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Qoxra:

Il-Membri Parlamentari tat-Tnax-il
Legiżlatura

Cover:

Members of Parliament of the Twelfth
Legislature

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Fid-diskors tiegħi wara li ħadt il-ġurament ta' Speaker tal-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-6 ta' April li għadda, jien għidt li nixtieq nara l-Parlament Malti jersaq aktar lejn in-nies.

Jiena nemmen li huwa essenzjali li kull wieħed u waħda minna jhossu jagħmel parti minn din l-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż. Biex jintlaħaq dan il-għan, jinħtieġ li x-xogħol siewi li jitwettaq mill-Membri tal-Kamra, kemm f'Malta kif ukoll f'istituzzjonijiet internazzjonali, jiġi mgħarraf liċ-ċittadin. Għalhekk hassejt il-bżonn li din il-ħidma tiġi riflessa f'pubblikazzjoni.

Illum għandi l-unur ngħid li din l-idea qiegħda timmaterjalizza b'din l-ewwel ħarġa ta' *mill-Parlament*. Il-pjan huwa li din il-pubblikazzjoni tibqa' toħroġ b'mod regolari. Twaqqaf ukoll bord editorjali biex il-kontenut jitwassal bl-aħjar mod possibbli fil-limitazzjonijiet eżistenti tal-Uffiċċju tiegħi.

Se nkun qiegħed nara li din il-pubblikazzjoni tkun ċirkolata anke fil-kunsilli lokali li huma parteċipi wkoll fit-tħaddim tad-demokrazija ta' pajjiżna. Hsibna wkoll li nagħmluha aċċessibbli on-line fuq is-sit tal-Parlament Malti fiż-żewġ lingwi uffiċjali sabiex ikompli jiżdied l-għarfien tal-ħidma parlamentari kemm fuq bażi nazzjonali kif ukoll internazzjonali.

Nittama li din l-inizjattiva, flimkien ma' oħrajn li ħadt s'issa, isservi biex il-Parlament ta' Malta jiġi popolarizzat dejjem aktar fis-soċjetà Maltija.

Anġlu Farrugia
Speaker

In my speech after taking the oath as Speaker of the House of Representatives on the 6th April of this year, I expressed the wish to see the Maltese Parliament move closer to the people.

I believe it to be essential that each and every one of us feels part of the highest institution in the country. To achieve this goal, citizens need to be made aware of the useful work carried out by our members of Parliament, both locally as well as in international institutions. Thus, I felt that this work should be reflected in a publication.

*Today I have the honour to say that this idea is materialising through this first issue of *mill-Parlament* (from Parliament). It is planned that this publication continues to be published on a regular basis. An editorial board has also been set up so that the content of this publication is delivered in the best possible way within the existing limitations of the resources of my Office.*

I will ensure that this publication is made available even to the local councils which also have a role to play in the functioning of democracy in our country. We also thought of making it accessible on-line on the website of the Maltese Parliament in the two official languages to further increase awareness of the work carried out by parliamentarians both locally and abroad.

I hope that this initiative, together with others that I have taken so far, raise public awareness of the work of this institution.

Anġlu Farrugia
Speaker

FTUĦ TAT-TNAX-IL PARLAMENT

OPENING OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

Wara li fis-7 ta' Jannar 2013 il-Ħdax-il Parlament ġie xolt, fid-9 ta' Marzu 2013 inżammet elezzjoni ġenerali biex ġew eletti 69 membru minn 13-il distrett elettoral. Sussegwentement, il-President ta' Malta, bi Proklama Nru 5 tal-2013, stabbilixxa s-6 ta' April bħala l-ġurnata li fiha għandu jitlaqqa' t-Tnax-il Parlament.

Il-ftuħ statali ta' din il-Legizlatura beda bil-konċelebrazzjoni tal-Quddiesa tal-Ispirtu s-Santu mmexxija mill-Eċċellenza Tiegħu Monsinjur Arċisqof Pawlu Cremona fil-Kon-Katidral ta' San Ġwann. Wara l-Quddiesa, l-membri eletti ħadu posthom fis-Sala tal-Parlament u l-mistednin distinti nġabru fil-gallarija tal-istess Sala sabiex isegwu din l-ewwel seduta parlamentari.

Is-seduta bdiet bl-elezzjoni tal-iSpeaker tal-Kamra, l-Onorevoli Anġlu Farrugia u tad-Deputy Speaker, l-Onorevoli Ċensu Galea. Wara dawn iż-żewġ elezzjonijiet, il-membri eletti ħadu l-ġurament ta' lealtà lejn il-Poplu u r-Repubblika ta' Malta u l-Kostituzzjoni tagħha.

Wara, l-Eċċellenza Tiegħu George Abela, indirizza lill-Kamra fejn elenka l-programm ta' ħidma tal-Gvern għal din il-Legizlatura. Imbagħad l-iżgħar deputat min-naħa tal-Gvern, l-Onorevoli Ian Borg, ta avviż għal mozzjoni b'risposta għall-indirizz tal-President ta' Malta, filwaqt li l-Onorevoli Jason Azzopardi, f'isem l-Oppożizzjoni ta avviż ta' emenda għall-istess mozzjoni. Din l-ewwel seduta għalqet bl-aġġornament tal-Kamra għat-Tnejn 8 ta' April 2013.

Following the dissolution of Parliament on 7 January 2013, general elections were held on 9 March resulting in 69 members being elected from 13 electoral districts. Subsequently the President of Malta, by way of Proclamation No. 5 of 2013, established the date of 6 April 2013 for the convening of the Twelfth Parliament.

The state opening of this Legislature began with the concelebrated Mass of the Holy Spirit officiated by His Excellency Archbishop Pawlu Cremona at St John's Co-Cathedral. Following Mass the members proceeded to the parliamentary Chamber, while the distinguished guests gathered in the strangers' gallery to follow this first parliamentary sitting.

The sitting started with the election of the Speaker of the House, Honourable Anġlu Farrugia and the Deputy Speaker Honourable Ċensu Galea. Following these appointments the elected members took the oath of allegiance to the People and the Republic of Malta and its Constitution.

The President of Malta, His Excellency George Abela then addressed the House highlighting the Government's work programme for the Legislature. Afterwards the youngest Member of Parliament from the Government side, Honourable Ian Borg, gave notice of a motion in reply to the President's Address, whilst Honourable Jason Azzopardi on behalf of the Opposition gave notice of an amendment to said motion. This first sitting was concluded by the adjournment of the House for Monday 8 April 2013.



DISKORS INAWGURALI MILL-ISPEAKER ANĠLU FARRUGIA

INAUGURAL SPEECH BY SPEAKER ANĠLU FARRUGIA

ĠURAMENT TA' LEALTÀ

MR SPEAKER: Jien, Anġlu Farrugia, solennement naħlef li nkun tassew fidili u leali lejn il-poplu u r-Repubblika ta' Malta u l-Kostituzzjoni tagħha. Hekk Alla jgħinni.

(Maħluf u ffirmat).

Nitlobkom tpoġġu bilqiegħda.

Prim Ministru, Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Presidenti Emeriti, Speakers Emeriti, Onorevoli Membri, Membri Anzjani, Eċċellenzi, mistiedna distinti. Irrid qabel xejn niringrazzja lill-Prim Ministru li pproponieni għal din il-ħatra ta' Speaker u lid-Deputat Prim Ministru li ssekondani.

Irrid nistqarr li nħossni onorat li se nservi lill-poplu Malti u Għawdxi mill-ogħla istituzzjoni ta' dan il-pajjiż; il-Parlament. Nistqarr ukoll li qed inħares lejn din il-kariga importanti b'żelu kbir, b'hegħga liema bħalha biex nara li dan il-post ikompli jiżgura li dak li għandu jsir għal pajjiżna, isir dejjem fl-aqwa forum fejn ir-regoli tad-demokrazija jeċċellaw. U hekk se nipprova nagħmel għax nemmen li bl-għajnuna tagħkom kollha u bl-għajnuna ta' Alla, nistgħu naraw flimkien li din id-demokrazija parlamentari tkun mhux biss kelma sabiħa imma li titwettag fis-sigur. Fil-ħajja mhux xi tkun l-importanti, jiġifieri int min int, imma xi twettaq fil-kariga jew responsabilità li jkollok. Huwa għalhekk li aħna qegħdin hawnhekk ilkoll, sabiex naraw li lill-poplu tagħna, li huwa poplu sovrani, nagħtuh l-aqwa u l-aħjar. Jien naf li x-xogħol li hemm jistenniena huwa kbir, imma nemmen ukoll li flimkien, ilkoll kemm aħna, għax nemmnu li għandna nagħmlu l-aħjar għal dan il-poplu tagħna, se joħroġ l-aħjar minn dan il-Parlament. F'dan il-Parlament kulħadd jiddibatti – u għalhekk qiegħed hawn, proprju biex isir id-dibattitu – b'konvinzjoni, isiru r-rimarki u d-domandi lil min huwa responsabbli u jsir l-iskrutinju tal-Eżekuttiv. Il-poplu dan jarah bħala dritt, imma dritt li huwa komplementat, u għandu jkun komplementat, bir-rimedji li wieħed jistenna minn din l-ogħla istituzzjoni ta' dan il-pajjiż. Hela ta' ħin ma huwa xejn ħlief abbuż mid-demokrazija.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

MR SPEAKER: I, Anġlu Farrugia, solemnly declare on oath that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the people and the Republic of Malta and its Constitution. So help me God.

