Press Release

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In the coming days, we will present a package of legislative reforms to further strengthen the rule of law

Prime Minister Robert Abela announces major reform to strengthen the protection of journalists during a discussion with youth

Prime Minister Robert Abela announced that, in the coming days, a significant package of legislative reforms will be presented in Parliament, aimed at further strengthening the rule of law and governance in our country.

The Prime Minister said the reforms were substantial and carefully studied, addressing highly sensitive areas of public administration and democratic life. Among the measures, he highlighted stronger protections for journalists.

Dr Abela made the announcement during a discussion meeting with young people at a political event organised in collaboration with Żgħażagħ Laburisti. The event gave numerous youth the opportunity to put questions to the Prime Minister on a range of issues.

During the discussion, Prime Minister Robert Abela also emphasised that young people must be at the forefront of shaping Europe's future. "Who better to shape the future than young people? We cannot allow others to determine the future of Europe. You are the protagonists in shaping the kind of Europe we want for tomorrow. Will it be a Europe that invests more in armaments, or one that invests in social welfare and emerging sectors such as Artificial Intelligence?" Dr Abela stressed.

He said he supported the vision of investing in a social Europe and building an economy based on higher value-added activity.

Prime Minister Robert Abela outlined how Malta's economic strategy is centred on higher value-added sectors, with Artificial Intelligence serving as a key partner in the country's development. He

said the objective was to move beyond simply creating jobs and towards generating more high-quality career opportunities.

The Prime Minister answered questions from young people, noting that Malta was in a position to respond to their concerns thanks, in part, to its advantageous economic standing compared with the other 26 EU Member States. “Without a performing economy and sound public finances, we would not be in a position to strengthen the initiatives you have asked me about,” the Partit Laburista leader said.

Asked about specialised courses, Dr Abela pointed out that this year the Government increased stipends across the board, investing €6 million in 16,600 students through a 15% increase. “Beyond the financial assistance itself, the message conveyed by investing in education is powerful in its own right,” Dr Abela said.

The Prime Minister also spoke about ongoing work to establish a specialised mental health facility at Mater Dei Hospital for the treatment of acute episodes. He said the initiative was intended to tackle the issue of stigma head-on, alongside the provision of community-based services.

On mass transportation, the Prime Minister referred not only to the ambitious mass transit project, for which studies are being carried out responsibly, but also to other initiatives being pursued by the country, including sea-based transport.

Asked about the introduction of a centralised system for receiving complaints from local communities, Dr Abela said work was underway to ensure that Local Councils receive the relevant information directly, enabling them to better address citizens’ aspirations and concerns.

Dr Abela also addressed housing affordability, acknowledging the realities of the situation while pointing out that Malta has a strong homeownership rate, with 85% of Maltese owning their own home.

He said the Government was continuing to support families through direct assistance under affordable housing schemes, as well as through other measures designed to put more money in families’ pockets, including tax reductions and the €1,000 non-taxable Super Bonus.

He also referred to measures introduced in recent months under the ‘Int Malta’ electoral manifesto. These include provisions allowing first-time buyers who had already begun benefiting from the scheme, but subsequently ended a relationship and purchased another property, to retain their first-time buyer status. As a result, they can receive the remaining assistance they are entitled to under the €10,000 grant paid over a ten-year period.

Prime Minister Robert Abela also spoke about the importance of student organisations and youth activism, describing them as vital to the future of Maltese society. He said it was important to keep partisan politics out of student politics.

“I am not interested in what political affiliations young people hold. What matters to me are their ideas, so that together we can continue shaping the future of our country,” Prime Minister Robert Abela said. He also referred to the establishment of the Youth Advisory Forum.

Responding to a question from Żgħażagħ Laburisti President Miguel Abela about the future of the branch, particularly as the organisation marks the 75th anniversary of its establishment, the Prime Minister said young people were not merely at the centre of the Party, but at the very heart of its decision-making process.