

# NATIONALIST PARTY ELECTORAL MANIFESTO 1975

## "LET'S BUILD ANEW"

### **1. Fundamental Principles**

We believe in a dynamic democracy which gives to each Maltese citizen a share in the government of our country. For us, democracy is not reducible to the use of a mere vote at election times to instal parliamentary candidates every five years, but demands rather a sense of respect towards just and worthwhile opinion. The Maltese people should band together and form a forward-looking society not under a domineering Government but in an association which entrusts the State to defend liberty, to ensure peace, to provide prosperity and to share this out justly.

Both private capitalism and state capitalism have left a bitter taste when these were unbridled and without control. We want to build up a society - and we believe that in our country this can be done - where social justice can be achieved without the loss of liberty; where we can generate economic development without losing sight of the value of human personality and the value of work; where we can have order without losing sight of the importance of renewal and change.

### **Plan**

In order to effect these principles a Nationalist Government will work on a two-stage plan.

This plan will have as its primary aim the nation's democratic development based on liberty and social justice in the light of Maltese, Christian and European traditions:

- so that society would be strengthened by the availability of equal opportunity for all;
  - where all those who contribute in the economic sphere participate in the work, planning and direction as well as in the profits and benefits which would accrue;
  - where opportunities would be generated for work, for education as well as for facilities towards cultural values;
  - to do all it can to bring about peace and justice in the world, most especially in the Mediterranean where different civilizations meet and mingle.
- i. The first stage will be a period during which the destructions of the Socialist Government will need to be sealed over and urgent measures will be taken to introduce an open system of government for the people; during which we will lessen considerably the unemployment problems and the numbers of people looking for permanent work; during which we will heal injustice and lay down the foundations for the period following this.
  - ii. In the second stage we will embark on a period of reconstructions which will lead to the renewal of the whole society so that there will exist no undue disparate differences between citizens and everybody will have a share in the nation's progress.

## **2. The present situation**

The Malta Labour Government achieved power on a cry that Malta was economically and morally sick.

After experiencing five years under a Government which was returned to power on this platform, our country's economic and moral situation could not be worse than it is today. The economic situation reflects itself first and foremost in the sphere of employment. Never has there been in Malta so large a number of people looking for permanent work as there is today. As at the end of March 1975, more than 13,000 persons were without permanent work. Proof of the Socialist Government bankruptcy in this sphere is available in the Seven Year Development Plan which shows that the Government failed to achieve its own target by 10,000 jobs.

Never has it happened in our country that a Government denied the worker his most fundamental and cherished rights. The socialist government went so far as to deny thousands of workers the right to strike and the right to join a Trade Union; the same Government dismissed the worker's right not to have his salary decreased, his right to protection from losing his bread and butter without just cause and his right to a full pension on reaching retirement age.

The Labour Party deceived the Maltese people when it spent so much time promising the Maltese housewife that she would be able to keep up with the cost of living. In fact, the cost of living never rose by the amount it did over the past five years - in certain cases as a direct result of the Government's politics.

During its nine years in office a Nationalist Government left behind it a foreign debt of £M8 million. According to this year's estimates the Socialist Government borrowed £M8.9 million during the financial year ending March 1976 and according to the General Estimates the Socialist Government is going to incur a further debt of at least another £M5.7 million - in all £M14.5 million in the space of two years. This foreign debt is an enormous burden on the country's economy and moreover has to be paid back in foreign currency.

The clumsy and ambiguous manner in which the banks were snatched and taken over by the Government; its obsession to control and to find out everything about everybody; its needless interference in the commercial sector; the manner in which certain factories and industries were taken over: all this led appreciably to a loss of faith in our country.

The deception involved in the accusation of corruption was laid bare when the Nationalist Government's honesty was vindicated and triumphed. During the past five years we witnessed an abuse of power: the police were not allowed to carry out their duty; violence was not controlled; abuses in the allocation of houses and requisitions; politically motivated 'transfers'; jobs and political appointments in every sphere and the quasi-monopoly of broadcasting. All this contributed to a situation where many Maltese lost their moral fibre. We witnessed an increase in delinquency, particularly in the number of thefts and the use of fire-arms. We saw a Civil Service become demoralised to the great detriment of its efficiency. We were spectators to the destruction of the educational system.

This appalling economic and moral situation of our country presents a Nationalist Government with a grave problem which demands a plan for NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

It is the Nationalist Party's destiny to be called upon to govern in the country's hour of need.

The Nationalist Party is prepared and able to take on the challenge with which the situation confronts it.

## **3. Political Development**

### 3.1 Democratic Institutions

The Nationalist Party is of the opinion that the achievement of its aim requires a serious political development which would really strengthen those institutions on which democracy, liberty and the rule of law are based. It is the duty of the State to protect the private rights of his citizen as well as his corporate ones and to ensure the proper observance of the law. Everybody's participation in the context of our constitutional system is an essential contribution towards the dynamic development of democracy. In a democratic system the rights of the individual and those of society need to be harmonised.

3.2 In the light of the past five years' experience, measures will be taken to ensure that fundamental rights stemming from the Constitution of Malta will be protected from any abuse of power.

3.2.1 In order to strengthen further the concept that the fundamental human rights of the Maltese individual can be safeguarded not only through our country's Courts but also beyond them, a Nationalist Government will accede to the right of individual petition and compulsory jurisdiction through the Courts of Human Rights of the Council of Europe.

### 3.3 Parliament

During the past five years the importance of Malta's Parliament has been decreased and it encountered serious difficulty in exercising proper control on public expenditure. A Nationalist Government believes that Parliament should have a great deal more importance in the country and that at the same time the deputies elected there ought to have more say in its activities.

3.3.1 A Nationalist Government will, as one of its practical measures, bring about a system of parliamentary committees.

### 3.4 The Courts

The Nationalist Party affirms its faith in the independence and integrity of our country's courts. The fundamental concept of liberty and the sense of justice required by each citizen lose all significance if the Courts, especially, when adjudicating cases which may have a political flavour about them, feel the interfering hand of Government. The independence of the judiciary at every level will be guaranteed by a Nationalist Government.