(Sworn and signed).

Please take your seats.

Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Presidents Emeriti, Speakers Emeriti, Honourable Members, Former Members, Excellencies, distinguished guests. First and foremost I would like to thank the Prime Minister who proposed me for this nomination as Speaker and the Deputy Prime Minister who seconded me.

I feel honoured to be serving the Maltese and Gozitan people within the highest institution of this country - Parliament. I approach this important position with great zeal and boundless enthusiasm, to ensure that whatever needs to be done for our country is always carried out in the best forum where the rules of democracy excel. And this is what I will try to do because I believe that with your help and with God's help, together we can ensure that parliamentary democracy is not just a nice word, but is definitely put into practice. In life, what matters is not what you are, or who you are, but what you manage to achieve in your office or as part of your responsibilities. This is the reason why we are all gathered here today, so that we ensure that we give our nation, which is a sovereign nation, the best we can. I know that there is considerable work ahead of us, but I also believe that together, all of us, because we all believe that we need to do the best we can for our people, we can get the best out of this Parliament. This Parliament is a place for debate – and that is the reason for my presence, precisely to ensure a debate takes place – remarks and questions are addressed with conviction to whoever is responsible and the scrutiny of the Executive is thus carried out. The people consider this a right, but a right that is complemented, and should be complemented, with the remedies that one expects from the country's highest institution. Wasting time is nothing more than an abuse of democracy.

Jien, wara li ħadt dan il-ġurament – u nistqarr li qiegħed eċitat xi ftit – irrid ngħid li rrid inkun ħaj fil-Presidenza ta' din il-Kamra. Naċcertakom li min jafni – hemm min jafni mill-viċin, hemm min jafni mhux daqshekk mill-viċin u hemm min ma jafni xejn, għax forsi għadu ġdid f'din il-Kamra, u hawn nieħu din l-okkażjoni sabiex nawgura lill-Membri ġodda kollha miż-żewġ naħat – jaf li jien dejjem rajt li fejn ħdimt – inkluż fil-Partit Laburista minn fejn ġej, dejjem imxejt b'integrità u b'korrettezza. Jien immilitajt fil-Partit Laburista għax ħaddant u emmint fil-valuri li dejjem emmen u mexa bihom dan il-Partit. Però, irrid ngħid, li llum, il-kariga tiegħi, titlob iktar minn dak li għamilt.

Nibda biex nistqarr – biex ma jkolli l-ebda tingiż fil-kuxjenza tiegħi – li jekk inqast lil xi ħadd minnkom, kemm min-naħa tal-Gvern kif ukoll min-naħa tal-Oppożizzjoni, nitlobkom taħfruli, għax illum irrid nara li l-pożizzjoni tkun waħda iktar 'l fuq. Qed nagħmel dan minn qalbi u f'mument daqshekk importanti ta' dan il-pajjiż. Irrid ngħidilkom li mil-lum 'l quddiem se taraw fija persuna, li bl-esperjenzi li kelli kif ukoll bil-kariga li fdajtuli f'idejja wara din il-ħatra, se tkun ferm u ferm 'l bogħod minn kull tentazzjoni u ħsibijiet ta' politika partigġjana. Illum, il-lealtà tiegħi, kif għadni kif stqarrejt fil-ġurament li għadni kemm ħadt, hija lejn il-poplu Malti u lejn il-Kostituzzjoni ta' pajjiżna. Għalhekk, irrid naċċerta lil kulħadd li jien se nara li d-drittijiet ta' kull Membru Parlamentari, hu min hu u hu fejn hu, jiġu protetti. Illi nżomm l-ordni fil-Kamra hija l-inqas ħaġa li nista' nagħmel, fil-fatt, ftit tal-ħin ilu għaddejna ċajta bejnietna jien u l-Onorevoli Gonzi, fil-preżenza tal-Prim Ministru, dwar dan. Aktar importanti miż-żamma tal-ordni huwa li nara li nħares id-drittijiet tal-minoranza. Dan huwa prinċipju fundamentali f'demokrazija vera, ħajja u attiva.

Jien se nara wkoll li nkompli bix-xogħol tajjeb li għamel il-preċedessur tiegħi, l-iSpeaker Emeritus Michael Frendo – u diġà jidher li 'l quddiem jista' jkun hemm qbil, imma mbagħad niġu għall-prattika – li fiż-żmien li ġej, dejjem bi qbil ta' dan il-Parlament, dan l-istess Parlament ikun wieħed verament awtonomu u indipendenti kompletament mill-Eżekuttiv, f'kull livell. Dan il-Parlament, li huwa l-oġġla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż, huwa d-dar naturali tal-poplu sovrani tagħna, li permezz tar-rappreżentanti tiegħu, joħroġ minn hawn l-istess twettiq tal-Eżekuttiv, taħt l-iskrutinju meħtieġ minn kull

After taking this oath – and I confess that I am somewhat excited – I would like to say that I want my Presidency of this House to be alive. I assure you that those who know me, both well and not so well and those who do not know me at all for they are new to this House – and here I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the best to all new Members from both sides of the House – know that wherever I worked, including in the Labour Party where my roots lie, I always strived to do so with integrity and fairness. I was active within the Labour Party because I embraced and believed in those values that the Party always believed in and applied. However, I have to say that today, the office I hold, requires more than what I have done so far.

I would like to start by asking for forgiveness – so that my conscience is clear – should I have failed anyone of you, both on the Government side as well as on the Opposition side, because today I would like my position to be an elevated one. I am doing this from my heart and at such an important moment for this country. I would like to tell you that from this day onwards you will see in me a person who, through past experiences as well as through the post that you have entrusted me with, will be far removed from any temptation or thought of partisan politics. Today, my loyalty, as I have just confessed in the oath I took, is towards the Maltese people and the country's Constitution. Thus, I would like to assure everybody that I will see to it that the rights of each Member of Parliament, irrespective of who they are or which side they belong to, will be protected. Keeping order in the House is the least I can do – I have actually shared a joke about this a short while ago with Honourable Gonzi, in the presence of the Prime Minister. Of greater importance than the maintenance of order, is the need to ensure the protection of rights and of the minority. This is a fundamental principle in a real, living and active democracy.

I will also ensure that I continue the good work performed by my predecessor, Speaker Emeritus Michael Frendo – and it already appears that there might be an agreement, though it has to be put into practice – that in the future, should Parliament agree, this same Parliament would be truly autonomous and completely independent from the Executive, at all levels. This Parliament, which is the country's highest institution, is the natural home of its sovereign people, who through

membru f'din il-Kamra. Hemm riformi oħra li jridu jsiru u nemmen li għandhom isiru, imma l-iktar haġa importanti hija li jkollna Parlament effiċjenti u iktar b'saħħtu. Żgur li se jkun hemm bżonn ħidma qawwija u sfiha biex naslu sa meta Malta għandha tiegħu l-Prezidenza Ewropea fl-2017.

Irridu naqblu li d-demokrazija mhijiex biss kelma jew kwestjoni fejn f'kull elezzjoni ġenerali l-poplu jmur jivvota biex jeleggi l-Oppożizzjoni u l-Gvern. Il-ħajja demokratika ma tieqafx hemm, imma iktar minn hekk. Irridu naslu – u nemmen li nistgħu naħdmu ħafna dwar dan – biex iċ-ċittadin ikun eqreb lejn dan il-Parlament u rridu nwessgħu kull possibilità fil-parametri ta' kif jaħdem dan il-Parlament sabiex il-poplu jkollu aktar parteċipazzjoni biex jittieħdu l-aħjar deċiżjonijiet minn dan il-Parlament għall-pajjiż.

Ma rridx niegħu aktar fit-tul, però ridt li qabel nagħlaq ngħid li biex jien nagħmel dan kollu, żgur għandi bżonn il-koperazzjoni ta' kull wieħed u waħda minnkomb. Għalhekk jien se nitlob mingħandkom sabiex nagħmlu dan flimkien għax nemmen li dan għandu jsir fl-interess tal-poplu Malti u Għawdx. Għalhekk minn hawnhekk jien nitlob 'l Alla sabiex jgħini biex din il-ħidma li intom illum afdajtuli f'idejja, nagħmilha bl-iktar mod seren u qawwi, fl-interess tad-demokrazija parlamentari. Nirringrazzjakom. (Onorevoli Membri: *Hear Hear*).

its representatives, subjects the performance of the Executive to the necessary scrutiny from each member of this House. There are other reforms which need to be implemented and which I believe should be carried out, but the most important thing is to have an efficient and even stronger Parliament. This will definitely require a huge amount of work until Malta's European Presidency in 2017.

We need to agree that democracy is not just a word or a question of people going to vote at every general election to elect the government and the opposition. Democracy does not end there, it goes further. We need to ensure – and I believe that we can do a lot to achieve this – that citizens familiarize themselves better with Parliament, by broadening the parameters of Parliament's work to allow greater public participation so that the best decisions can be taken for this country.

