Press Release

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Another PN document leaked, further evidence of growing discontent with the current leadership – File contains proposed amendments to the PN statute

The Nationalist Party preaches transparency, yet within its own ranks it is manoeuvring to weaken governance and democracy.

During a press conference held by the Partit Laburista, a leaked document containing proposed amendments to the Nationalist Party's Statute was presented. The document, which was passed on by individuals from within the highest ranks of the Nationalist Party, further exposes the contradiction between what the PN preaches in public about transparency and good governance and what it is proposing to implement within its own organisation. The latest leak also points to growing dissatisfaction with the current leadership of the Nationalist Party.

Ministers Jonathan Attard and Glenn Bedingfield handed over a copy of the document to the media present, which even includes the track changes made by the Nationalist Party's Secretary General, Charles Bonello. They explained that the proposed changes include measures that raise serious concerns about where the real power will lie within the Nationalist Party, the removal of important safeguards and a reduction in internal party scrutiny.

Minister Jonathan Attard said that a strong democracy requires a serious and credible Opposition capable of offering a genuine alternative to the Government. However, he noted that the Nationalist Party continues to demonstrate a lack of substance and confusion within its leadership, further reinforcing the responsibility of a Labour Government to keep moving the country forward.

Referring to the proposed amendments to the PN Statute, Attard explained that one of the changes concerns the relative importance of the two Deputy Leaders. Under the proposals, the post of Deputy Leader for Party Affairs would become the second-highest position within the party, while the post of Deputy Leader for Parliamentary Affairs would be relegated to third place.

He said that these proposals, together with other changes outlined in the document, raise questions about their goal and the process through which decisions are being taken. He also pointed to uncertainty over whether the appointment of the Deputy Leaders will take place before or after the amendments to the Statute are approved.

Minister Attard said that the information had reached the Partit Laburista through individuals who are dissatisfied with Alex Borg's leadership style. According to these individuals, decisions have already been taken by a small group of people, despite the document supposedly still being open for discussion.

He also recalled that this internal confusion is unfolding at a time when the Opposition was not even capable of presenting a pre-Budget document, while the Government put forward a strong Budget that continues to support families and businesses.

For his part, Minister Glenn Bedingfield said that the document raises serious questions about how the Nationalist Party intends to operate, despite its constant preaching about good governance and transparency.

Bedingfield explained that among the proposed amendments is an exemption from due diligence checks for Nationalist Party MPs contesting the leadership election, unless a specific request is made by the Executive Committee. Article 96, which governs these checks, would also be extended to cover the Deputy Leaders. He added that the proposed amendments also include changes to procedures and the removal of existing safeguards in disciplinary proceedings.

According to the leaked document, the composition of the Nationalist Party's Leadership Committee would be significantly reduced, with the President of the General Council, the two Chairpersons of the Executive and Administrative Committees, and the Executive Organisational Secretary all being removed. The Committee would consequently consist solely of the Leader, the two Deputy Leaders and the Secretary General.

Minister Bedingfield said that these proposals would consolidate power in the hands of Alex Borg's inner circle and raise serious doubts about the extent to which there would genuinely be room for greater participation and internal scrutiny within the Nationalist Party.

He argued that there is a clear contrast between the way the two parties are operating. On one hand, an Opposition preoccupied with internal manoeuvring, lacking direction and struggling with confusion over its own leadership and on the other, the Partit Laburista in Government focused on people's needs.

The Ministers recalled that, in the face of international challenges, Malta has a stable Labour Government led by Prime Minister Robert Abela, which continues to implement measures in support of Maltese and Gozitan families. These include subsidies on energy and fuel, an increase in pensions for the twelfth consecutive year, the doubling of tax-cuts for working parents,reduction in corporate tax, and the €1,000 tax-free Super Bonus for workers, which also benefits those working part-time.