3.4.1 A Nationalist Government will consolidate and publish Malta's laws in a co-ordinated manner and will draw up laws for the people which are relevant to the progress attained in the world today. Among these a code of social laws will be looked into by a Nationalist Government.

3.4.2 A Nationalist Government believes that serious, in-depth reforms are needed to render the Courts' ever more effective and efficient in their administration of justice by speeding up the machinery involved in the interest of the rights of those appearing before them. In consultation with the Judges, Magistrates and all those who may be interested, a Nationalist Government will take the necessary measures to strengthen the confidence of the citizen in the speedy administration of justice.

3.4.3 In order to ensure that the laws of the land reflect the needs of a society which is always changing, a Nationalist Government will nominate a Commission with a view to revising those laws in a just manner and in the light of the development which has taken place in modern concepts - in accordance with the needs of the Maltese people.

### 3.5 Order in the Country

Even as delinquency in the country increased, the problem of violence became acute. Violence cannot be eradicated merely by passing sentences but also through greater appreciation of the higher values in life by the Maltese people.

3.5.1 A Nationalist Government wants to eliminate any thinking which does not look upon the police as being in the service of the nation as a whole, and which regards it instead as the servant of the party in power. It will also take the necessary steps to wage an efficient war against delinquency, to subdue violence in each and everyone of its forms, and to ensure that justice is done and seen to be done in all cases.

### 3.6 A Government open to the People

A country's administration requires the confidence of the people for its work to bear the best fruit. It is necessary that the people come round to the conviction that measures taken by the Government are not instigated by pique, discrimination, a sense of revengefulness or abuse.

3.6.1 A Nationalist Government will pass a law which will require a more open system of administration whose files and documents will be classified in such a manner that only those which it is absolutely imperative to classify as 'Secret' remain privileged documents.

3.6.2 A Nationalist Government will strengthen the Auditing Board's position in a way which will allow it greater control over the expenditure of the people's money, an expenditure which is increasing annually.

### 3.7 Political Parties

The Nationalist Party believes in a pluralist system of democracy on the best basis on which to build up the political will of the people. The political parties in Malta have an important part to play in the political development of the Maltese people which should always be directed towards greater political maturity.

### 3.8 Intermediary Groups

The Nationalist Party believes that for an individual to develop and improve his relations with his companions in society, he must not lose his identity and end up minus protection against the image of an omnipotent State. The Nationalist Party believes, therefore that certain groups and associations have to be re-evaluated in Malta in order to decrease the polarisation between the State and the individual.

### 3.9 The Communication Media

The Nationalist Party believes that broadcasting has the right and the duty to educate the public and to help it make objective judgements on what is taking place in the country and in the world.

3.9.1 On various occasions the Constitutional Court found the Malta Broadcasting Authority guilty of partiality. A Nationalist Government will take the necessary steps to ensure that the Broadcasting Authority will really be capable of exercising the impartiality required of it by the Constitution.

3.9.2 A Nationalist Government will investigate the abuses which have occurred in the broadcasting field under a Socialist Government and take the necessary steps.

### 3.10 National Day and Coat of Arms -

A Nationalist Government will once more re-instate September 21st as Malta's National Day. December 13th will be a public holiday.

The Coat of Arms which the Nationalist Government gave to Malta on Independence Day will be re-established.

## **4. Economic Development**

### 4.1 Development Plan

The Nationalist Party will immediately on taking over Government, follow a new Development Plan. This will be necessary because the Socialist Plan 1973/1980 is bankrupt.

The New Development Plan will take into account:

- a. The creation of decent and permanent jobs for all those Maltese and Gozitan who wish to work;
- b. The setting up of a truly 'mixed economy' where private enterprise will play its part in the country's development;
- c. the wealth generated in the country will be shared out in a just manner among the people, particularly among those most in need;
- d. the requirement to co-ordinate the various sectors making up the Maltese economy;
- e. the setting up of a Nationalist Planning Economic Council.

4.2 Our country will require the creation of 37,000 jobs. We need to find permanent work for school-leavers, the members of the Labour Corps and summer workers, those registering for work, workers employed by the Services and for those who were meaning to emigrate but now cannot. The Development Plan aims at solving this problem. Work is the first and most important right of the worker.

4.2.1 Among projects which will help this Plan materialise, a Nationalist Government will put its efforts into the following:

- i. The creation of a Banking and Financial Centre: For the purpose of this project laws will be passed and the University and MCAST will be organised to train Maltese in financial and banking services.
- ii. Registration of Companies: Everything will be done so that Government will facilitate the registration of foreign companies in Malta. This will create a number of jobs at the clerical, management and accountancy level.
- iii. Trans-shipment Centre: A Trans-shipment Centre will be developed so that Malta may serve as a distribution centre and as a holding centre and a mercantile service for goods exported by faraway countries to the European and African markets. This will create more work for the port-worker and in other business sectors.
- iv. Specialised Medical Centre: Encouragement will be given for the setting up of a Specialised Medical Centre for foreign patients. This will include a Convalescing Centre.
- v. Residents: New conditions to attract 10,000 foreign residents to our shores will be drawn up. Among other things this will help to bring back to life and strengthen the building industry; to increase the inflow of foreign money into the country; to create new jobs and increase Government revenue.
- vi. Workers' Co-operatives: A Nationalist Government will encourage and help the setting up of Workers' co-operatives by loaning or granting capital and machinery and will offer them technical help and know-how.
- vii. The self-employed: The country can afford to have more self-employed persons. A Nationalist

Government will work a scheme through which those wishing to set up on their own will receive the Government's encouragement. This will be especially so in the case of those attracted to the crafts sector.

viii. Farmers and Fisherman: In order to attract young people who wish to work in the farming and fishing industry to continue in permanent employment in these industries, a scheme will be drawn up whereby these will receive financial help from Government and technical advice as the manual element of their work becomes more mechanised.

ix. Industries: The incentive scheme will be revised to attract industries and in a way in which those enterprises offering the best conditions for the workers receive the best incentives.

x. Tourism: Tourism can provide more jobs than are being offered today. A Nationalist Government will ensure that this will happen.

xi. International Centres: A nationalist Government will attract and facilitate the setting up in Malta of centres of International Organisation.

