

MALTA FOR ALL

KEY PROPOSALS FROM THE **2013** ELECTORAL MANIFESTO





MALTA FOR ALL

Our Country needs a change in direction.

This electoral programme is a clear roadmap of where we want to arrive, together. It is not a wish-list, but a realistic programme built on our vision of being the best in Europe.

This roadmap was not put together in a couple of weeks. It is a well costed, realistic and concrete programme and certainly not a vote catching exercise.

We will build and improve on good initiatives and we will change what needs to be changed.

But above all, we want to ensure inclusivity and that everyone has an equal chance of contributing towards the success of the Country.

Because Malta is for all. Malta does not belong to some exclusive group, a politician or party. That is the past.

This is what I promise you. That your Country will be yours.

If you are young we will offer you all the opportunities to further your studies and succeed, to achieve your full potential.

If you are a worker we will make sure that you have a job that you deserve.

If you are in business we will give you the space to grow and thrive successfully.



If you are a senior citizen we will guarantee you peace of mind and that you can continue to live in comfort and with respect in your community

This is what we want to achieve, together.

A new middle class.

A movement for aspiration.

This election gives you the opportunity to make your mark and bring about the change our country needs.

We will be reaching out to work with everyone.

I invite you to join us.

You are invited to join this aspirational movement for change.

Malta for all.

Joseph Muscat



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EDUCATION

We will:

- Invest more in schools and build new ones
- Give a tablet to every child in year 4 and to teachers
- Retain and increase stipends
- Give a stipend and unemployment benefits to those who lose their job and opt to study
- Introduce career sabbaticals for teachers, learning support assistants and kindergarten assistants
- Encourage pluralism in tertiary education
- Give a Youth Guarantee for education, training and jobs
- Ensure a smaller number of students in each classroom
- Strengthen structures and resources at the CDAU
- Employ more Learning Support assistants
- Improve tax incentives for those studying for a PhD



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ECONOMY

We will:

- Ensure economic growth and that this reaches everyone
- Ensure better priorities in government spending
- Eliminate excessive bureaucracy
- Introduce a Start up Tax Credit for small businesses
- Enact a Family Business Act to facilitate the transfer of businesses between family members
- Implement a responsible scheme that will allow those businesses operating in a government owned rented property, a stronger legal title so as to encourage investment
- Introduce a number of incentives to revive the property market
- Invest in the maritime industry to make Malta a maritime centre in the Mediterranean.
- Increase investment to stimulate the digital economy
- Invest in high quality manufacturing
- Transform Malta into a Wi-Fi State allowing free internet access nationwide
- Increase opportunities for Public Private Partnerships
- Strengthen Air Malta and introduce a number of measures to attract more tourist spots



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JOBS

We will:

- Introduce measures to increase workforce participation
- Introduce free Childcare services for families
- Give a tax credit of €2000 to every woman over the age of 35 who joins the workforce for the first time
- Give a Tax Credit to those employers that train their workforce
- Offer incentives to those on long term unemployment benefits so they seek employment
- Introduce a Charter for Workers' Rights
- Launch an unprecedented fight against precarious employment
- Widen the powers of the Employment Commission
- Set up a Round Table for Trade Unions
- Improve the Employment and Industrial Relations Act
- Promote and encourage more Cooperatives

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ENERGY

We will:

- Reduce electricity bills by an average 25%
- Reduce water bills by 5%
- Invest in new gas fired technology
- Ensure that bills are regularly sent according to time frames agreed with consumers
- Close down the Marsa power station
- Anticipate the closure of Delimara Phase I power station
- Introduce free and voluntary Energy Efficiency Audits for every residence in Malta and Gozo
- Give freely Water Saving Kits, that will cut down on consumption by 25% to all families
- Strengthen and widen schemes for the purchase of solar heaters, double glazing and insulation
- Give fiscal incentives of up to 50 % grant on the purchase of photovoltaic panels
- Extend the opportunity of investment in solar panels to those with no roof access or space in their homes
- Make Enemalta financially viable



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HEALTH

We will:

- Guarantee free and prompt healthcare for all
- Invest in health centres of the highest levels
- Introduce a Charter for Patients' Rights
- Cut down on waiting time and waiting lists
- Provide free care in a Private Hospitals should a patient remain on the state waiting list longer than the stipulated time
- Ensure more free medicines
- Deliver free medicines to the homes of the elderly and the vulnerable
- Upgrade and modernise the Gozo General Hospital
- Give both parents the opportunity to accompany their children when these fall ill and need to travel abroad for medical treatment
- Act relentlessly in the fight against cancer and diabetes
- Guarantee free IVF treatment for all couples

A group of five young adults, three men and two women, are smiling and posing in front of a red door. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. A large white number '6' is positioned on the left side of the image.