*I do not wish to take more of your time, however, before concluding I would like to say that to achieve all this, I would definitely need the cooperation of each and every one of you. Therefore, I ask all of you to play your part in this collective effort, because I believe that this should be done in the interest of the Maltese and Gozitan people. Thus, I pray for God's help so that I carry out the task with which you have entrusted me today, in the best and most serene manner, in the interest of parliamentary democracy. Thank you. (Honourable Members: *Hear, hear*).*



ONOREVOLI MEMBRI ELETTI FIT-TNAX-IL PARLAMENT

HONOURABLE MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

GVERN

GOVERNMENT

Abela Carmelo
Agius Chris
Agius Decelis Anthony
Bartolo Evarist
Bonnici Owen
Borg Ian
Brincat Leo
Buhagiar Charles
Buontempo Stefan
Busuttil Luciano
Cardona Chris
Caruana Justyne
Coleiro Preca Marie Louise
Dalli Helena
Debattista Deo
Debono Grech Joe
Falzon Michael
Farrugia Godfrey
Farrugia Marlene
Farrugia Michael
Fearne Christopher
Galdes Roderick
Grech Etienne
Grech Louis
Herrera Josè
Mallia Emanuel
Mercieca Franco
Mizzi Joe
Mizzi Konrad
Muscat Joseph
Parnis Silvio
Refalo Anton
Sammut Joseph M.
Schembri Deborah
Schembri Silvio
Scicluna Edward
Vella George
Vella Karmenu
Zammit Lewis Edward

OPPOZZJONI

OPPOSITION

Agius David
Arrigo Robert
Azzopardi Frederick
Azzopardi Jason
Bezzina Toni
Bonnici Charlò
Busuttil Simon
Buttigieg Claudette
Callus Ryan
Cassar Joe
Cutajar Robert
de Marco Mario
Debono Giovanna
Debono Kristy
Fenech Albert
Fenech Tonio
Fenech Adami Beppe
Galea Ċensu
Galea Mario
Gonzi Lawrence
Gonzi Michael
Grech Claudio
Mifsud Bonnici Carmelo
Mifsud Bonnici Paula
Portelli Marthese
Puli Clyde
Pullicino George
Said Chris
Spiteri Stephen
Zammit Dimech Francis



RESPONSABILITAJIET MINISTERJALI

Onor. Joseph Muscat, Prim Ministru

Onor. Michael Farrugia, Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Ippjanar u Simplifikazzjoni Amministrattiva

Uffiċċju tal-Kabinet • Awditjar Intern u Investigazzjonijiet • Amministrazzjoni Pubblika • Ċentru għall-Iżvilupp, Riċerka u t-Taħriġ • Koordinazzjoni tal-Politika Strateġika • Management Efficiency Unit • Informazzjoni • Koordinazzjoni tal-Ippjanar, Politika u Prijoritajiet • L-Awtorità ta' Malta dwar l-Ambjent u l-Ippjanar (MEPA) • Stamperija tal-Gvern • Artijiet • Uffiċċju Kongunt

Onor. Louis Grech, Deputat Prim Ministru u Ministru għall-Affarijiet Ewropej u Twettiq tal-Manifest Elettorali

Onor. Ian Borg, Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Presidenza UE 2017 u għall-Fondi Ewropej

Relazzjonijiet mal-Unjoni Ewropea • Koordinazzjoni Interna tal-Unjoni Ewropea • Presidenza UE 2017 • Fondi u Programmi Ewropej

Onor. George Vella, Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin

Relazzjonijiet ma' Pajjiżi Barranin u tal-Commonwealth • Relazzjonijiet ma' Organizzazzjonijiet u Istituzzjonijiet Internazzjonali • Relazzjonijiet Ekonomiċi Internazzjonali • Komunitajiet Maltin barra minn Malta

Onor. Karmenu Vella, Ministru għat-Turiżmu

Onor. Josè Herrera, Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Kultura u Gvern Lokali

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Hon. Michael Farrugia, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Simplification of Administrative Processes

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Hon. Ian Borg, Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds

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Hon. George Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Hon. Josè Herrera, Parliamentary Secretary for Culture and Local Government

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Onor. Evarist Bartolo, Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol

Onor. Stefan Buontempo, Segretarju Parlamentari għar-Riċerka, Innovazzjoni, Żgħażaġh u Sport

Ħarsien tat-Tfal u Edukazzjoni Bikrija • Edukazzjoni Obbligatorja • Edukazzjoni Ogħla (tinkludi l-MCAST) • Edukazzjoni tul il-Ħajja • Eżamijiet • Libreriji Pubbliċi • Xogħol u Taħriġ • Riċerka u Innovazzjoni • Politika dwar Xjenza u Teknoloġija • Żgħażaġh • Sport u Kumpleksi Sportivi • Bibljoteka Nazzjonali • Arkivju Nazzjonali

Onor. Leo Brincat, Ministru għall-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli, l-Ambjent u Tibdil fil-Klima

Onor. Roderick Galdes, Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Biedja, Sajd u Drittijiet tal-Annimali

Politika dwar it-Tibdil fil-Klima • Politika Ambjentali • Strategija dwar l-Immaniġġjar tal-Iskart • Parks Nazzjonali, Afforestazzjoni u l-Ħarsien tal-Kampanja • Żvilupp Rurali • Agrikoltura • Ortikultura • Sajd • Akwakultura • Ħarsien tal-Annimali • Servizzi Veterinarji

Onor. Joe Mizzi, Ministru għat-Trasport u Infrastruttura

Manifattura u Servizzi • Kostruzzjoni u Manutenzjoni • Tindif • Koordinazzjoni ta' Proġetti Infrastrutturali tal-Gvern • Trasport Intern • Toroq • Koordinazzjoni ta' Kostruzzjoni ta' Toroq, Manutenzjoni u Landscaping • Tiftix għaż-Żejt

Onor. Anton Refalo, Ministru għal Għawdex

Affarijiet dwar Għawdex (eskluzi s-servizzi tas-Saħħa u l-Edukazzjoni)

Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment

Hon. Stefan Buontempo, Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport

Childcare and Early Education • Compulsory Education • Higher Education (including MCAST) • Life-long Learning • Examinations • Public Libraries • Employment and Training • Research and Innovation • Science and Technology Policy • Youth • Sport and Sport Complexes • National Library • National Archives

Hon. Leo Brincat, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change

Hon. Roderick Galdes, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights

Climate Change • Environmental Policy • Waste Management Strategy • National Parks, Afforestation and the Countryside • Rural Development • Agriculture • Horticulture • Fisheries • Aquaculture • Animal Welfare • Veterinary Services

Hon. Joe Mizzi, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Manufacturing and Servicing • Construction and Maintenance • Cleansing • Coordination of Major Government Projects • Internal Transport • Roads • Coordination of Road Building, Maintenance and Landscaping • Oil Exploration

Hon. Anton Refalo, Minister for Gozo

Gozo Affairs (excluding Health Services and Education)

Onor. Helena Dalli, Ministru għad-Djalogu Soċjali, Affarijiet tal-Konsumatur u Libertajiet Ċivili

Djalogu Soċjali • Libertajiet Ċivili • Ugwaljanza • Protezzjoni u Privatezza tad-Data • Organizzazzjonijiet mhux Governattivi u l-Volontarjat • Kompetizzjoni u Affarijiet tal-Konsumatur • Awtorità tal-Medicina • Impjiegi u Relazzjonijiet Industrijali

Onor. Chris Cardona, Ministru għall-Ekonomija, Investiment u Intrapriži Żgħar

Onor. Edward Zammit Lewis, Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Kompetittività u Tkabbir Ekonomiku

Kummerċ Barrani • Industrija • Promozzjoni ta' Investiment • Malta Enterprise • Investimenti tal-Gvern • Intrapriži Żgħar u s-Self-employed • Koperattivi • Servizzi ta' Kummerċ • Portijiet • Affarijiet Marittimi • Promozzjoni tas-Servizzi Finanzjarji • Strategija għat-Teknoloġija tal-Informatika u Komunikazzjoni • Ekonomija Diġitali

Onor. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Ministru għall-Familja u Solidarjetà Soċjali

Onor. Franco Mercieca, Segretarju Parlamentari għad-Drittijiet ta' Persuni b'Diżabilità u Anzjanità Attiva

Politika Soċjali • Politika dwar il-Familja • Politika dwar it-Tfal • Akkomodazzjoni Soċjali • Sigurtà Soċjali • Pensjonijiet • Servizzi ta' Solidarjetà • Politika dwar Persuni b'Diżabilità • Anzjani • Servizz fil-Komunità

Hon. Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties

Social Dialogue • Civil Liberties • Equality • Data Protection • Non-Governmental and Voluntary Organisations • Competition and Consumer Affairs • Medicines Authority • Industrial and Employment Relations

Hon. Chris Cardona, Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business

Hon. Edward Zammit Lewis, Parliamentary Secretary for Competitiveness and Economic Growth

External Trade • Industry • Investment Promotion • Malta Enterprise • Government Investments • Small Business and the Self-employed • Cooperatives • Trade Services • Ports • Maritime Affairs • Promotion of Financial Services • Information and Communication Strategy • Digital Economy