#### 4.3 Labour Corps

The first Labour Corps was drummed up as an emergency measure for a short period of time. Instead of this happening, the Socialist Government, thanks to its bankruptcy in the economic development of the country had to create five Labour Corps one after the other. A Nationalist Government guarantees that none of the workers in these Corps will lose their jobs. Instead it will create jobs with better conditions and until this work is created, a Nationalist Government will remove the discrimination existing between members of one Corps and another.

#### 4.4 Income Tax Reform

The country's fiscal system ought to play an important role in the country's development. It needs to be dynamic, for it to serve our present and future needs, the system requires a thorough reform. A Nationalist Government's reform would aim at bringing about conditions where:

- i. whoever can afford it pays in proportion to what he can afford;
- ii. the method of tax collection would be just, discouraging evasion and seeing to it that the burden of payment will not be felt;
- iii. that the collection of taxes is quick;
- iv. that the system will encourage the Maltese to save;
- v. that it will lessen social disequilibrium.

A major part of the country's fiscal reform will have to do with Income Tax. The Nationalist Party is of the opinion that although Income Tax can be just in theory, in practice it hampers the country's economic development and is paid mainly by salaried individuals. In fact, out of £M7 million revenue in Income Tax for the year 1974/5, £M4.5 million were paid in by workers on a fixed salary. This law brought with it too much taxation, injustice and inquisition. For this reason the Nationalist Party maintains that the law on Income Tax will be removed in the forthcoming legislature. The revenue loss will be substituted by other forms of income which will bring about the great development which the Nationalist Government has planned for the country's economy. Until this aim is reached, the following measures will be taken immediately:

- i. the tax ceiling for a married couple will be raised to £M1,200 and to £M750 for a single person;
- ii. income accruing to farmers and fishermen from their work will not be taxed at all;
- iii. the value of one's residence will not be taxable;
- iv. religious, philanthropic and cultural institutions, band clubs and sport clubs will be exempt from Income Tax;
- v. the declaration of Capital Assets will be removed.

Succession Duty. A Nationalist Government will amend the law on succession duty to remove injustices - among them that which makes pensions payable at death taxable.

#### 4.5 Para-statal Participation and Banks

The Nationalist Party believes that normally it is not a government's principal function to run commercial enterprises. This leads to the worse form of capitalism - State Capitalism. A Nationalist Government believes that for us to realise development in the banking, economic and industrial sectors, the banking system will have to be reestablished through the strengthening of the function of the Central Bank. Control of the Commercial Banks takes place through the Central Bank according to Law.

For the optimum industrial development of Malta and Gozo, a Nationalist Government will take steps to set up an Investment Bank in which the state, citizens, local and foreign banks will participate.

#### 4.6 Industry

The Socialist Government's efforts to attract industry and investment bore no fruit except in the form of Labour Corps and unemployment. A Nationalist Government will work out a new Incentive Scheme aimed at the investor and the industrialist in order to attract the immediate setting-up of industries which will give employment to the Maltese.

The Nationalist Party wants to attract investment to Malta, preferably with investment from the Maltese private sector so that work opportunities will be created among our workers. Our country needs investment which provides management, technology and markets, the lack of which we feel so keenly.

##### 4.6.1 Tourism

It was the Nationalist Party in government which built up this large industry, and the Party promises to do all it can to put it back on firm foundations, and to improve it with the best type of tourist who will spend the most money in the country. A Nationalist Government will encourage and help to bring about improvements and an increase in tourist amenities in restaurants, night-clubs, swimming-pools, open air theatres, beach-development and other needs which will be enjoyed both the Maltese and tourist alike. A spurt will be given to zones of touristic potential which have so far not been developed - like the south of Malta and the Island of Gozo.

A Nationalist Government will encourage the building of residential and recreational centres for the people of Malta in areas of our Island which have so far not enjoyed these benefits.

The Tourist Board will be reorganised and strengthened so that it can keep up with its new commitments and the urgent needs of these industry so important to the country's revenue of foreign monies. A Nationalist Government will ensure that the service offered to the tourist continues to improve so that mere and better

tourists will be encouraged to our shores.

#### 4.7 Farming and Fishing

The Party will work at instilling in the farmers, fishermen and herdsman a sense of confidence which they lost under a Socialist Government. The Party wants to work with them in a spirit of healthy co-operation in the development of their status so that they have better homes, a better education for their children, a lightening in the burden of their hard work and just and stable prices for their produce.

A Nationalist Government will be a friend to the farmer, the herdsman and the fishermen, not a competitor in their work and in the sale of their farm produce, their animals and their sea-catches.

A Nationalist Government will encourage the farmer, the herdsman, the fisherman and their co-operatives to buy what they need and sell the resulting produce of their toil themselves. Until this stage is reached a Nationalist Government will give its service and necessary support.

The transport of vegetables, fruit and fish will be in containers provided by Government under a new 'deposit-return' system. The bad situation at the market will be remedied and facilities given for cold storage. A Nationalist Government will help the farmer to buy land and cultivate it.

##### 4.7.1 Better Houses

A Nationalist Government will:

- i. Help the farmer, through low interest loans, acquire his farmhouse and his farmland, and the fisherman to buy large and modern fishing vessels;
- ii. Encourage the building of houses for farmers and their children on their land as well as hoises and storage areas for the fisherman;
- iii. Give aid for repairs and amelioration in the hygienic conditions of old houses and farmhouses. Farmhouses and farmland will have supplies of water and electricity extended to them.

##### 4.7.2 A better Education

A Nationalist Government:

- i. Will train the children of farmers and fishermen and help them, through modern techniques, in the use of machinery for cultivating the land, husbandry and fishing.
- ii. Will give the necessary help so that the same children will continue advanced studies for higher qualifications in the sphere of agriculture, fisheries and related industries in schools set up for for this purpose.