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CIVIL LIBERTIES

We will:

- Introduce a cohabitation law
- Set up a consultative council for the strengthening of LGBT rights
- Introduce civil union for same sex couples
- Ensure that more women are appointed to government boards
- Introduce a law regulating the identification of transgender people
- Strengthen the law to promote equality
- Appoint a politician with responsibility for Civil Liberties and Equality



A JUST SOCIETY

We will:

- Introduce a comprehensive law that safeguards children's rights
- Increase the disability pension
- Increase the resources allocated to the services for Independent Living
- Give a full disability pension without any deductions to people with disability who find a job
- Issue a full pension to widows without exception
- Exempt those elderly persons who employ a full time carer in their home from paying employer's social security contributions.
- Open community residences for people with disability
- Undertake a Social Impact Assessment prior to taking major economic decisions
- Allow people with insufficient National Insurance contributions to make the necessary payments and qualify for a pension
- Start the discussion so that the National Minimum Pension will rise to 60% of the average national income
- Allow the utilisation of one's sick leave for the care of sick children, elderly or disabled relatives
- Introduce adoption leave for couples who adopt which can be utilised all throughout the adoption process
- Set up a centre for adoption and fostering
- Introduce a scheme so that more people become home owners



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GOZO

We will:

- Incentivise more and encourage the creation of jobs for Gozitans in Gozo
- Give special incentives to stimulate investment in Gozo
- Give fiscal incentives to businesses that create jobs in Gozo
- Invest in the Gozo General Hospital and increase services offered
- Continue with research and a feasibility study for a permanent link between Malta and Gozo
- Introduce a rapid sea service between Gozo and Valletta
- Introduce a viable helicopter service between the islands
- Introduce free Wi-Fi on Gozo Channel vessels
- Launch cheaper ticket schemes for travelling between Malta and Gozo
- Give start-up tax credits to new businesses in Gozo
- Give a refund on wages for every new job created by businesses
- Build a cruiseliner facility
- Invest more in improving and promoting Gozo as a tourist destination



ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND RESOURCES

We will:

- Guarantee cleaner air quality
- Introduce a more efficient planning system
- Set up a Planning and Resources Authority
- Set up a Planning and Sustainable Development Authority
- Give NGOs the right to nominate members on these boards
- Set up a fund for Environmental NGOs
- As a means of compensation, redress environmental degradation in those areas most affected through new projects
- Lower the planning tariffs
- Implement a strategy in favour of electromobility and less polluting transport systems
- Draw up a national plan for sustainability and management of water resources
- Create more open spaces
- Ensure more animal friendly legislation and appoint a commissioner for animal welfare



INFRASTRUCTURE

We will:

- Issue a national public call for innovative major projects
- Introduce free parking in Valletta after 2pm and on Saturdays
- Draw up a National Traffic Management Plan to tackle traffic congestion
- Exempt cars that run on electricity from registration tax
- Ensure that the Cospicua Dock No.1 Project will be completed immediately without further delay



CONSUMERS

We will:

- Refund back the extra VAT they paid on car registration
- Strengthen the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority
- Set up a One-Stop-Shop for consumers affairs
- Appoint an Ombudsman for Financial Services
- Introduce a Clients' Charter for banking rights
- Introduce a charter for the rights of small investors



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CIVIL SOCIETY NGOS AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

We will:

- Set up a round table for NGOs and the voluntary sector as a permanent forum
- Increase fiscal incentives for those businesses that help voluntary organisations
- Help and support NGOs to access European Union funds
- Set up a Consultative Council for people from abroad who have made their home in Malta (Non Maltese resident communities)
- Strengthen the role of MCESD

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ART, CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

We will:

- Set up a School of Art at the University of Malta
- Establish a Museum of Contemporary Art
- Regenerate the Johan Strauss School of Music
- Give utmost support to the National Philharmonic Orchestra
- Establish a National Gallery for Modern Art
- Set up The National Fund for Excellence
- Establish an National Archive of Oral History
- Strengthen creative niches
- Improve incentives for those businesses that support the arts
- Introduce a free day at the public museums on a regular basis
- Update censorship laws
- Strengthen the National Council for the Maltese Language
- Set up a Consultative Council for film makers



SPORT

We will:

- Give greater attention to minor sports
- Allocate a budget to the Malta Olympic Committee based on an Olympic cycle
- Open a number of new sporting facilities
- Promote a motorsport race track facility
- Modernise and upgrade the Marsa Sports Complex
- Improve fiscal incentives for those businesses that give their support to sports associations
- Regenerate the National Pool at Tal-Qroqq
- Build a waterpolo pitch at Birzebbugia
- Build an international Shooting Range



JUSTICE

We will:

- Implement a holistic reform of the Justice System
- Set up a Civil Administrative Court
- Introduce a Citizen's charter for the law Courts
- Appoint a Judge for the Gozo Courts
- Cut down on waiting time through better scheduling
- Introduce an email and SMS notification system for deferred cases
- Increase the resources of the Family Court
- Implement the parole system better
- Introduce a system whereby cases before the Small Claims Tribunal are decided within two court sessions



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SECURITY

We will:

- Modernise the Police Force
- Improve working conditions for police officers including better terms for extra duty pay
- Reach an agreement with regards to overdue payment for overtime duties
- Increase the number of police officers on the beat
- Give soldiers and police officers the right to join a union of their choice without the right to strike
- Better coordinate operations with regards to irregular immigration
- Introduce CCTV cameras in the Police Lock up to prevent abuse
- Improve the law on domestic violence

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AN EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT THAT IS CLOSER TO CITIZENS

We will:

- Publish laws online so that citizens can join and contribute
- Increase government efficiency at all levels
- Keep the public updated constantly on the progress of capital projects
- Reduce the overall cost of appointments to government boards
- Ensure a parliament that is accountable and accessible to citizens
- Encourage the use of social networks so that citizens can share their ideas
- Publish online the targets for each ministry
- Strengthen the right of citizens to petition parliament especially online



DEMOCRACY AND TRANSPARENCY

We will:

- Publish MPs attendance records online
- Ensure that ministers and parliamentary secretaries do not receive the 500€ weekly pay rise
- Ensure that MPs are paid only for parliamentary sessions that they actually attend
- Introduce a Whistle Blower Act
- Introduce a serious Party financing law
- Appoint a Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards
- Remove time-barring for MPs on cases related to political corruption
- Reform the Public Broadcasting Services
- Introduce stiffer sentencing for corruption convictions
- Hold a Constitutional Convention that will give birth to the Second Republic



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We will:

- Lower the voting age to 16 yrs for local council elections
- Ensure that Local Councils are on the side of families and businesses and against bureaucracy
- Ensure transparency in Local Council governance
- Invite the Public to elect representatives on selection boards for projects
- Upgrade public Spaces
- Introduce live streaming for Local Council sessions
- Introduce a well-resourced Family Clinic service in conjunction with Local Councils
- Guarantee more security in the community



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MALTA: THE MALTESE, THE EUROPEAN AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

We will:

- Work tirelessly to strengthen Malta's position in the European Union.
- Guarantee that Malta's upcoming Presidency of the European Union Council in 2017 will be a moment of national unity
- Set up a bipartisan working group to draw up the objectives of Malta's Presidency of the European Union Council
- Strengthen and improve Malta's relations with nations beyond the European Union
- Engage strongly and continue to pursue peace and stability for the Mediterranean region
- Transform Maltese embassies into national showcases
- Amend the electoral law so that Maltese citizens who have the right to vote and live abroad can vote in their country of residence



This manifesto is a clear roadmap that will lead us forward together.

The Labour Party in Government will appoint a politician responsible for the implementation of the pledges of this electoral manifesto.

The country deserves a change for the better

Malta for all.

Read the full version on josephmuscat.com

Jekk trid tirċievi l-verżjoni sħiħa tal-manifest elettorali ibgħat email fuq feedback@josephmuscat.com

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