Hon. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity

Hon. Franco Mercieca, Parliamentary Secretary for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing

Social Policy • Family Policy • Child Policy • Social Housing • Social Security • Pensions • Solidarity Services • Policy concerning Persons with Disability • Elderly • Community Care

Onor. Emanuel Mallia, Ministru għall-Intern u s-Sigurtà Nazzjonali

Onor. Owen Bonnici, Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Ġustizzja

Difiża • Forzi Armati • Pulizija • Immigrazzjoni • Sigurtà fl-Ajruport • Servizzi Korrettivi • *Probation u Parole* • Protezzjoni Ċivili • Affarijiet ta' Ċittadinanza u Nies Barranin • Central Visa Unit • *National Identity Management* • Qrati tal-Ġustizzja • Uffiċċju tal-Avukat Ġenerali • Nutar tal-Gvern • Xandir • Public Broadcasting Services

Onor. Edward Scicluna, Ministru għall-Finanzi

Politika Ekonomika • Uffiċċju tal-*Budget* • It-Teżor • Taxxi Interni • Tassazzjoni Indiretta • Dwana u Sisa • Kuntratti • Regolamentazzjoni tas-Servizzi Finanzjarji • L-Awtorità tal-Istatistika ta' Malta • Relazzjonijiet mal-Bank Ċentrali

Onor. Konrad Mizzi, Ministru għall-Energija u l-Konservazzjoni tal-Ilma

Żvilupp ta' Sorsi ta' Energija Alternattiva • Politika dwar l-Energija • L-Awtorità Maltija għar-Riżorsi • Korporazzjoni Enemalta • Politika dwar l-Ilma • Korporazzjoni għas-Servizzi tal-Ilma

Onor. Godfrey Farrugia, Ministru għas-Saħħa

Regolamentazzjoni u Standards tas-Servizzi tas-Saħħa • Servizzi tas-Saħħa • Saħħa u Sigurtà fuq il-Post tax-Xogħol

Hon. Emanuel Mallia, Minister for Home Affairs and National Security

Hon. Owen Bonnici, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice

Defence • *Armed Forces* • *Police* • *Immigration* • *Airport Security* • *Correctional Services* • *Probation and Parole* • *Civil Protection* • *Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs* • *Central Visa Unit* • *National Identity Management* • *Courts of Justice* • *Attorney General's Office* • *Notary to Government* • *Broadcasting* • *Public Broadcasting Services*

Hon. Edward Scicluna, Minister for Finance

Economic Policy • *Budget Office* • *The Treasury* • *Inland Revenue* • *Indirect Taxation* • *Customs and Excise* • *Contracts* • *Financial Services Regulation* • *Malta Statistics Authority* • *Relations with Central Bank*

Hon. Konrad Mizzi, Minister for Energy and the Conservation of Water

Development of Alternative Energy Sources • *Energy Policy* • *Malta Resources Authority* • *Enemalta Corporation* • *Water Policy* • *Water Services Corporation*

Hon. Godfrey Farrugia, Minister for Health

Health Services Regulation and Standards • *Health Services* • *Occupational Health and Safety*

SHADOW CABINET

Onor. Simon Busuttil, Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni

Hon. Simon Busuttil, *Leader of the Opposition*

Onor. Ċensu Galea, Deputat *Speaker* u Kelliem għall-Agricoltura u s-Sajd

Hon. Ċensu Galea, *Deputy Speaker and Spokesperson for Agriculture and Fisheries*

Onor. David Agius, *Whip* u Kelliem għall-Gvern Lokali

Hon. David Agius, *Group Whip and Spokesperson for Local Government*

Onor. Frederick Azzopardi, Deputat *Whip* u Kelliem għas-Servizzi tas-Saħħa u l-Edukazzjoni f'Għawdex

Hon. Frederick Azzopardi, *Group Deputy Whip and Spokesperson for Gozo (health services and education)*

Onor. Robert Arrigo, Kelliem għat-Turiżmu

Hon. Robert Arrigo, *Spokesperson for Tourism*

Onor. Jason Azzopardi, Kelliem għall-Intern u s-Sigurtà Nazzjonali

Hon. Jason Azzopardi, *Spokesperson for Home Affairs and National Security*

Onor. Anthony Bezzina, Kelliem għat-Trasport u l-Infrastruttura

Hon. Anthony Bezzina, *Spokesperson for Transport and Infrastructure*

Onor. Charlò Bonnici, Kelliem għall-Iżvilupp Soċjali, l-Ambjent u t-Tibdil fil-Klima

Hon. Charlò Bonnici, *Spokesperson for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change*

Onor. Claudette Buttigieg, Kelliema għad-Djalogu Soċjali u l-Libertajiet Ċivili

Hon. Claudette Buttigieg, *Spokesperson for Social Dialogue and Civil Liberties*

Onor. Ryan Callus, Kelliem għall-Presidenza tal-UE 2017 u għall-Fondi Ewropej

Hon. Ryan Callus, *Spokesperson for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds*

Onor. Joe Cassar, Kelliem għas-Saħħa

Hon. Joe Cassar, *Spokesperson for Health*

Onor. Robert Cutajar, Kelliem għar-Riċerka, l-Innovazzjoni, ż-Żgħażaġh u l-Isport

Hon. Robert Cutajar, *Spokesperson for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport*

Onor. Giovanna Debono, Kelliema għal Għawdex

Hon. Giovanna Debono, *Spokesperson for Gozo*

Onor. Kristy Debono, Kelliema għall-Kompetittività u t-Tkabbir Ekonomiku

Hon. Kristy Debono, *Spokesperson for Competitiveness and Economic Growth*

Onor. Mario de Marco, Kelliem għall-Ekonomija, l-Investment u l-Intrapriżi ż-Żgħar

Hon. Mario de Marco, *Spokesperson for the Economy, Investment and Small Business*

Onor. Albert Fenech, Kelliem għad-Drittijiet tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità

Hon. Albert Fenech, *Spokesperson for Rights of Persons with Disability*

Onor. Beppe Fenech Adami, Kelliem għall-Ġustizzja

Onor. Tonio Fenech, Kelliem għall-Finanzi

Onor. Mario Galea, Kelliem għall-Anzjani

Onor. Claudio Grech, Kelliem għall-Ippjanar u
s-Simplifikazzjoni Amministrattiva

Onor. Michael Gonzi, Kelliem għad-Drittijiet
tal-Animali

Onor. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Kelliem għall-Affarijiet
Barranin

Onor. Paula Mifsud Bonnici, Kelliema
għall-Kompetizzjoni u l-Affarijiet tal-Konsumatur

Onor. Marthese Portelli, Kelliema għall-Affarijiet
Ewropej

Onor. Clyde Puli, Kelliem għall-Edukazzjoni

Onor. George Pullicino, Kelliem għall-Energija u
l-Konservazzjoni tal-Ilma

Onor. Chris Said, Kelliem għall-Familja u s-Solidarjetà
Soċjali

Onor. Stephen Spiteri, Kelliem għax-Xogħol

Onor. Francis Zammit Dimech, Kelliem għall-Kultura u
l-Komunikazzjoni

Hon. Beppe Fenech Adami, Spokesperson for Justice

Hon. Tonio Fenech, Spokesperson for Finance

Hon. Mario Galea, Spokesperson for the Elderly

Hon. Claudio Grech, Spokesperson for Planning and
Simplification of Administrative Processes

Hon. Michael Gonzi, Spokesperson for Animal Welfare

Hon. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Spokesperson for
Foreign Affairs

Hon. Paula Mifsud Bonnici, Spokesperson for
Competition and Consumer Affairs

Hon. Marthese Portelli, Spokesperson for European
Affairs

Hon. Clyde Puli, Spokesperson for Education

Hon. George Pullicino, Spokesperson for Energy and the
Conservation of Water

Hon. Chris Said, Spokesperson for the Family and Social
Solidarity

Hon. Stephen Spiteri, Spokesperson for Employment

Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech, Spokesperson for Culture
and Communications

MILL-WHIP TAL-GVERN

FROM THE GOVERNMENT WHIP

Din hija l-ewwel esperjenza tiegħi bħala l-Whip tal-Grupp Parlamentari tiegħi. Irrid ngħid li mhijiex xi biċċa xogħol faċli, b'mod speċjali minhabba li l-Partit tiegħi qed imexxi l-pajjiż. Kif naraha jien, li tkun il-Whip tal-Partit fil-gvern tpoġġi iktar responsabilità u pressjoni fuq min ikun qed jokkupa dan ir-rwol. Wieħed jista' jgħid li b'maġġoranza ta' disa' siggijiet, ix-xogħol ikun iktar faċli. Dan huwa minnu, hemm iktar flessibilità meta jsiru vjaġġi fuq xogħol barra minn Malta, madankollu dan għandu jiġi kontrabilanċjat mill-fatt li dan huwa l-ikbar Grupp Parlamentari li qatt kien hemm fl-istorja politika ta' Malta. Il-fatt li jkollok numru kbir ta' Parlamentari jagħmel ix-xogħol aktar diffiċli u esiġenti fl-amministrazzjoni tiegħu.