##### 4.7.3 Better conditions of work:

A Nationalist Government will:

- i. Until the law on Income Tax is repealed, exempt from this tax profits accruing from farm-work, fishing and animal rearing;
- ii. Help in the purchase of modern tools for farming and fishing;

- iii. Set up a special project to increase water-storage, both for farmland belonging to the individual and for government's watering requirements;
- iv. supply water of a secondary nature from cisterns and public wells for the use by farmers;
- v. Use government machinery and the collection of refuse for the production of manure to be used by farmers;
- vi. Promise prompt payment for those animals, sick with TB and put away on the order of the government's veterinarian.

#### 4.7.4 Good Stable Prices

The Party in government will see to it that the farmers and fisherman enjoy a more equitable share of the price which the housewife pays for their produce.

The prices from the sale of their produce will be paid out without procrastination.

The export of agricultural products and fish will be carried out by the government with a direct participation of farmers and fishermen.

Serious consideration will be given to the opening of more markets for the produce of those farmers whose place of work is far away from the present market site.

The extension of industries for preserving fruit and fish will be encouraged and other new ones set up to avoid waste during periods when there is a surplus of that produce on the market.

#### 4.7.5 Horticulture

A Nationalist Government will maintain the impetus it had initiated when it launched the cultivation of hot-house vegetables and flowers. It will facilitate their export and help to open new markets for them. This is an area in which our country ought to register success.

#### 4.7.5 Co-operatives

The Party believes that the farmer, the fishermen as well as the herdsmen should integrate their efforts to lessen their burdens and the exploitation of their work by others, so that they pay less for the purchase of their needs and gain better prices for that which they produce. For that reason special provisions will be made to encourage the farmers, the fishermen and the herdsmen to associate themselves in co-operative groups, helped by the government and not hindered by it. The co-operatives will be immediately exempted from the payment of Income Tax and given the service of auditors free of charge.

#### 4.8 Energy

The Nationalist Party has examined the situation on the provision and prices of oil and petrol so that the people came to know what the true price of the product was and how much it was paying in tax. It was the Nationalist Government which began the process of digging for oil in our country. This process will be continued with urgency, through a spirit of friendship and regional solidarity; a Nationalist Government will overcome the difficulties surrounding the Median Line with our neighbouring countries for the best exploitations of these resources.

#### 4.9 Environment

Our country's natural and historic environment will be looked after in the most effective fashion. Towards this aim an efficient system will be set up to ensure that the Development Plan does not intrude on the protection of the environment. We will make sure that industries employ precautions in accordance with international standards so that they do not bring about pollution in the air or at sea. Use will be made of modern methods so that rapid action will be taken to control any sea-pollution which may occur accidentally and which could result any form of danger to health, tourism or the fishing industry. As it did in its Bill on Pure Air, a Nationalist Government will revise legislation dealing with the protection of the environment along international lines in the light of the country's needs. There will be an increase in collaboration with the United Nations and other international groups so that Malta will contribute its share in this important sphere, more than ever in the Mediterranean and Europe.

#### 4.10 Dockyard

Nationalist Government has always looked upon the Dockyard as one of the most important industries of the country. A nationalist Government will revise the law on the running of the Dockyard to ensure that all the workers will have a share in its running. At the same time, managements, promotions and the choice of personnel will need to be protected from the sort of political interference which exists today. A proper pension will be given to those workers at the age of sixty having two-thirds of that workers' pay as its aim. And a Nationalist Government will make sure that this will not be dependent on reasons and figures which will not be correct or justified. The workers will be kept regularly informed of the financial and commercial state of the Dockyard. It is also right that the Dockyard worker will have a period of annual leave in the same way as those employed by Government.

#### 4.11 Public Transport

A Nationalist Government realises that the reform which took place in public transport brought in its wake a crisis in the economy of this service, and suffering to the worker and to the owners in this sector, without bringing about any improvement in the way the public was served.

4.11.1 A Nationalist Government understands that a reform in the transport system ought to bring about a better service for the public; ought to respect the rights of bus-owners; ought to protect the interests of the worker in this sector and should cope with the madam requirements of communications throughout the entire country. For all this to be achieved, a Public Transport Authority will be set up on which will sit government representatives, representatives from bus-owners, worker representatives and representatives of the public, in order that the efficiency of the service will be safe-guarded as will also the rights of all those involved in it.

4.11.2 A Nationalist Government is prepared to bring about a system of more than one group. Every change will be carried out with the agreement of the interested parties.

4.11.3 A Nationalist Government will protect the right of a person who owns a char-a-banc to be able to transfer it to somebody else.

#### 4.12 Infrastructure

When the Nationalist Party was in government, it transformed the Maltese economy from one based on the concept of 'Fortress Malta' to one based on the concept 'Malta - an industrial and tourist centre'. Towards this end much of the Nationalist Government's work, between 1962 to 1971, was channeled into the creation of infrastructure to take this change.

A Nationalist Government will continue to extend and improve services in electricity, water, drainage and communications to keep these essential services up to date with the economic and social development in

Malta.

#### 4.13 International Aeradio Limited

The Nationalist Party promises the employees of what used to be known as International Aeradio Limited, and who today work under the Director of Civil Aviation, the security of their employment.

A right and just reorganisation will take place with all the employees, and all the workers will in time be pensionable.

#### 4.14 Lotto Receivers

The Nationalist Party promises Lotto Receivers that they will once more be considered as employees in terms of the Law on National Assurance.

Lotto Receivers who fell under the section of dependance will be given the right to enter the section of independence in time.

The Nationalist Party will give back once more the right to the widows of Lotto Receivers to run the offices for a period of eighteen months from the death of their husbands.

A method of gratuity will be found which will be given to Lotto Receivers when these reach pensionable age.

#### 4.15 Repatriation

According to figures published by Government, the Maltese and Gozitans have approximately 200 million pounds invested in England. In fact this figure could be far larger. Because our country used to form part of the Sterling Area, the Maltese people had to invest this money in Sterling. When the Sterling Guarantee Agreement between the Maltese Government and the English Government ended in September 1951, and the Labour Government did not renew it - the Labour Government began to take measures to diversify the money in the Central Bank. But it did not take notice of the money invested in the United Kingdom by the Maltese, mainly in Defence Bonds and Development Stocks.

