

Progressive Constitutional Party's Principles and Programme (1953)

THE PROGRESSIVE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY is progressive in the sense that whilst the Party realises that world changes are inevitable, these changes, in the Party's view, should take the form of evolution, not revolution.

The Progressive Constitutional Party stands for Self-Government within the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Party's objective is to play an honourable part in the future history of these Islands, and to work for the collective good of the people of Malta and Gozo.

PRINCIPLES

1. The Progressive Constitutional Party steadfastly adheres to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and pledges its wholehearted loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen.
2. The Progressive Constitutional Party will - expose and combat the evils of Communism, along with graft, corruption and subversive activities.
3. The Progressive Constitutional Party supports the principle of collective security embodied in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

PROGRAMME

Constitutional Revision and Improvements

1. The Progressive Constitutional Party will spare no effort to secure a revision of the Constitution to enable it to meet the present-day political and constitutional requirements of the Island. The Party also advocates the establishment of a Joint Ministries Co-ordination Committee in London, which would enable policy decisions to be arrived at on matters affecting various British Ministries and the Maltese Government.

Emigration, Employment, Education and Housing

1. The Progressive Constitutional Party will do its utmost to maintain employment for the people of Malta and Gozo. The Party will encourage emigration and will work unceasingly to find openings for successful settlement for migrants willing to go overseas. The Party is aware that the British and Commonwealth Governments - have to be approached for the necessary essential aid in matters of migration.

2. The Progressive Constitutional Party will work to ensure a living wage for the workers, to increase the productivity of labour and to improve social services, housing, medical services, old age pensions and assisted migration.

3. The Progressive Constitutional Party. Will also do everything possible to increase technical educational facilities in the Islands and to increase the. standard and opportunity of education for all.

4. The Progressive Constitutional Party will give first priority to the housing problem. It will expedite the building of workmen's dwellings and release, where possible, houses occupied by Government Offices. A central Administrative Headquarters to house Government Departments will be planned.

5. The Progressive Constitutional Party will seek a formula for removing employment from the hands of

politicians to an independent non-Party Commission. This will ensure equality of opportunity and, avoid the possibility of exploitation of the unemployed for political ends.

Finance, Water, the Civil Service and Civil Aviation

1. The Progressive Constitutional Party will take all steps, including the enactment of legislation to obtain the necessary statistical information required for a comprehensive study of the potential economic resources of these Islands as well as of the sources of national income. The Party considers this to be an essential requirement if the economic problems facing the people of these Islands are to be met, understood and solved.
2. The Progressive Constitutional Party will strive to economy in the administration of these Islands this does not impair efficiency.
3. The Progressive Constitutional Party holds that on the increase of the water supply depends the maintenance and development of local industry whether industrial or agricultural. Therefore, the development of the water supply will have a paramount claim on any available funds and a priority on the soliciting of an overseas grant or loan.
4. The Progressive Constitutional Party will take steps, wherever possible, to assist Civil Servants trained in public administration and finance, statistics and economics, both in Malta and in overseas Colleges and Universities.

The Party will enlarge the Public Service Commission and protect the Civil Service from political influences.

5. The Progressive Constitutional Party will work for the development of Civil Aviation and the removal of unnecessary obstructions that impede this goal. In this connection the Party will recognize the responsibilities of the Malta Government in a joint-user agreement for the development of a civil airport. Energetic steps will be taken to effect the construction of a modern air terminal building at Luqa.

Harbours, Transport, Industry and Cost of Living.

1. The Progressive Constitutional Party will work to improve the public transport services in the two Islands and the harbour facilities in Valetta and Marsaxlokk. In order to better communications between Malta and Gozo the Party will explore the possibilities of a helicopter service between the two Islands.
2. The Progressive Constitutional Party will encourage local industry and will afford it reasonable protection where this is compatible with the interests of the consumer. Steps will be taken to promote enterprise and to reduce the cost of living by abolishing all unnecessary controls.

Commercial Code, Tourism and Public Works

1. The Progressive Constitutional Party will press for the early enactment of a new Commercial Code which would bring these laws into line with the most modern Commercial Codes.
2. The Progressive Constitutional Party will do its utmost to develop a tourist industry capable of rendering efficient service to visitors, thereby increasing the goodwill and the invisible exports of the Islands.
3. The Progressive Constitutional Party maintains that, wherever possible, public works already in hand should be completed and made to render effective service to the community before other works of secondary importance are undertaken.

Agriculture Fisheries and Trade Unions

1. The Progressive Constitutional Party 'will promote and develop a Banking system with a view to helping those engaged in the agricultural and fishing industries.
2. The Progressive Constitutional Party will introduce legislation to facilitate the acquisition of land by farmers and the granting of Government rural property on long or perpetual lease.
3. The Progressive Constitutional Party will study the problem of milk production and Its distribution with to be a view to encouraging the industry and putting the Milk Marketing Undertaking on an economic basis.
4. The Progressive Constitutional Party will encourage bona fide trade unionism by placing at its disposal efficient machinery to facilitate collective bargaining and by enacting legislation to protect the interests of the individual trade unionist.

Electors of Malta and Gozo

We appeal to you, the electors of Malta and Gozo, to vote for the candidates of The Progressive Constitutional Party and invite your full support for the Party's policy.

During a period when difficulties are many and resources are strained, when good and evil are In mortal combat in every country of the world it is clearly the duty of all who love their native land to use their influence to ensure that Malta is aligned with the forces of progress, social justice and peace. The alternative is class warfare, agitation and disorder.

On behalf of the Progressive Constitutional Party 31st October, 1953.

MABEL STRICKLAND, Leader and Chairman.

EDWIN BUSUTTIL, Deputy Leader.

ANTHONY MONTANARO, Hon. Secretary.