Imma min hu l-Whip u x'jagħmel? Huwa membru tal-Kamra, maħtur minn grupp parlamentari politiku sabiex jiżgura b'mod ewlieni d-dixxiplina tal-partit fi ħdan il-grupp. Jiena stess niffirma parti mill-grupp tal-Partit Laburista, li fil-preżent qed imexxi bħala gvern lil Malta.

Huwa d-dmir tal-Whip li jara li kull membru jtkellem u jivvota fil-Parlament skont il-pożizzjoni meħuda b'mod kollettiv fi ħdan il-grupp. Jiena nalloka l-ħin kemm għandhom idumu jtkellmu l-membri min-naħa tal-Gvern fil-Kamra. Bħala Whip, nikkoordina ma', u finalment niddeciedi fuq liema membri tal-grupp politiku tiegħi jistgħu jmorru barra minn Malta fuq xogħol uffiċjali.

Jiena u naqdi r-responsabilitajiet tiegħi, jiena naħdem mill-qrib mal-Whip tal-Oppożizzjoni, u nikkonsulta b'mod kontinwu wkoll mal Prim Ministru u mal Kap tal-Kamra.

Fil-ftit żmien li ili Whip tal-grupp tal-Partit tiegħi, qed nitgħallem bilmod li d-dmirijiet u r-responsabilitajiet tiegħi li huma esklussivament ix-xogħol tal-Whip huma proċess kontinwu ta' analiżi ta' x'għandu jsir, eżami ta' kwistjonijiet mal-kollegi tiegħi, implimentazzjoni tal-arranġamenti meħtieġa li jkun sar qbil fuqhom u li dawn jiġu segwiti kif meħtieġ.

Inħossni kuntent li jiena qed nagħti l-kontribut tiegħi b'dan il-mod għal tmexxija aħjar tax-xogħol parlamentari f'pajjiżi.

Onor. Carmelo Abela

This is my first experience as a Whip of my Parliamentary Group. I must say that it is not an easy task, even so because my Party is in government. As I see it, being the Whip of the Party in government puts more responsibility and pressure on the incumbent. One might say that having a nine seat majority makes the job easier. Well, it gives more flexibility when travelling on business abroad is concerned, but this has to be counterbalanced by the fact that this is the largest Parliamentary Group ever in Maltese political history, making dealings with a high number of MPs more difficult and exacting to handle.

But who is the Whip and what does he do? He is a member of the House appointed by a political parliamentary grouping to primarily ensure party discipline within the group. I myself form part of the Partit Laburista group, which is in government at present in Malta.

It is the Whip who sees to it that, every member speaks out and votes in Parliament according to the position taken collectively within the group. I allocate the time for how long members on the Government side speak out in the House. As a Whip I coordinate with, and I finally decide which members of my political grouping may go abroad on official business.

In going about my responsibilities, I work in close unison with the Opposition Whip, and I also consult with the Prime Minister and with the Leader of the House.

In my short stint as Whip of my Party's grouping, I am slowly learning that the duties and responsibilities which are exclusively the Whip's job are a continuous process of analyzing what needs to be done, examining matters with my colleagues, implementing arrangements agreed upon and following up on them as required.

I feel happy that I am contributing in this manner for a better handling of parliamentary business in my country.

Hon. Carmelo Abela

MILL-WHIP TAL-OPPOŻIZZJONI

FROM THE OPPOSITION WHIP

Tradizzjonalment, kif jimplika l-isem, il-Whip tal-Oppożizzjoni huwa l-persuna li jzomm id-dixxiplina fi ħdan il-Grupp Parlamentari tal-Oppożizzjoni. Fil-fatt, ir-rwol li spiss jiġi assoċjat mal-Whip huwa dak li javża lill-Membri fuq il-mod kif għandhom jivvotaw fuq kwistjoni partikolari, b'hekk jeħtieġ li jkun hemm l-unità meta jittieħed il-vot.

Il-Whip huwa membru tal-Kumitat għall-Affarijiet Parlamentari, fejn tkun diskussa l-aġenda għall-Parlament Malti. Flimkien mal-Whip tal-Gvern, jiġi deċiż il-ħin allokat għall-kelliema mill-Gvern u mill-Oppożizzjoni u għalhekk ikun hemm komunikazzjoni mal-Whip tal-Gvern. Il-membri tal-Parlament li jkunu sejrjn jittkellmu f'dibattitu partikolari jiġu kkompatati minn jum għal jum. Dan jgħodd ukoll għal dawk il-membri li jkunu jixtiequ jittkellmu matul l-Agġornament, kif ukoll fir-rigward tal-mistoqsijiet parlamentari li għandhom jiġu ppreżentati. Il-Whip jikkoordina x-xogħol tal-membri tas-sottokumitati tal-Kamra.

Jiena ninsab il-ħin kollu fi djalogu mal-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni kif ukoll nagħmel ċert li nzomm lill-membri informati dwar l-affarijiet parlamentari. Il-Whip huwa wkoll punt ta' referenza għall-mezzi tax-xandir u għall-pubbliku ġenerali dwar kwistjonijiet parlamentari li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-Oppożizzjoni.

Traditionally, as the name implies, the Opposition Whip is the person who keeps discipline within the Parliamentary Group of the Opposition. In fact, the role often associated with the Whip is that of instructing the Members on the way they have to vote on a particular matter thus calling for unity whenever a vote is taken.

The Whip is a member of the House Business Committee where I voice my opinion on what the agenda for the Maltese Parliament should be. Together with the Government Whip, the time allocated for speakers from the Government and the Opposition is decided and so there is a liaison with the Government Whip. The Members of Parliament to speak on a particular debate are compiled from day to day. This also applies to those members wanting to speak during the Adjournment as well as the parliamentary questions to be presented. The Whip coordinates the work of the members on the subcommittees of the House.

I am in constant dialogue with the Leader of the Opposition as well as making it a point of keeping the members informed about parliamentary business. The Whip is also a point of reference for the media and the general public on parliamentary matters pertaining to the Opposition.

Onor. David Agius

Hon. David Agius

DISKORS TAS-SETTE GIUGNO

SETTE GIUGNO SPEECH

Prim Ministru, Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni, Presidenti Emeriti, *Speakers* Emeriti, Onorevoli Membri, Onorevoli Membri Anzjani, Eċċellenzi, Mistiedna Distinti.

Il-jum tas-Sette Giugno huwa jum speċjali għall-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kollha, li baqa' mnaqqax fil-memorja ta' pajjiżna għaliex ifakkar meta l-poplu Malti u Għawdxin fl-1919 wera kif b'vuċi waħda, f'għaqda nazzjonali, iġġieled għad-drittijiet tiegħu bħala Nazzjon Malti. Kien interessanti, pereżempju, li wara li fis-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 ħutna Maltin tilfu ħajjithom bil-munizzjon tal-barrani, fl-ewwel opportunità li kellu Nerico Mizzi fis-seduta parlamentari 680 tal-1922, staqsa hekk lill-kap tal-Ministri:

“Nella prossima seduta dell’Assemblea Legislativa gli domanderà se è vero che l’Autorità Militare ha preso delle misure precauzionali in occasione del terzo anniversario del 7 Giugno 1919, occupando, sia pure in parte, certi edifici pubblici (come il terrazzo del Palazzo di Giustizia), e in caso affermativo, a richiesta di chi e in virtù di quali poteri l’Autorità Militare ha ciò fatto.”

Dan jindika ċar illi snin wara li l-poplu Malti u Għawdxin ngħata l-Kostituzzjoni Amery-Milner tal-1921 u bdiet tiltaqa' l-Assemblea Parlamentari, il-vuċi tal-poplu xorta kienet baqgħet taħt suspett għall-fatt li l-militar Ingliż okkupa saħansitra l-bejt tal-qorti fl-eventwalità ta' rvell ieħor. U kellu jkun l-istess Nerico Mizzi li għall-ewwel darba sostna li għandha ssir il-kommemorazzjoni tal-vittmi tas-Sette Giugno bħalma qed nagħmlu hawn illum. Din il-proposta ressaqha fis-seduta parlamentari tas-Sette Giugno tal-1923, meta qal hekk:

“Propongo perciò che l’Assemblea sospenda per un quarto d’ora in segno di lutto, la seduta; e colgo questa opportunità per informare gli onor. colleghi, nella mia qualità - di Segretario del Comitato Nazionale “Pro Caduti del 7 & 8 giugno 1919”, che un solenne funerale sarà celebrato posdimani nella Concattedrale di San Giovanni in suffragio dei nostri fratelli caduti in quelle tragiche giornate. Spero che la mia proposta sarà favorevolmente accolta dal Governo e da tutti i membri di quest’ Assemblea e che nessuno mancherà alla cerimonia propiziatrice di posdimani.”

Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Presidents Emeriti, Speakers Emeriti, Honourable Members, Honourable Senior Members, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests.