From the time that sterling began to lose in value, the 200 million pounds which government maintains is invested in England by the Maltese people, are now valued at 60 million pounds less. This money was saved by the people, in some cases at great sacrifice and in many cases through denying themselves of that which they wished for, and which had been put aside for their old age. There are workers who were not in pensionable employment and who saved part of their pay in order to have an income later on.

The Nationalist Party understands that this situation is creating difficulties for thousands of Maltese and Gozitans, who see their income from interests decreasing from one day to another, at the same time as the cost of living increases for them as well. It is very important that the people understand that this situation is also injurious to the National Economy because the people's money, which forms part of the National Wealth, is slowly being eroded.

The Nationalist Party appreciates these sufferings and the repercussions on the national economy, and that is why it will introduce and work out without any loss of time a scheme of capital repatriation from the United Kingdom, which will give back a Maltese pound for every English pound sterling repatriated. In this scheme a Nationalist Government takes these points into account:

i. All money invested in the United Kingdom can be brought back. Those who invested their money in the

United Kingdom at a favourable exchange rate will receive their money at the rate current at the date of deposit.

- ii. The repatriated money will be placed in a Fund purposely set up through a bank or banks indicated by the government and will be administered by the Central Bank or another institution guaranteed by government.
- iii. The repatriated money may be drawn after a period fixed by government but the relative certificates will be freely transferable.
- iv. Interest payable on this money and other conditions attached to this scheme will be attractive.

#### 4.15.1 The Scheme and Pensioners

Because of the great disparity in the rate of exchange between the Malta Pound and the Pound Sterling, large numbers of people in Malta and Gozo in receipt of a pension from the United Kingdom, are suffering hardship through no fault of their own. The Nationalist Party in Office will operate two rates of exchange. A rate fixed by the Central Bank for all transactions which will take into account fluctuations in the Malta Pound in relation to other currency, and a special rate of exchange for all Maltese and Gozitans who receive a pension from the United Kingdom. This rate will be pound for pound. While the Nationalist Party appreciates that this latter rate may cause some loss to the monetary authorities, the Party holds that this loss is justified because social aid will be given to that section of the people which is suffering hardship because of circumstances imposed on them.

### **5. Social Development**

A Nationalist Government guarantees that the standard of living will rise according to the development of the country. This means that the standard of living of those dependant on public aid, such as the sick, the aged, the handicapped and orphans, will rise with that of the rest of the people. Public aid is not a charity, but a right of a citizen living in a society wherein social justice exists.

#### 5.1 Social Security

- a. A Nationalist Government will again lower the pensionable age to 60.
- b. A Nationalist Government will re-introduce sickness benefit to the self-employed.

A Nationalist Government will recognise the need for extensive reform in the law relating to National Insurance in order that both contributions and pensions are related to the earnings of those making contributions. This reform will ensure that benefits will automatically reflect rises in the cost of living. The law must also be revised in order to help those suffering hardship because they had not yet paid all contributions. A scheme offering aid during pregnancy will also be introduced.

#### 5.1.2 Children's Allowance

A Nationalist Government will extend children's allowance to all children in the family.

#### 5.1.3 Pensions

- a. A Nationalist Government will peg pensions of Government employees to current salaries.
- b. No pension will be reduced when one reached the age limit, and this applies with special force to members of the Police Corps.

- c. A Nationalist Government will lower the pensionable age for these who are handicapped from 16 to 14 years.
- d. A Nationalist Government will extend Old Age Pensions to those who are totally handicapped as had been done in the case of the blind.
- e. A Nationalist Government recognises the right of those in private employment to a pension, and in consultation with interested parties will launch a scheme for this purpose.

5.1.4 A Nationalist Government recognises the service being given by various voluntary organizations and their need in the social sphere, and will introduce a programme of help for these same organisations. A Nationalist Government will ensure the training of a number of social workers.

#### 5.1.5 The Problem of Old Age

A Nationalist Government will continue the programme which it had already started of building homes for persons of an advanced age among the houses which will be build for the people. A free telephone service will be given to the aged who live on their own, in order to lessen the isolation in which they live. A Nationalist Government will encourage the construction of homes for the aged in various centres where old people will have their own room, but will also have other services provided at moderate rates. The Hospital of St Vincent do Poole will be re-organized in such a way that one part will be used as a Hospital for the Aged while the other will be a home for old people where family groups will be able to live together.

#### 5.2 Conditions of Work

5.2.1 a. Machinery will be established whereby rises in the cost of living together with other economic factors will be automatically reflected in increases in wages by equal amounts for all.

b. A 'bonus' will be given to workers, to those in receipt of public assistance and to pensioners. This 'bonus' must not serve in lieu of a just increase in wages.

#### 5.2.2 Government Employees

During the past five years, as a result of bad management by the Socialist Government, the Civil Service lost much at its confidence. A Nationalist Government will re-create this confidence by encouraging initiative and a sense of responsibility in every member of the public service.

a. In agreement with interested Unions, the Estacode will be revised.

b. A Nationalist Government recognises that periodically the need arises for a revision in the organization and salary structure of the Civil service. In agreement with the Unions, a Nationalist Government will determine the times during which this should take.

c. The Civil Service will be modernized through the training of employees according to the needs of the country and 'scholarships' will be utilized. Regular recruitment will be re-introduced.

d. 25 days vacation leave will be given to all government employees. Anyone entitled to more leave will continue to enjoy it. Sick leave to which pensionable employees are now entitled will be extended to all government employees.

#### 5.2.3 The Private Sector

To date, emphasis has principally been laid on bettering the wages of employees in the private sector, while the conditions of work have been neglected. Industrial development have given rise to exploitation of workers especially girls, who sometimes suffer ill health as a result of giving increased production. A Nationalist Government will legislate to do away with this exploitation without any resulting loss in productivity.

A Nationalist Government will revise industrial legislation to make it easier for girls to continue in employment even after marriage.

A National Standard Order will be issued regarding working days and leave. A 40-hour week will be introduced by law for all workers.

