhu din l-istituzzjoni u dan sabiex nilhqu l-aspettativi dejjem jinbidlu tal-poplu Malti. M'ghandix dubju li din l-14-il Legizlatura ser issarraf f' hames snin ta' esperjenza interessanti li matulhom kollha kemm ahna nimpjenjaw ruhna sabiex ikollna Parlament li mhux biss jiffunzjona b' mod mill-aktar efficjenti, imma li jkun dejjem aktar relevanti u ta' eżempju fit-thaddim tad-demokrazija parlamentari.

Filwaqt li permezz ta' din il-kommemorazzjoni ta' kull sena tas-Sette Giugno nibqghu nfakkru u napprezzaw dak li ghaddew minnu missirijietna, nawgura li permezz ta' din l-istess tifikira nitheggu bl-energija halli nkomplu nsahhu l-istituzzjoni parlamentari ghall-gid tagħna u ta' dawk li gejjin warajna.



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PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Speech by Speaker Anġlu Farrugia on the occasion of Sette Giugno 2022

Tomorrow, June 7, apart from commemorating the riots that took place on June 1919 a few metres away from where we sit today, we shall also be marking the first month of Parliament's 14th Legislature after its summoning following the general election of 26 March 2022. It is worth noting that with 79 members, this Parliament is, without a doubt, the biggest-ever Malta has had in its 100-year history, an anniversary which we celebrated last year. Of these 79 members, 34 – practically half – are newly elected Members, whilst 22 are female. These two aspects bode well towards achieving a parliamentary democracy which remains truly relevant and representative of our society.

I see this as also being linked to the 1919 Sette Giugno events we are commemorating today.

As we all know, the Sette Giugno events are symbolic of that time in Malta's history characterised by massive protests in Valletta due to the prevailing economic problems burdening the country, primarily the high cost of bread which resulted in severe hunger for the man in the street. This situation led to significant political turmoil. There are those who opine that the Constitution in force at the time gave the Maltese very limited authority over the running of their country's affairs. This scenario of a lack of political authority to govern in the best interest of one's own country led to three families – Cassar Torregiani, Francia and Farrugia, who at the time were the main importers of wheat – ending up as the target of the Maltese people who, on 7 June 1919, went to Valletta to protest.

As a direct consequence of this uprising, on that same day and the day after, four Maltese citizens lost their lives. Manwel Attard, Karmnu Abela, Ġużè Bajada and Wenzu Dyer – as they are remembered on this monument – succumbed to wounds inflicted by 64 British soldiers, who were sent to disperse a protest by Maltese citizens, and in doing so resorted to the use of force including the firing of shots on the crowd.

Several documents from that period show that in the protests of June 1919, in addition to these four men, up to four other persons were killed or seriously injured as a result of the use of firearms or bayonet charges. One of the victims, for example, was a father who came to Valletta to look for his son, but as he resisted arrest, was killed as a result of bayonet wounds. No less than 19 persons were also injured, including a 15-year-old boy. All this shows clearly what little, if any, authority the Maltese had when it came to maintaining order in their own country.

What does this all mean? The Maltese wanted to make progress. The Maltese wanted a better life. They wanted to acquire authority over the running of their own affairs. We must remember that at that time, the Constitution did not give any right to the Maltese in the running of the country, not even in local matters which affected them directly. As we know, this materialised two years later in 1921, with the granting of the Amery-Milner Constitution, also known as the Self-Government Constitution. Notwithstanding this step forward, it is worth noting that the right to elect one's own representatives was limited to male property owners. No woman, even if a property owner through inheritance for example, had the right to vote. Almost another 30 years had to pass before women were given the right to vote, when in 1947 universal suffrage was established in Malta.



Whereas it is fitting that every year we recall the Sette Giugno events, I think that today, with a Parliament made up so many new representatives, who bring along such a wide range of experiences, and who undoubtedly all aspire to a better future for our country, we must stop and reflect on how each and every one of us can contribute towards the democratic development of our country. The advances made by the Maltese people following the Sette Giugno events of 1919 were instrumental in registering progress, albeit in small steps, towards the attainment of the first Constitution which gave the right to our forefathers over the running of the country's internal affairs. The same can be said with regard to political developments which took place in the past months, where, with the agreement of the two main parties in the interest of representative parliamentary democracy, a number of amendments to the Constitution and to the electoral law were moved and adopted with the objective of enhancing female representation in Parliament. Thanks to this mechanism, which was applied for the first time during this year's March 26 general election, the Maltese Parliament, after so many years, now has a worthier representation of a substantial part of our population through 22 female Members of Parliament. For the first time in its history, Parliament now has a 28% female representation, which although is still a long way from the goal of 40% representation, may certainly be considered a step in the right direction.