The Seventh of June is a special day for the Maltese and Gozitan people, which has remained engraved in the memory of our country as it reminds us of when in 1919 the Maltese and Gozitan people showed that with one voice, united as one nation, they fought for their rights as a Maltese Nation. It is interesting, for instance, that after our Maltese brethren were killed on the 7th of June 1919 by foreign weapons, at the first opportunity which arose during the parliamentary session 680 in 1922, Nerico Mizzi asked the following to the Head of Ministers:

“Nella prossima seduta dell’Assemblea Legislativa gli domanderà se è vero che l’Autorità Militare ha preso delle misure precauzionali in occasione del terzo anniversario del 7 Giugno 1919, occupando, sia pure in parte, certi edifici pubblici (come il terrazzo del Palazzo di Giustizia), e in caso affermativo, a richiesta di chi e in virtù di quali poteri l’Autorità Militare ha ciò fatto.”

This clearly indicates that years after the Maltese and Gozitan people were given the Amery-Milner 1921 Constitution and the Parliamentary Assembly began to meet, the people’s voice was still suppressed due to the fact that the British military even occupied the roof of the court building in the event of another riot. It was the same Nerico Mizzi who for the first time claimed that the victims of Sette Giugno should be commemorated in the same manner we are doing today. He made this proposal during the parliamentary session of Sette Giugno 1923, when he declared:

“Propongo perciò che l’Assemblea sospenda per un quarto d’ora in segno di lutto, la seduta; e colgo questa opportunità per informare gli onor. colleghi, nella mia qualità di Segretario del Comitato Nazionale ‘Pro Caduti del 7 & 8 giugno 1919’, che un solenne funerale sarà celebrato posdimani nella Concattedrale di San Giovanni in suffragio dei nostri fratelli caduti in quelle tragiche giornate. Spero che la mia proposta sarà favorevolmente accolta dal Governo e da tutti i membri di quest’ Assemblea e che nessuno mancherà alla cerimonia propiziatrice di posdimani.”

Dakinhar kien hemm kunsens unanimu u s-seduta parlamentari tas-Sette Giugno 1923 ġiet sospiza għal kwarta sal-erbgha ta' wara nofsinhar. Minn dakinhar 'il quddiem il-mexxejja ta' dan il-pajjiż, kollha kemm huma, immilitaw favur il-mixja tal-poplu Malti u Għawdx i lejn rebhiet ta' għadd ta' drittijiet li wassluh għall-Indipendenza u għat tneħhija ta' kull influwenza tal-militar barrani.

It-triq kienet twila imma llum aħna poplu b'identità, poplu sovrani. Imma baqgħalna aktar x'nagħmlu. Wara esperjenza ta' aktar minn disa' snin fl-Unjoni Ewropea, għadna ma lhaqniex il-livell mixtieq ta' awtonomija fil-Parlament tagħna bħal dak li jgawdu Parlamenti nazzjonali oħra fi ħdan l-istess Unjoni Ewropea.

Meta wieħed jitkellem fuq awtonomija f'dan il-kuntest ikun qed ifisser illi l-Parlament, l-oġġla istituzzjoni ta' pajjiżna, ikollu l-kapaċità amministrattiva li jmexxi b'mod indipendenti l-ħtigijiet ta' din l-istess istituzzjoni biex tkun tista' taqdi l-funzjonijiet kostituzzjonali tagħha. Fi kliem ieħor il-Parlament irid jkollu s-setgħa li mingħajr xkiel iħejji l-estimi finanzjarji tiegħu stess u jamministra r-riżorsi tiegħu b'mod ħieles u distint minn kull tip ta' influwenza tal-Eżekuttiv.

Il-Parlament ma jista' qatt ikun ħieles minn kull xkiel u rbit jekk amministrattivament jibqa' jitqies bħala dipartiment tal-Gvern. L-awtorità u l-awtonomija parlamentari, għalkemm distinti, huma intrinsikament marbuta flimkien. Biex naslu għal demokrazija parlamentari ħajja hemm bżonn li ma nibzghux nieħdu l-pass li jmiss lejn parlament awtonomu.

Mill-kitba u mid-diskors irridu ngħaddu għall-fatti. Huwa pjaċir tiegħi bħala President tal-Kamra tad-Deputati nikkonstata li llum dan il-prinċipju hu aċċettat minn kulhadd, inkluz miż-żewġ gruppi politiċi fi ħdan il-Parlament Malti. L-istess Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat kemm-il darba ddikjara li l-Gvern jemmen li jrid jara l-awtonomija parlamentari sseħħ b'mod reali. Nifhem li n-naħa tal-Oppożizzjoni hija tal-istess fehma għaliex wara kollox kienet l-amministrazzjoni preċedenti li ppubblikat il-*white paper* dwar l-awtonomija parlamentari.

On that occasion there was a unanimous agreement and the parliamentary session of Sette Giugno 1923 was suspended for fifteen minutes until four in the afternoon. From that day onwards all the leaders of this country, advocated for the progress of the Maltese and Gozitan people towards achieving several rights which led them to Independence and to the removal of any foreign military influence.

The road was long but today we are a people with an identity, a sovereign nation. But still more remains to be done. After our experience of more than nine years of European Union membership, our Parliament has still not reached the desired level of autonomy which other national Parliaments enjoy within the same European Union.

When one speaks about autonomy in this context, this means that the Parliament, the highest institution in the country, would have the administrative capacity to manage independently the requirements of the same institution so that it can fulfil its constitutional functions. In other words, Parliament should have the power to prepare its financial estimates and to manage its own resources unhindered, independently and in a distinct manner from any type of influence from the Executive.

Parliament can never be free and unshackled unless it is no longer considered administratively as a government department. Parliamentary authority and autonomy, though different, are intrinsically linked to each other. To achieve an active parliamentary democracy we should not be afraid of taking the next step towards an autonomous parliament.

We need to proceed from words to facts. It is my pleasure as President of the House of Representatives to note that today this principle is accepted by everyone, including both political groups within the Maltese Parliament. Prime Minister Joseph Muscat himself often declared that Government would like to see parliamentary autonomy actually come into effect. I understand that the Opposition is of the same opinion as after all it was the previous administration that published the white paper on parliamentary autonomy. Thus the next step is to put this general will into action so that we ensure that this right which is missing today in the Maltese Parliament finally begins to form part of a series of rights which, as a

Għaldaqstant issa jmiss nattwaw din ir-rieda generali biex naraw li dan id-dritt li llum huwa nieqes fil-Parlament Malti fl-aħħar jiġi jifforma parti minn sensiela ta' drittijiet li bħala poplu Malti akkwistajna mal-medda u l-milja taż-żmien mis-7 ta' Ġunju 1919 'l hawn. Jeħtieġ ukoll li dan il-pass iseħħ fl-iqsar żmien possibbli għaliex naħseb li kulhadd għejja jisma' fuq il-ħtieġa tal-awtonomija tal-Parlament mill-*Speakers Emeriti*, li minn hawn insellmilhom f'din l-okkażjoni. Hawnekk ippermettuli nikkwota parti mill-għeluq tad-diskors tal-*Speaker Emeritus Michael Frendo* meta dan l-aħħar indirizza lill-Forum tal-President:

“Id-demokrazija tagħna hija demokrazija ħajja li kibret u għad baqgħalha tikber. Parlament b'saħħtu biss huwa l-prova ta' demokrazija matura. Din trid tkun il-mira tagħna lkoll.”

Pass importanti ħafna, jekk mhux l-aktar importanti, huwa d-diskussjoni wiesgħa li qed issir dwar il-bini tal-parlament il-gdid fl-entratura tal-belt kapitali Valletta. Kien ta' pjacir kbir għalija meta l-Prim Ministru ddelega lili, bi qbil mal-Oppozizzjoni, biex immexxi proċess ta' konsultazzjoni ma' kulhadd dwar din il-binja. Jiena dan il-proċess bdejtu u fil-fatt diġà saru numru ta' laqgħat li għandhom iwasslu għal deċiżjoni għaqlija fl-interess tal-poplu Malti u Għawdxi.

L-istess raġunament japplika wkoll għad-diskussjoni dwar il-Kostituzzjoni ta' pajjiżna, dwar jekk hemmx ħtieġa li din tevolve – kif effettivament jidher li hemm - u dwar il-possibilità *o meno* tat-Tieni Repubblica. Jiena ngħid li dan ukoll huwa proċess li għandu jsir bil-partecipazzjoni – jekk mhux bid-direzzjoni – tal-Parlament, mingħajr ma nnaqqas xejn mill-partecipazzjoni wiesgħa tal-poplu Malti u Għawdxi kollu. Għaliex kif tista' titkellem fuq Kostituzzjoni u ma tinvolvi lill-istess Parlament li jrid jillegiżla?! Fuq kollox pajjiżna b'hekk dejjem mexxa 'l quddiem, għaliex il-poplu u aħna li nirrappreżentawh semmajna lehinna.

Dwar it-tifsir ta' demokrazija ħajja, l-awtur kostituzzjonali notevoli Sir William Ivor Jennings fil-ktieb tiegħu *Parliament* jgħid hekk:

Maltese people, we have achieved throughout the years since the 7th of June 1919. It is also necessary that this step is taken within the shortest time possible as I believe that everyone has had enough of hearing about the need of Parliament autonomy from the Speakers Emeriti, to whom I pay tribute today on this occasion. Please, allow me to quote a section from the ending of the speech of Speaker Emeritus Michael Frendo when he recently addressed the President's Forum:

“Our democracy is a living democracy which has grown and still continues to grow. Only a strong Parliament is proof of a mature democracy. This should be our aim.”