#### 5.2.4 "Self-Employed"

A Nationalist Government believes that those who are self-employed play an important role in the economic life of the country. A Nationalist Government will encourage initiative among the self-employed and will not impose unnecessary restrictions. Withdrawal of licences will not remain discretionary.

### 5.3 Industrial Relations

The Nationalist Party believes that in a pluralist democratic system Unions should be free, and in order that they should work freely, will ensure that they do not make use of their members for party political ends.

A Nationalist Government guarantees the rights of free Unions, including the right of legitimate strikes, and will strengthen the machinery for conciliation and arbitration for all workers.

A Nationalist Government will incorporate all social legislation in one code. This will also provide machinery for the smoother functioning of laws pertaining to industrial relations.

### 5.4 Industrial Democracy

The Nationalist Party believes that the stage of industrial development reached by the country presents a good opportunity for the introduction of a system of workers' participation in industry. This participation should reflect the principles of industrial democracy, so that all those who participate in the economic life of the country will be included in its planning and management, as well as in the benefits and profits which this brings about. The system of participation which suits the country will be worked out and decided upon in discussion with interested parties. A Nationalist Government will introduce a system of participation in the Civil Service through the establishment of departmental committees.

### 5.5 Health

5.5.1 Nationalist Government will introduce a system of health insurance which will include freedom in the choice of one's doctor and will cover, doctors' fees, medical expenses and hospital bills.

5.5.2 Clinics will be established in industrial zones which will specialise in the prevention and cure of accidents and illness during work.

5.5.3 A sporting medical centre will be established in order that those who take part in sports and physical training will have the best attention, and in case of accidents will receive the necessary treatment.

5.5.4 Government hospitals will be modernized and equipped in a manner which will ensure that the sick receive the best attention and treatment offered by modern science.

## 5.6 Housing

5.6.1 The aim of the Nationalist Party in this sphere will be to increase in the shortest possible time, the number of persons owning their own house.

In keeping with this objective a Nationalist Government will, among other things:

- a. Offer for sale Government-owned houses to those living in them;
- b. Again encourage the "home ownership scheme", so that more people will invest in the building of houses;
- c. In establishing rents of Government houses there will be what is known as "social housing" - that is, a person who is given these houses will not pay rent in excess of 10% of his yearly income, so long as this income does not exceed an appropriate amount, which amount will be determined from time to time. In this manner, all can apply for a Government house, independently of the rent established or the salary of the individual.
- d. The Nationalist Party condemns the abuses perpetrated in the use of the power of requisitioning and will see to it that the use of this power will be limited to necessary cases.

5.6.2 A Nationalist Government will continue to build houses according to need and will proceed with slum clearance.

## 5.7 The Family

The family is the first and foremost unit for the individual, for society and for the State. That is why the Nationalist Party considers the protection and encouragement of the family to be a principle of the greatest importance in the social order. All laws should be inspired by this principle.

1. A Nationalist Government will amend the Marriage Law principally in order to:
  - i. recognise the validity of religious marriage celebrated in accordance with Canon Law;
  - ii. recognise the validity of annulments decreed by the competent Ecclesiastical Court.
2. A Nationalist Government favours and will help voluntary organizations which work to strengthen the institution of the family.

## 6. Cultural Development

### 6.1 Education

The Nationalist Party believes that education plays a decisive part in the formation of the personality of every individual and every strata of society, and for this reason the Party places its hopes for the betterment and for the civic and economic development of our country. Education should make every Maltese a protagonist and not a subject in his country. The educational system should also offer to every individual the same opportunities for the development and use of his talents and abilities, in order to help him give a responsible contribution to society. Modern industrial society demands from each of us the necessary preparation in order to meet situations which are ever changing.

6.1.1 A Nationalist Government will return discipline to the schools. Injustices will be righted and confusion eliminated. The public loses confidence in the system because of wrong policies and the lack of serious planning. A Nationalist Government will restore order and re-create confidence. The Education Act will be recast to ensure the rights of parents, of teachers and of students alongside those of the State.

## 6.2 Educational National Conference

A Nationalist Government will convene an Educational National Conference composed of teachers, parents, students, politicians, experts and others involved in this field. These will be actively and constructively involved [sic] in the building of a new educational framework in Malta.

6.2.1 A Nationalist Government will take the necessary steps to strengthen the Planning Office in the Education Department in order to establish clearly the targets which must be reached, to utilize resources in the most adequate and efficient manner and to keep up to date programmes and methods of teaching.

## 6.3 Kindergartens

A Nationalist Government will endeavour to integrate kindergartens in an educational system built around the family, by developing the personality and the abilities of children of a tender age and by diminishing social differences.

6.3.1 A Nationalist Government will make of Kindergartens areas, where children can express themselves in a free and spontaneous manner and indulge in a variety of activities which will attract them to school and will free more mothers to undertake other work.

6.3.2 A Nationalist Government will train teachers for these schools and the emphasis will be on child psychology, at the same time giving latitude to private schools to develop in this sphere. A Nationalist Government will ensure that Kindergartens will be provided with the necessary equipment.

## 6.4 Primary Schools

A Nationalist Government will endeavour to strengthen primary schools in order to place them in a better position to carry out their traditional function.

6.4.1 A Nationalist Government will not only improve the training of teachers but will organise refresher courses in teaching methods.

6.4.2 A Nationalist Government will ensure that the number of children in each class is such that it will permit individual attention.

6.4.3 A Nationalist Government will ensure that primary schools be maintained in a good state at all times, and are provided with all necessary and modern equipment.

6.4.4 A Nationalist Government will introduce 'remedial' classes in Primary Schools.

## 6.5 Secondary Schools

In the first place a Nationalist Government will take steps to reintroduce in Government secondary schools an atmosphere of discipline which it deserves as an institution which develops the mental, physical, moral and civic capabilities of the student. A Nationalist Government will help teachers to gain the respect and confidence of the students, of parents and of the Department.

