

**Frank L Scicluna – Hon Consul for Malta**

### **Community pressure wins two more one-hour Maltese radio programs on SBS**



After three-and-a-half months of persistent canvassing and negotiations led by Maltese community leaders in Melbourne and Sydney as well as Malta's High Commissioner in Canberra and the members of the community of South Australia, SBS announced that two one-hour Maltese radio programs will be broadcast commencing on 29 April 2013 in addition to the two which were originally included under the new schedule, giving a total of 4 one-hour programs per week. Last November SBS had published the new radio schedule in which the Maltese programs fared the worst among all existing languages with a savage cut of 7 programs, down from 9 hours to 2 hours per week.

### **Government promises new chapter in Malta's political history**

*President Dr George Abela addressing Parliament with the Speaker Dr Farrugia in the background*



The 12th legislature since Independence opened today in Valletta, with the government promising in the President's 'Speech from the Throne' that it will usher in a new chapter in Malta's political history.

The ceremony started with Mass of the Holy Spirit at St John's Co-Cathedral. The MPs then walked to the Palace, applauded by people who stood behind police barriers in Republic Street.

The ceremony started with a Mass of the Holy Spirit, led by Archbishop Mgr Paul Cremona. Those present included the outgoing Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr Michael Frendo. The two parties were led by their respective

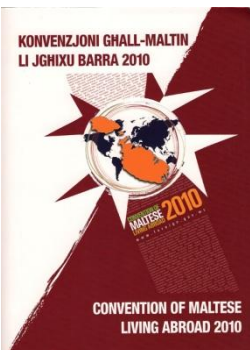
leaders, Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat and Opposition Leader Dr Lawrence Gonzi.

### **Resignation request made to members of Council for Maltese Living Abroad an oversight**



In an [interview](#) on the Maltese program on SBS Radio broadcast today, Foreign Minister Dr George Vella confirmed that there was a misunderstanding when the request for resignation was made last week to members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. Dr Vella said that they were appointed according to law for three years and their appointment was not a political one. The members were selected from Maltese communities around the world and they were also made by the former government with the consensus of the then Labour opposition. The next meeting of the Council will be held in Malta later this year.

### **Next Convention for Maltese Living Abroad to be held in 2015**



Minister of Foreign Affairs chaired the second meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad on Tuesday, 5 February through video-conferencing, which was supported by Malta Enterprise office in New York. During the meeting, it was decided that next Convention for Maltese Living Abroad be held in 2015. This will be the 4th Convention to take place, the latest one held in March 2010. The Minister announced the establishment of the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that Dr Raymond Xerri was appointed Director for Maltese Living Abroad.

A number of initiatives will be taken in order to strengthen the role of the Council. The Council is joining the Association of The Europeans Throughout the World and is setting up a Website for Council for Maltese Living Abroad.

## Say NO to Domestic Violence



The Malta Girl Guides (MGG) presented the results of the locally piloted education programme, 'Voices against violence', at the 57th session of the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) held at New York last month.

The project, piloted among Maltese girl members of the MGG, throughout last guiding year, is part of a larger project 'Stop the violence', a first of its kind non-formal education programme promoting the end of violence against girls.

MGG delegate, Stephanie Darmanin was among the delegates representing the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). She presented the success achieved by the pilot project in Malta to the rest of the

UNCSW delegates. The highlight of the week was the launch of the curriculum which the Girl Guides and the Girl Scouts worked upon jointly with the UN Women. The curriculum is designed to engage children and young people to reflect on gender-based violence, will now be rolled out among at least five million young people by 2020.

## Dual Citizenship for Maltese in Australia



I cannot not mention the issue of double citizenship, for which the only criticism we can receive is due to the fact of its success, we now have a list waiting the Maltese citizenship, and we have to accelerate the process.

For the first time in 1989 a Maltese emigrant could automatically and retroactively receive back the Maltese citizenship due to the fact that he had to adopt the citizenship of the adopted country.

In 2000 we came up with the idea of double citizenship. Every Maltese born with a Maltese citizenship and had to lose it to work in another country, could automatically and retroactively regain the Maltese citizenship back.

During my first visit in Australia, in 2007, I said that the Government was going to extend the Maltese citizenship to everyone who could prove a relationship in the direct line with any person of Maltese nationality born in Malta. With these, all aspirations that the Maltese living abroad had were fulfilled, and I am proud that I steered in Parliament two of these three reforms.

With these reforms we showed that the Maltese living abroad had a place of belonging. The dearest thing that a country can give is its citizenship. Providing a Maltese passport to our Maltese brothers living abroad demolished all legal barriers. And if there are other barriers, then we will see to demolish them too.

With effect from 2004, all Maltese living abroad who acquired their Maltese citizenship also acquired a European citizenship. Therefore, notwithstanding the fact that we are not living in Malta we enjoy the same rights as all EU citizens living within the EU.



**Dr. Joseph Muscat**  
**Prime Minister of Malta - 2013**

Dr. Joseph Muscat was born in Pietà on 22 January 1974. He received his formal education at the Government Primary School in St. Paul's Bay, Stella Maris and St. Aloysius' College. He graduated with Honours from the University of Malta in Public Policy and later as Master of European Studies. In 2007 he attained a Doctorate of Philosophy in Management Research from the University of Bristol (UK).

From 1992-1997 he was a journalist and eventually Assistant Head of news with a national private radio station. He was elected member to the National Executive of the Partit Laburista at the age of 21 and later nominated as Education Secretary of the Party. From 1997 to 1998 he was a member of the National Commission for Fiscal Morality. Dr. Muscat was also a market intelligence manager and investment adviser. He successfully contested the first European Parliamentary elections in Malta in 2004. In 2006 he was the recipient of the Outstanding Young Person of the Year. In 2008 he was elected as the Leader of the Partit Laburista.

Dr. Muscat is married to Michelle, née Tanti, and they have twin daughters, Etoile Ella and Soleil Sophie.

## **MALTESE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP**



A passport is an internationally-recognised form of identification. You will need a passport if you plan on travelling outside of the countries and regions within the EU. If you are an EU national, you do not need to show your national ID card or passport when you are travelling from one EU country to another. However it is always best to take a passport with you when travelling around the passport-free Schengen area. Even though you do not need to show it at the border, there may be occasions when you need to provide your identity (eg when stopped by a police officer or boarding a plane).

Getting a passport is usually quite a straightforward process, and we can offer all the advice and contacts you need to get this done as quickly and easily as possible. If you are a Maltese citizen and are going to apply for a Maltese Passport, then you will need to visit the Passport Office during opening hours to pick up the relevant forms or documents. Alternatively, you can download all the necessary paperwork online, or can pick them up from police stations, local council offices and major travel agencies.

Since 2008, the Passport Office has issued biometric passports in Malta, according to international standards and directives. These documents contain facial imagery, signature and fingerprint biometrics held in a secure manner – in a chip embedded in the passport. If you are applying for a new passport or updating an old one, you will now be issued with a biometric version.



Anzac Day 2013

On Anzac Day we remember the original Anzacs who died on 25 April 1915, and we also remember the service men and women who have served and died in all wars, conflicts, peacekeeping, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance missions.

Anzac Day is a time to reflect on the contribution made our service men and women, past and present, who have displayed great courage, discipline and self-sacrifice in choosing a life of service to their country.