An important step, if not the most important, is the broad discussion that is taking place regarding the new parliament building at the entrance of the capital city Valletta. It was my great pleasure when the Prime Minister delegated me, in agreement with the Opposition, to lead an open consultation process regarding this building. I have actually started this process and in fact a number of meetings have taken place which should lead to a sound decision in the interest of the Maltese and Gozitan population.

The same reasoning applies to the discussion regarding our country's Constitution, whether it should evolve or not – as in fact there appears the need that it should - and regarding the possibility or not of a Second Republic. I believe that this is also a process that needs the participation – indeed the direction – of the Parliament without prejudice to the broad participation of the Maltese and Gozitan public. For, how can we speak of a Constitution without involving the same Parliament which has to legislate?! Isn't that the way in which our country has progressed throughout the years, by sounding the voice of our people and ours who represent it? As for the meaning of a living democracy, the famous Constitutional author Sir William Ivor Jennings says thus in his book Parliament:

“Si antiquitatem spectes, estvetustissima, si dignitatem, est honoratissima, si jurisdictionem, est capacissima.”

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Fi kliem ieħor, l-oġġla istituzzjoni trid tkun kapaci tara u terfa' weħidha dak li hu mistenni minn demokrazija parlamentari.

Huwa fatt li mxejna. Jien se nkompli naħdem fuq dak li għamlu ta' qabli biex nelevaw dejjem, kif inhu xieraq, din l-istituzzjoni – il-Parlament.

Wara l-pubblikazzjoni tar-rulings, ossia tad-deċiżjonijiet, mogħtija mis-Sedja bejn l-1921 u l-1924 mill-Professur Ray Mangion, fix-xhur li ġejjin se jiġu ppubblikati deċiżjonijiet oħra li ngħataw minn Presidenti tal-Kamra mill-1924 'l hawn. Se nkun qed nara li mill-aktar fis possibbli dawn id-deċiżjonijiet jiġu ppubblikati kollha.

Wara l-introduzzjoni ta' *audio live streaming* tas-seduti tal-Kamra u tal-Kumitati, u wara t-tnedija ta' *video live streaming* tal-laqgħat tal-Kumitati fl-aħħar xhur tal-leġiżlatura li għaddiet, issa se nkunu qegħdin intejbu b'mod sostanzjali l-kwalità tax-xandir tal-laqgħat tal-kumitati fuq dan il-medium tant importanti. Barra minn hekk diġà saru l-preparazzjonijiet biex mill-bini tal-Parlament il-ġdid, jekk ikun il-każ, jibdew jiġu trażmessi wkoll id-dibattiti fl-awla plenarja tal-Parlament. Dan huwa pass ieħor biex il-Parlament jersaq aktar lejn il-poplu.

Hekk kif bdejt nokkupa din il-kariga kont urejt ix-xewqa tiegħi li l-Parlament ikollu r-rivista tiegħu. Għandi pjaċir inħabbar li din ix-xewqa mmaterjalizzat fil-forma ta' perjodiku li se jibda joħroġ kull erba' xhur. Hsibna wkoll biex din il-pubblikazzjoni nagħmluha aċċessibbli *on-line* fuq is-sit tal-Parlament Malti fiż-żewġ lingwi uffiċjali, biex b'hekk ikompli jizdied l-għarfien u l-apprezzament tal-ħidma parlamentari fost il-poplu, fost l-istess parlamentari kif ukoll fl-istituzzjonijiet parlamentari barra l-pajjiż.

Ippubblikajna wkoll l-Ordni jiet Permanenti tal-Kamra kif emendati mill-1995 sal-lum. Kien unur kbir għalija li nqassam kopja ta' din il-pubblikazzjoni lil numru sabiħ ta' membri parlamentari ġodda waqt laqgħa li saret apposta għalihom biex jiġi spjegat kif taħdem il-Kamra.

In other words, the highest institution should be able to decide, and be responsible alone for, what is expected from a parliamentary democracy.

There is no denying that we have come a long way. I will keep working on what those before me have worked for to continuously elevate, as appropriate, this institution – Parliament.

After the publication of the rulings given by the Chair between 1921 and 1924 by Professor Ray Mangion, in the coming months we will see the publication of other rulings given the Presidents of the House since 1924. I will endeavour to see that all these rulings are published as soon as possible.

After the introduction of audio live streaming of the House and the Committee sessions, and after the launch of the video live streaming of the Committee meetings in the last months of the previous legislation, we will now be improving substantially the quality of the broadcasting of the Committee meetings through this important medium. Moreover, preparations are also in place so that, if necessary, the debates during the plenary sessions of the Parliament are also transmitted from the new Parliament building. This is another step by which Parliament can be more accessible to the people.

As soon as I assumed this post I expressed my wish for Parliament to have its own magazine. I am pleased to announce that this wish has materialised in the form of a periodical which will be published every four months. We also plan to make this magazine available online on the Maltese Parliament website in both official languages, in order to increase awareness and appreciation for the work carried out in Parliament among the Maltese people, the members of parliament themselves and foreign parliamentary institutions.

We have also published the Standing Orders of the House as amended from 1995 until the present day. It was a great honour for me to hand out a copy of this publication to a considerable number of new members of parliament during a meeting which was purposely held for them to understand how the House functions.

Fuq talba tal-istess membri, ippublikajna wkoll ktejjeb ta' informazzjoni utli dwar il-Parlament Malti u dwar il-membri kollha fi ħdanu.

Kif qiegħed nitkellem dwar il-membri ġodda rrid nossottolinea l-fatt li għall-ewwel darba fl-istorja tal-Parlament, għandna għaxar membri nisa. Dan jawgura tajjeb għall-evoluzzjoni politika ta' pajjiżna.

Dawn l-inizjattivi huma kollha mmirati biex dan il-Parlament ikun f'qagħda li jaħdem aħjar, imma aktar importanti minn hekk, biex ikun jista' jersaq viċin il-poplu. Fil-ġimgħat u x-xhur li ġejjin, wara l-konsultazzjonijiet meħtieġa, se nkun qed invara inizjattivi oħra sabiex insaħħu l-komunikazzjoni u l-interazzjoni bejn il-Parlament u l-poplu in ġenerali. Kif għedt fl-ewwel diskors tiegħi fis-6 ta' April, wara li ħadt il-ġurament bħala *Speaker* tal-Parlament, irrid li din l-istituzzjoni tkun aktar qrib il-poplu u għalhekk nittama li bis-saħħa ta' din is-sensiela ta' inizjattivi, il-Parlament imur għand il-poplu u l-poplu jkollu l-libertà kollha li jersaq lejn il-Parlament mingħajr xkiel.

Pass pożittiv ieħor lejn Parlament aktar qrib iċ-ċittadin huwa dak diġà indikat mill-Gvern preżenti fil-programm elettorali tiegħu, li "il-MEUSAC bħala entità ... taqa' taħt il-Parlament, b'mod ukoll li jkun hemm aktar riżorsi kemm biex il-Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti tgħarbel id-direttivi u r-regolamenti Ewropej, kif ukoll biex il-*feedback* tas-soċjetà ċivili jiġi inkorpat aħjar fil-pożizzjonijiet tal-Gvern Malti." Dan huwa pass konkret fid-direzzjoni tal-awtonomija parlamentari.

Fuq l-istess livell għandu jiġi esplorat ukoll kif għandu jikber id-djalogo bejn l-MCESD u l-Parlament.

Kif semmejt fil-laqgħa li kelli mal-parlamentari eletti għall-ewwel darba, jiena nemmen li kull meta mmexxi delegazzjoni barra minn xtutna possibilmint ikollu miegħi membri ġodda minn kull naħa tal-Kamra biex dawn ukoll jieħdu esperjenza internazzjonali fuq suġġetti ta' interess għal pajjiżna. Hekk se nagħmel aktar tard dan ix-xahar meta se jkollu miegħi delegazzjoni speċjalizzata fuq suġġetti li jikkonċernaw pajjiżi żgħar u problemi ambjentali u ekonomiċi. Nemmen li dan għandu jkompli biex kulhadd ikollu opportunità li jwessa' l-esperjenza tiegħu fl-interess tad-demokrazija parlamentari haġja.

By request of the same members, we have also published a useful information booklet about the Maltese Parliament and about all the members involved within.

As I am speaking about the new members I want to emphasise the fact that for the first time in the history of Parliament, we have ten female members. This augurs well for the political evolution of our country.

All these initiatives are aimed so that this Parliament is in a position to work better but, more importantly, to get closer to the people. In the coming weeks and months, after the necessary consultations, I will be launching other initiatives in order to strengthen the communication and interaction between Parliament and the people in general. As I said in my first speech on the 6th of April, after I took the oath as Speaker of the House, I would like this institution to be closer to the people and therefore I hope that by virtue of this series of initiatives, Parliament will approach the people and the people will be free to approach Parliament without any difficulty.

