

• THE MANIFESTO ISSUE · DISTRICT 1 & DISTRICT 8

Continuity. Credibility. *Care.*

An economist's case for finishing what we started — and for the next ten years of Malta's transformation.

BY **CRESSIDA GALEA** · MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ECONOMIST · FOR THE 30 MAY 2026 GENERAL ELECTION



COVER PHOTOGRAPH · CRESSIDA GALEA, OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PORTRAIT, 2026.



Cressida Galea at the Maltese Parliament. Photograph taken on the occasion of her appointment as Member of Parliament.

OPENING

Why I'm asking for your *No. 1*.

I am an economist before I am a politician. That order matters — because the choices Malta makes in the next five years will be decided not by slogans, but by whether the people in charge understand how an economy actually works.

Over the past decade Malta has built something that very few small open economies in Europe have managed: one of the highest employment rates on the continent, a resilient public balance sheet, and an economy that absorbed a pandemic and an inflation crisis without losing its footing. That is not an accident. It is the product of deliberate, sustained choices.

The question on the ballot on 30 May is not whether to celebrate where we are. It is whether we are honest enough to acknowledge what got us here, and whether we have the discipline to keep building on it.

This manifesto is my contribution to that conversation. It is grounded in the Labour Party manifesto, but it is written in my own voice — the voice of an economist who believes ambition is only useful when paired with credibility, and that continuity is the real engine of national transformation.

I am contesting Districts **1** and **8**, the localities I have lived in, worked in, and walked through — from Santa Venera and Hamrun to Birkirkara, Iklin and Lija. The pages that follow are how I propose we keep moving forward.

THE ARGUMENT

Continuity is not a slogan. It is a strategy.

Malta did not arrive at full employment, record investment and one of the strongest fiscal positions in the Eurozone by accident. We got here through ten years of deliberate sequencing, institutional patience and disciplined execution.

<p>3.1%</p> <p>Unemployment rate, Malta 2025. Among the lowest in the European Union.</p>	<p>83.6%</p> <p>Employment rate, Malta 2025. The highest in the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>+387%</p> <p>Real-terms growth in the ICT sector, 2015 to 2025. From €606M to €2.95B.</p>	<p>A-</p> <p>Sovereign credit rating, reaffirmed through every global shock since 2020.</p>
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For all its polished language and futuristic vocabulary, the opposition manifesto suffers from a fundamental weakness: it promises transformation without fully explaining how Malta would realistically get there. It reads like a reaction *against* the recent development model.

Many of the so-called “new” high-value sectors being promoted in opposition — financial services, gaming, aviation maintenance, AI integration, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy — did not suddenly appear in Malta because someone discovered them in opposition. They are already part of Malta’s ongoing transformation under the Labour Government.

The challenge today is no longer identifying these sectors. The challenge is implementing them responsibly, competitively and sustainably within Malta’s specific economic and institutional realities. That requires governing experience and delivery credibility, not just rhetoric.

The next decade of Malta’s growth will not be won by people who treat the last decade as a mistake. It will be won by people who treat it as a foundation.

“Many of the “new” high-value sectors being promoted in opposition are already part of Malta’s ongoing economic transformation. The challenge is no longer identifying them. The challenge is implementing them.”

MALTA VISION 2050

From growth, to wellbeing.



At **SiGMA Malta** · on the Euro-Med panel on Mediterranean innovation and digital infrastructure, 2025.



Business Breakfast · Ta' Qali, April 2026 · addressed by Prime Minister Robert Abela.

Malta Vision 2050 was never an anti-development exercise. Its purpose is to guide Malta toward a more sustainable, resilient and wellbeing-oriented future *while preserving* economic strength, competitiveness and social mobility.

That is the framework reflected throughout the Labour manifesto: economic competitiveness linked with digital transformation, sustainability, innovation, stronger public services and quality of life inside *one coherent national strategy* — not as separate policy silos.

The **Wellbeing Index** is the clearest expression of this. Rather than measuring success purely through GDP growth, the Labour Party proposes evaluating progress through broader indicators: health, environment, social inclusion, work-life balance, housing security and life satisfaction.

It is the recognition that growth is only worth pursuing when it improves the lives of the people it claims to serve — and it mirrors the international shift in advanced policymaking toward wellbeing as a measure of national success.

TWO MANIFESTOS, READ SIDE BY SIDE

Ambition is not the same as *credibility*.