As the Sette Giugno events and others which followed have taught us, great achievements often find their beginnings in small steps. They are also testament to the fact that in every landmark political development, the way forward is never easy and when one embarks on the attainment of said developments, one should always keep forging ahead. Therefore it is now important that women's participation and contribution in Parliament is felt and makes a difference, including in the 16 parliamentary committees and in the various inter-parliamentary organisations where the Maltese Parliament is represented. The latter is important also due to the fact that certain international organisations sanction those national parliamentary delegations which do not have adequate female representation by reducing the number of votes to which such a delegation would have been entitled to. This is a sanction that the Maltese Parliament has already experienced.

Just a few weeks ago, for example, at a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an important organisation in which the national parliaments of all UN member states participate, there was a discussion about the war between Ukraine and Russia in which Malta participated fully and actively. Had the discussion led to a vote, Malta would have been entitled to two less votes because our delegation consistently did not include female members of parliament.

I believe that as an independent, sovereign and neutral country as entrenched in the Maltese Constitution, we are in the best position to argue with conviction on the importance of diplomacy, including parliamentary diplomacy, wherever there is conflict, war or disagreement between countries. It is essential that parliaments – which are the main representatives of the people – engage in dialogue, both at bilateral and multilateral levels. We are always ready to engage in unconditional dialogue with all national parliaments. This is why full and active parliamentary participation in such international organisations, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and others, is important.

This leads me to another issue that I believe we should reflect upon today, that of how to allocate debating time in Parliament more efficiently. For example, given the increase in number of Members of Parliament who have the right to speak on any motion, bill or other matters, I believe that we should amend the relative Standing Orders of the House of Representatives as soon as possible, so as to reduce the maximum time allotted for interventions. I have no doubt that Members can make



their argument in 20 minutes or less. If perhaps more time is needed to reach an agreement on the necessary amendments to the Standing Orders, as has happened in previous legislatures, the House should agree on a procedure motion setting out the maximum speaking time in Parliament to 20 minutes. In this way I believe that the debating time of the House can be used more productively in the interest of the common good, as after all is expected of the representatives of the Maltese people.

Another matter that I believe needs revisiting is that of the time at which Parliament meets, where this would better accommodate the professional, family, personal and even academic exigencies of the larger number of Members of Parliament. There is also the issue of the introduction of full-time Members of Parliament and the assistance that should be given to parliamentary groups. All of this should form part of the discussions that need to be given priority so that Members of Parliament will be better equipped to fulfill their mandate, even, if need be, by reallocating Parliament's present resources.

I now wish to refer to an issue raised on several other occasions. I am referring to the citizen's right of reply, a mechanism whereby citizens would have a right to reply to what has been stated in Parliament in their regard. I believe that the time has come to implement this parliamentary procedure. I reiterate that while it is essential that parliamentary privilege be maintained so that no Member is afraid of speaking the truth, it is equally important that no Member abuses such privilege and ends up harming persons, be they physical or juridical, who cannot reply and defend themselves in Parliament. To date, persons who feel that statements made in their regard by Members of Parliament while addressing the House or a Committee cannot take any remedial action, even if such statements cause suffering to these persons who could also be subject to proceedings in the courts.

There are several models, particularly in the Commonwealth, that one might consider when adopting such a parliamentary procedure. An interesting example is the one adopted by the New Zealand Parliament, where it is the Speaker who considers and decides whether what has been said in Parliament by a Member under parliamentary privilege, is sufficiently serious to be capable of adversely affecting a citizen, in which case, without going into the merit of the remarks that gave rise to the complaint, allows for the clarification made by such a citizen to be included in the records of the House. In other Commonwealth models, the Speaker refers the complaints he receives to a parliamentary committee for its consideration and decision.

The fact that this concept is not so common outside the Commonwealth should not deter us from introducing this parliamentary procedure which would provide a remedy to those citizens who may justifiably feel that the parliamentary privilege has been abused in their regard. This initiative would be similar to the one implemented a few years ago with the agreement of both sides of the House, when we introduced measures whereby citizens could petition Parliament directly without having to approach a Member of Parliament. Today, citizens know that that if their petition meets the established criteria, it will be considered by the Standing Committee on Petitions. Therefore, just as Parliament has taken steps forward in this regard, I believe that it is time to start looking at how to address this delicate but important issue of the citizen's right of reply.



PRESS RELEASE

Looking back at the development of our Parliament over the past hundred years from the events we are commemorating today, we come to appreciate how a thriving parliamentary democracy requires that we keep on striving to find ways how to further strengthen this Institution to address the ever-changing expectations of the Maltese people. I have no doubt that this 14th Legislature will translate into an interesting five-year experience during which we all commit ourselves to having a Parliament that not only functions efficiently, but that will become increasingly relevant and an example of a functioning parliamentary democracy.

Whilst noting that the Sette Giugno events we are commemorating today provide us with the opportunity to recall and appreciate what our forefathers went through, I trust that this commemoration will strengthen our resolve to further strengthen our parliamentary institution for the good of both our people and those who will succeed us.