

# THE SOCIETAL IMPERATIVE: A WAY FORWARD

Irrespective of any organisation's decision to maintain the status quo, society moves forward. The foundational elements of society being politics, religion, economy, family, education and now technology are in a constant state of change, regardless of the direction they take. Organisations that operate within this evolving construct either adapt, come to a halt, or become obsolete. Policing cannot afford the latter outcome, nor can society, given how deeply law enforcement is integrated into the operational arms of the state: the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary.

From being governed by one of the largest Chapters in the Laws of Malta to maintaining law and order and engaging with the courts, the Malta Police Force (MPF) remains a pivotal institution within this ongoing societal transformation. As a policing body with deep-rooted history, the MPF has successfully initiated a transformation towards becoming a modern, efficient, and effective entity. This is not to rest on one's laurels, but rather to acknowledge that society has responded and responded positively. The outcomes of national and international surveys, organisational reviews, and various assessments affirm that the MPF's efforts to build public trust are bearing fruit. According to the Eurobarometer, public trust in the Police surpasses that in the Judiciary, political parties, and the media.

Is this a time to look back, nod, and relax? Certainly not. As the current five-year Transformation Strategy



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nears its conclusion, a new strategic document is on the horizon, one that will build on lessons learned, consolidate progress and push boundaries that, until recently, may not have even been envisioned.

New forms of crime continue to emerge. The Malta Police Force must therefore continue to advance, ideally through preventing crime before it is even committed, or before offenders perceive it as an opportunity to prey on new types of victims.

We are prepared for the future, where leadership and ownership of the processes are thoroughly focused on further change within the MPF as a Service to the societal imperative.



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