6.5.1 A Nationalist Government will ensure that students in secondary schools will be placed in a position where they can learn without hindrance. Those who show they do not wish to learn will be given appropriate attention in order to find the way in which to change their attitude. Remedial classes will be organised for this purpose, with teachers trained for this purpose, so that the students can be offered the highest possible level

of education.

6.5.2 In Trade Schools, a Nationalist Government will provide more teaching in subjects other than trades so as not to shut the door to basic culture. A Nationalist Government will open trade and other schools. A Nationalist Government will ensure that teachers in trade schools are qualified as instructors or teachers, and all those who are so qualified will be given the status which they deserve and which was not given them by the Labour Government. Students will be given more work practice outside the school.

6.5.3 A Nationalist Government will organise refresher courses during work in order to render teachers better equipped to undertake the work which the Department requires.

6.5.4 A Nationalist Government will introduce reforms in the secondary education system in the light of proposals made by the National Educational Conference. The purpose of these reforms will be the proper preparation of Maltese students for their livelihood and for their higher education.

6.5.5 A Nationalist Government will ensure that every student leaves school when he is qualified, and not merely given a general education.

## 6.6 The University and Higher Education

The Socialist Government considerably reduced the University's autonomy and failed to integrate the University in the life of the nation. A Nationalist Government:

- i. will place the autonomy of the University on a sounder basis;
- ii. will involve the University in contributing more towards planning through research since the University of Malta should be helped to become a centre for Mediterranean studies.

6.6.1 A Nationalist Government together with all those interested in this field will create a sound working relationship between the University and MCAST.

6.6.2 The status of teachers at MCAST will be established and vacant posts filled in order to strengthen academic studies. Courses in Business Studies of a University Standard will be introduced while socio-economic studies at MCAST and at the University will be coordinated. The problem pertaining to Architecture and Engineering will be solved.

6.6.3 The Teacher Training College will again be residential and a Department of Education will be created at the University.

A Nationalist Government will determine in advance the need for the number of teachers and will ensure that every student who graduates from the College will be employed.

6.6.4 A Nationalist Government will ensure that teachers will play their proper part in the Planning as well as in the running of these institutions.

6.6.5 A Nationalist Government will introduce a system of aid to these students after holding full discussions with them.

## 6.7 Private Schools

A Nationalist Government recognises and appreciates the part played by the Private schools in the educational system of the country. It understands the need for them and the utility of having a choice between different schools. In order to make it possible for all children, not only those who can afford it, to have the

freedom of choice, a Nationalist Government will grant a larger number of scholarships. Capitation Grants to Private Schools will be increased. All services given to children attending government schools will be extended to children at private schools.

## 6.8 Vocational Guidance

A Nationalist Government will give great importance to vocational guidance and training. For this reason the vocational guidance unit will be re-established in a manner which will enable it to achieve its purpose in accordance with the trend of development in Malta. This Unit must maintain liaison with the higher institutions of education, with the Unions, with the Federation of Malta Industries and with the Chamber of Commerce.

## 6.9 Adult Education

Because of technological progress a Nationalist Government believes that every few years, adults should undergo refresher courses. A Nationalist Government will provide facilities and leave for workers in order that this can be achieved. The broadcasting services will organise programmes to further adult education.

## 6.10 Culture

The cultural aims of a Nationalist Government will be to regain and preserve our cultural heritage. A Nationalist Government will help writers, artists and composers and will recognise their importance in the life of the nation. Great attention will be paid to the Museums and monuments, bastions and places of historical interest will be preserved and cherished.

6.10.1 Cultural activities should be available to all the people while cultural exchanges with other countries will be increased.

## 6.11 Youth

A Nationalist Government recognises youth as a social group with special needs and interests. Under a Nationalist Government, Maltese youths, apart from enjoying the full benefit brought about by this programme of work, will also benefit from a programme which aims at:

- a. strengthening the Youths' Representative Council;
- b. giving them a larger share in the running of the country;
- c. affording all possible help to the various youth organisations to enable them to carry out their responsibilities.

6.11.1 A Nationalist Government will reach agreement with foreign countries to foster exchange visits.

6.11.2 An adult wage and other benefits will apply at the age of 18.

## 6.12 Sport and Recreation

The Nationalist Party believes that sport plays an important part in character formation and the physical development of every citizen. For this reason, a Nationalist Government will ensure that sport will find its rightful place in the country's advancement and will not remain, as it is today, a source of revenue to the government.

6.12.1 The composition of the National Sports Board will be revised in order to become more representative and as a start the Board will employ full time executive officials.

6.12.2 Although the Nationalist Government believes that sport should be given every encouragement, the Government should help and not interfere in its administration and organisation.

6.12.3 A Nationalist Government will ensure that the project for the building of a stadium will be completed during the life of the next administration.

6.12.4 A Nationalist Government will carry out a serious advance in physical education by training personnel and by equipping every school with the necessary facilities. Efforts will be made to have playing fields and sports grounds in every locality.

## **7. Gozo**

The Nationalist Party wants Gozo to have the same level of development as Malta; a Nationalist Government therefore binds itself to eliminate all existing differences, in a short time, in the level of development between the two islands.

### **7.1 Administration**

During the last Nationalist administration, Gozo developed on all fronts especially in that of industry, tourism and agriculture. The Nationalist Party recognises the particular needs of Gozo especially in the administrative field. For this reason, ministerial responsibility for Gozitan affairs will be centralised in order that Gozitan needs will again be tackled with greater efficiency.

### **7.2 Communications**

The Nationalist Government laid the foundations for the development of Gozo with the Mgarr Project which served to improve communications between the two islands. Nonetheless the Nationalist Party is not yet satisfied with the existing state of affairs and wishes to continue to give greater importance to means of communications between Malta and Gozo. A Nationalist Government will take all necessary measures to ensure an efficient, inexpensive reliable and frequent service. Among the first measures to be taken will be an increase in the number of trips to be made all the year round, and the setting up of a Transport Authority, Gozo-Comino-Malta, to watch over the efficiency of the passenger and cargo service and to examine ways and means of improving and enhancing the service.