Another positive step towards a Parliament that is closer to the citizen is that already indicated by the present Government in its electoral programme, that "as an entity, MEUSAC... falls under Parliament, so that more resources will be available for the House of Representatives to screen EU directives and regulations, and to integrate better feedback from civil society in decisions of the Maltese Government." This is a solid step in the direction towards parliamentary autonomy.

On the same level we should explore ways of increasing dialogue between the MCESD and Parliament.

As I mentioned in the meeting which I had with the members elected to Parliament for the first time, I believe that every time I lead a delegation abroad I should possibly be accompanied by new members from each side of the House so that they can gain international experience on issues of national interest. This is exactly what I will be doing later on this month when I will be leading a delegation specialising in issues that concern small countries and environmental and economic difficulties. I think that this should continue so that everyone has the opportunity to increase their experience in the interest of a parliamentary democracy that is truly alive.

Bid-dhul fis-seħħ tat-Trattat ta' Liżbona lejn l-aħħar tal-2009, il-parlamenti nazzjonali ngħataw rwoli u setgħat aktar b'saħħithom minn dawk li kellhom fi Trattati preċedenti. It-tiżni tar-rwol tal-parlamenti nazzjonali, flimkien mal-Parlament Ewropew, joħroġ ukoll mit-Trattat dwar Stabbiltà, Koordinazzjoni u Governanza li daħal fis-seħħ proprju fl-ewwel ta' Jannar ta' din is-sena.

Artiklu 13 ta' dan it-Trattat jipprovdi għat-twaqqif ta' konferenza interparlamentari ġdida bil-għan li tiddiskuti l-linji ta' politika baġitarja u kwistjonijiet oħra koperti b'dan it-Trattat. Bi pjaċir ngħid li waqt il-Konferenza tal-*Speakers* Ewropej li nżammet f'Ċipru f'April li għadda, li kienet l-ewwel impenn uffiċjali tiegħi barra minn Malta u fejn kont wieħed mill-erba' *keynote speakers*, iddiskutejna u qbilna dwar it-twaqqif ta' din il-Konferenza ġdida li għandha titlaqqa' għall-ewwel darba fil-Presidenza Litwana, fit-tieni nofs ta' din is-sena. Kien proprju fl-istess ġurnata li l-Parlament Malti, b'mod unanimu, waqqaf il-Kumitat Permanenti dwar l-Affarijiet Ekonomiċi u Finanzjarji, li fost ix-xogħol tiegħu se jkollu l-applikazzjoni ta' dan l-istess Trattat u allura se jkun strumentali fil-kontribuzzjoni tal-Parlament Malti f'din il-Konferenza.

M'hemmx dubju li wasal iż-żmien li s-sistema parlamentari tagħna jkollha kumitat dwar l-etika jew xi struttura oħra li tistabbilixxi *standards* li jridu jiġu segwiti mill-membri parlamentari. Hawnhekk japplika wkoll dak li għedt fid-diskors tiegħi tas-6 ta' April 2013, meta tkellimt dwar ir-rwol tal-Parlament li jiskrutinja l-eżekuttiv, u nikkwota:

"Il-poplu dan jarah bħala dritt, imma dritt li huwa kumplimentat, u għandu jkun kumplimentat, bir-rimedji li wieħed jistenna minn din l-ogħla istituzzjoni ta' dan il-pajjiż."

Għalhekk irridu nesploraw xi jkun l-aħjar mudell biex jintlaħaq bilanċ dwar kif wieħed għandu jara li jikkomporta ruħu bħala parlamentari korrett fil-konfront ta' kull cittadin li jwassal kemm għal obbligi kif ukoll għal rimedji meħtieġa.

With the coming into force of the Treaty of Lisbon towards the end of 2009, the national parliaments were given stronger roles and powers than those under the previous Treaties. The strengthening of the roles of national parliaments, together with the European Parliament, is again evident in the Treaty regarding Stability, Coordination and Governance which has come into force precisely on the 1st of January of this year.

Article 13 of this Treaty provides for the establishment of a new inter-parliamentary conference aimed at discussing the budgetary policy lines and other issues under this Treaty. I am pleased to say that during the European Speakers Conference held in Cyprus last April, which was my first official commitment abroad and in which I was one of the four keynote speakers, we discussed and agreed upon the establishment of this new Conference which should be meeting for the first time during the Lithuanian Presidency, in the second semester of this year. It was precisely on the same day that the Maltese Parliament unanimously established the Standing Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, which among its tasks will have the application of this same Treaty and therefore will be instrumental in the contribution of the Maltese Parliament to this Conference.

Needless to say the time has come for our parliamentary system to have an ethics committee or some other structure which establishes standards to be followed by the members of parliament. What I said in my speech of 6th April 2013, when I spoke about the role of Parliament in scrutinising the executive, applies here, and I quote:

"The people consider this a right, but a right that is complemented, and should be complemented, with the remedies that one expects from the country's highest institution."

Thus we need to explore and discover the best model for achieving a balance concerning the correct behaviour of a member of parliament with regard to every citizen, consisting in the obligations and the remedies required.

7 TA' ĠUNJU 1919

B'dan il-mod inkunu qed nibagħtu sinjal ċar li l-ħajja politika parlamentari hija 'l fuq minn kull kritika inġusta u b'hekk inħajru aktar nies jagħtu sehemhom għat-tishiħ tad-demokrazija ta' pajjiżna.

Il-Parlament għandu jara li jkun hemm osservanza sħiħa tar-rimedji mogħtija mit-tribunali u l-qrati Maltin liċ-ċittadini li jkunu sofrew xi inġustizzja f'każ ta' xi nuqqas mill-Eżekuttiv. Dan huwa meħtieġ biex il-kredibbiltà tal-ogħla istituzzjoni tal-pajjiż tkompli tissaħħaħ u tkun dejjem 'il fuq minn kull ombra.

F'dan il-kuntest huwa relevanti dak li qal riċentement fil-Parlament, il-Kap tal-Oppożizzjoni l-Onor. Simon Busuttil meta tkellem dwar it-twaqqif ta' kumitat dwar il-petizzjonijiet. B'din il-proposta l-Parlament ikun qiegħed jistabbilixxi proċeduri aktar wiesgħa biex talbiet imressqa mill-pubbliku mhux biss jiġu mismugħa imma wkoll trattati fl-ogħla istituzzjoni ta' pajjiżna.

Dan qed ngħidu għax nemmen li din l-istituzzjoni ma tista' tistrieħ qatt. Irridu nibqgħu naħsbu kif dejjem ħasbu ta' qabilna, li l-Parlament ta' Malta jkun verament riflessjoni tal-kuxjenza popolari ta' pajjiżna u l-aqwa espressjoni tad-demokrazija. Hemm ħafna x'nagħmlu imma nistgħu naslu ladarba l-koll nemmnu fil-kapaċitajiet tagħna bħala poplu li jhaddan prinċipji ta' solidarjetà u bħala pajjiż membru tal-Unjoni Ewropea.

F'dan il-jum nazzjonali għażiż għall-poplu Malti u Għawdxi, bħala President tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, minn qalbi nsellem lil dawk kollha li matul iż-żmenijiet ġo fihom ħassew passjoni għall-politika u emmnu li jistgħu jagħtu kontribut għall-ġid ta' pajjiżna.

Bis-saħħa ta' nies bħal dawn il-poplu dejjem wera li fil-mument ta' prova kien kapaċi jagħraf jiddeciedi x'inhu l-aħjar għalih. Dan l-impenn politiku sinċier għandu jagħmlilna kuraġġ.

Il-memorja tal-martri tas-Sette Giugno hija riflessjoni ta' dak li qed nagħmlu illum u li għad irridu nagħmlu biex dejjem insaħħu lil Malta tagħna, din l-omm li tatna isimha u li aħna l-koll uliedha.

In this manner we would be sending a clear signal that parliamentary political life rises above any unfair criticism, and thus we encourage more people to contribute towards strengthening democracy in our country.

Parliament should ensure that the remedies given by the Maltese tribunals and courts to citizens who have suffered some form of injustice due to any wrongdoing by the Executive, are respected. This is necessary so that the credibility of the country's highest institution is further enhanced and rises above any wrongdoing.

In this context, what the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Simon Busuttil said recently in Parliament when he spoke about the establishment of a Petitions Committee, is relevant. With this proposal the Parliament would be establishing broader procedures so that public requests are not only heard but also treated within the highest institution of our country.

I am saying this because I believe that this institution can never rest on its laurels. We have to keep thinking in the same way as our predecessors, that the Maltese Parliament has to be a true reflection of the people's will and a beacon of democracy. There is a lot of work to be done but we can manage as long as we all believe in our capabilities as a people who embrace the principles of solidarity and as a member state of the European Union.

On this national day cherished by the Maltese and Gozitan people, as President of the House of Representative, I sincerely pay tribute to all those who along the years felt a deep passion for politics and believed in contributing to the wellbeing of our country. Thanks to individuals like these, our nation has proven itself capable time and time again of deciding the best way forward in crucial moments. This sincere political commitment should fill us with courage.

The memory of the martyrs of Sette Giugno is a reflection of our present and future efforts to further strengthen our Malta, this mother who gave us her name and whose children we all are.