At some point, ambition stops looking like vision and starts looking like fantasy. The question is not whether Malta should be ambitious. The question is whether we are being honest with ourselves about how transformation actually happens.

THE OPPOSITION / NIFS ĠDID

Promises everything, everywhere, all at once: new schools every year on top of those already announced, additional electricity interconnectors on top of the one under construction, a hydrogen-ready pipeline, a metro, a maritime fuel hub, sweeping renewable energy targets — with little sequencing, costing, or institutional pathway. It often confuses *disruption* with *transformation*.

LABOUR PARTY / INT MALTA

Treats transformation as something that happens *incrementally through execution*, not through rhetoric. Anchored in Malta Vision 2050. Continuity of institutions, continuity of investment, continuity of reform. Combines economic competitiveness with social cohesion, innovation, sustainability and long-term planning inside a realistic governing framework.

“The Labour Party document combines ambition with realism. It understands that transformation happens incrementally through execution, not simply through rhetoric. That is its greatest strength — and the reason it stands up to economic scrutiny.”

CRESSIDA GALEA · ECONOMIST · DISTRICT 1 & 8

The opposition manifesto focuses heavily on restructuring the economy. The Labour Party manifesto focuses on improving people’s lives. That distinction matters enormously — because growth is not an end in itself. It only matters if it translates into stronger families, better services, cleaner communities and a higher quality of life.

SIX PRIORITIES FOR DISTRICTS 1 & 8

What I will *work on* for you.

Each priority is grounded in the Labour Party manifesto but sharpened by what I hear walking my own streets — from Santa Venera and Ħamrun to Birkirkara, Iklin and Lija.

<p>01 Wages that keep pace with the economy</p> <p>Push for continued implementation of the cost-of-living mechanism, plus structural increases that reflect real productivity gains.</p>	<p>02 Housing young families can plan around</p> <p>First-time-buyer support, rental stability for working renters, and an honest conversation about supply in our inner-harbour localities.</p>
<p>03 A Wellbeing Index that means something locally</p> <p>Translate the national index into measurable district outcomes: air quality, green spaces, walkability, access to GPs and mental health.</p>	<p>04 An economy that grows up, not just out</p> <p>Continue Malta’s shift from volume to value: ICT, fintech, med-tech, advanced manufacturing, AI integration — with the training pipelines to match.</p>
<p>05 Stronger and more resilient communities</p> <p>Stronger funding for local councils, protected open spaces, and traffic and parking solutions that treat residents — not commuters — as the priority.</p>	<p>06 Available, accountable, present</p> <p>A regular constituency note: what came up at the door, what was raised in Parliament, and what changed because of it. You should be able to see the work.</p>

| IN CLOSING

Serious national transformation *isn't loud.*



With Prime Minister **Robert Abela** at a constituency engagement, Malta, 2026. The work of national transformation is incremental, sequenced, and delivered through continuity of governance.

The Labour Party manifesto is the stronger national programme not because it is louder or more radical. It is stronger because it is more balanced, more credible, and more strategically coherent.

It combines economic competitiveness, social cohesion, innovation, sustainability and long-term planning inside a realistic governing framework tied directly to Malta Vision 2050. It addresses families, pensions, healthcare, education, housing, mental health and digitalisation as *interconnected dimensions* of national wellbeing — not isolated policy silos.

The opposition may succeed in *sounding* transformational. The Labour Party manifesto is the one that reflects how serious transformation is actually achieved — through continuity, sequencing, and practical implementation. That is the country I am asking you to vote for.

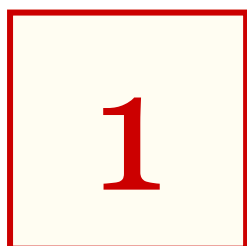
“Economic growth is not an end in itself. It only matters if it translates into stronger families, better services, cleaner communities, and a higher quality of life.”

THE CASE FOR THE LABOUR PARTY · IN ONE SENTENCE

ON SATURDAY 30 MAY 2026

Vote **1** Cressida Galea.

Then continue down the ballot for Partit Laburista candidates. Every preference counts — the way Malta’s single transferable vote system works is that your vote follows your preferences right through the count.



FIRST PREFERENCE

Galea,
Cressida

Districts 1 & 8 · Partit Laburista

PRACTISE YOUR
BALLOT

[cressidagalea.com/
digital-ballot](https://cressidagalea.com/digital-ballot)

Walk through the Districts 1
and 8 ballot online before
polling day.

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