### **7.3 Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Nationalist Party looks upon agriculture as the primary industry in Gozo. For this reason a Nationalist Government will ensure that the Gozitan farmer is given the necessary assistance to remove any disparity with his Maltese counterpart, by guaranteeing similar prices for fodder for animals in the two Islands, and by taking the necessary steps to solve the problem of transport and the distribution of agricultural and fishing products from Gozo to Malta. The Gozitan farmer and fisherman will also benefit from the immediate abolition of Income Tax. In order to further encourage Gozitan Youths to take up farming, an Agricultural School will be set up in Gozo.

### **7.4 Gozitan Workers and Students in Malta**

The Nationalist Party will look into the problems of those Gozitans who because of work or of higher education have to spend time in Malta. A Nationalist Government will set up a hostel in Malta to accommodate them. In 1969, it was the Nationalist Government which started giving an allowance of £90 to each Gozitan student at the University and at MCAST; a Nationalist Government will increase this allowance and will also give adequate assistance to Gozitan employees who have to spend time studying in Malta.

## 7.5 Tourist Development

A Nationalist Government will continue to encouraging the tourist industry in Malta to enable it to absorb a greater number of visitors and foreign residents.

## 7.6 Industry

The first factories in the Xewkija Industrial Estate were built by the Nationalist Government. The next Nationalist Government binds itself to increase the number of industries.

## 7.7 Population

The efforts of a Nationalist Government will also be directed at preventing a reduction in the population of Gozo because of lack of opportunities for employment.

## 7.8 Health

A Nationalist Government will continue work on the new general hospital in Gozo and will enhance the specialist medical services in Gozo.

## **8. Maltese Abroad**

8.1 Since 1945, 140,000 Maltese and Gozitans have emigrated in search of a better future. Conscious of the problems and needs of our brethren, the Nationalist Party, for the first time of the political history of our country, invited the constituted bodies representing these emigrants to submit their complaints, views and recommendations. This was done in order to enable a Nationalist Government to improve relations between Malta and her emigrants, and between Malta and the host countries, so that Maltese overseas will not feel inferior to other ethnic groups.

Therefore, while continuing to give attention to the many replies received, a Nationalist Party in Office will implement the following measures:

8.2 The revision of the Immovable Property Act to remove restrictions regarding the acquisition of property in Malta by emigrants.

8.3 The house building project will be vigorously pursued to enable emigrants to buy their own house.

8.4 The number of consular offices will be increased according to need, and efficiency in existing offices improved.

8.5 Consideration will be given to the appointment of Trade Commissioners in Maltese Embassies to explore new markets for Maltese products.

8.6 The dissemination of the culture of the Island among emigrants and in the receiving countries by the possible establishment of:

- i. A centre of Culture and Crafts;
- ii. An exchange scheme for teachers, artists and skilled workers;
- iii. the provision of a limited number of bursaries in Malta at secondary and tertiary level for the children of emigrants.

8.7 The re-opening of discussions for the recognition of University degrees, diplomas and qualifications

obtained in Malta.

8.8 The extension of pension agreements where these do not exist in host countries.

8.9 Assistance to constituted bodies representing emigrants.

8.10 The opening of a High Commission in Ottawa.

8.11 A scheme which will encourage emigrants to spend their holidays in Malta.

8.12 The extension of double taxation agreements to countries which receive Maltese emigrants.

8.13 Periodical investigations into individual problems created as a result of denouncing Maltese citizenship.

## **9. Church-State Relations**

9.1 The Nationalist Party believes and promises that it will continue to uphold the fundamental and constitutional rights of every person to religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

9.2 In its desire to have good relations between Church and State, the party declares its belief in the principles enunciated by Vatican Council 2, and promises to put them into practice.

9.3 The first among these principles is that the State and the Church are both autonomous and independent of each other in their respective spheres but both should serve the common good of the same people. This contribution can be more effectively carried out if Church and State work hand in hand as circumstances demand.

9.4 The second principle is that the church, in order to be able to carry out its mission effectively, which is the salvation of souls, must have, always and everywhere, the full freedom which this mission warrants. The Nationalist Party recognises and promises to safeguard the church's liberties, in the sense that it is always right and proper for the Church to make known its beliefs in true freedom, to make known its social teachings, to carry out its duties towards mankind without hindrance, and to pronounce moral judgement on their behaviour as and when this becomes necessary for safeguarding the fundamental rights of mankind and for their salvation.

9.5 The Nationalist Party also agrees and believes with and in the declaration made by Vatican Council 2 that the Church because of its nature and its mission, must have no ties with any political group or system.

## **10. Foreign Policy and Security**

In the field of Foreign Policy, a Nationalist Government will be guided by those principles:

- it will continue its policy of establishing diplomatic relations with all countries irrespective of the ideology of their government;
- it will pursue an autonomous foreign policy to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of Malta;
- it will strengthen ties with the European Economic Community and will seek to involve the community further in the development of Malta; and
- it will co-operate with Mediterranean countries to make of this region a peaceful zone for the economic development of Malta and as a contribution towards peace in Europe and the world.

## 10.1 Disarmament

The Nationalist Party denounces violence as an instrument of policy. The Party aims at a political order which will make possible general and controlled disarmament. The nationalist Government had already taken an initiative towards this goal in the United Nations, and will therefore give its support to proposed measures for a balanced reduction in armament by all sides.

## 10.2 Security

This foreign policy is a guarantee for the security and the social and economic development of our country. Security must not depend on the lease of our country as a base to foreign powers or military blocks, but must result from an agreement which a Nationalist government enters into with countries with which it shares ideas and ideals. In this context, the Nationalist Party has plans to retain all those who are to lose their employment as a result of the Treaty between the Socialist Government and the United Kingdom. At the same time, a Nationalist Government will be ready to enter into bilateral treaties of friendship, non-aggression and co-operation with all countries, especially those of the Mediterranean in order to continue guaranteeing peace, and to increase international understanding and co-operation.

## 10.3 International Organisations

In its activities in International Organisations, a Nationalist Government will continue working to strengthen the rights, freedom and democracy of all people. A Nationalist Government will take initiatives in the United Nations to establish machinery to safeguard the fundamental rights of man.