

- REVIEWED -
LEGISLATION UNIT
MINISTRY FOR
JUSTICE AND REFORM

OF THE
CONSTRUCTION
SECTOR

President ta' Malta

A.L. [.....] tal-2025

ATT DWAR IĊ-ĊITTADINANZA MALTIJA
(KAP. 188)

Regolamenti tal-2025 li jemendaw ir-Regolamenti dwar l-Ghoti ta'
Ċittadinanza għal Servizzi Eċċezzjonali

BIS-SAHHA tas-setgħat mogħtija bl-artikolu 24 tal-Att dwar iċ-
 Ċittadinanza Maltija, il-President ta' Malta għamlet dawn ir-
 regolamenti li ġejjin:-

1. It-titolu ta' dawn ir-regolamenti hu r-Regolamenti tal-2025
 li jemendaw ir-Regolamenti dwar l-Ghoti ta' Ċittadinanza għal
 Servizzi Eċċezzjonali u dawn ir-regolamenti għandhom jinqraw u
 jinftiehm u haġa waħda mar-Regolamenti dwar l-Ghoti ta' Ċittadinanza
 għal Servizzi Eċċezzjonali, hawn aktar 'il quddiem imsejha r-
 "regolamenti prinċipali".

Titolu.

L.S. 188.06.

2. Ir-regolament 1 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi
 sostitwit bir-regolament ġdid li ġej:

Jissostitwixxi r-
 regolament 1
 tar-regolamenti
 prinċipali.

"1. It-titolu ta' dawn ir-regolamenti hu r-Regolamenti
 dwar l-Ghoti ta' Ċittadinanza permezz ta' Naturalizzazzjoni
 abbażi tal-Mertu."

3. Ir-regolament 2 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi
 sostitwit bir-regolament il-ġdid li ġej:

Jissostitwixxi r-
 regolament 2
 tar-regolamenti
 prinċipali.

"2. L-għan ta' dawn ir-regolamenti huwa li
 jippreskrivu r-rekwiżiti u li jirregolaw l-għoti taċ-
 ċittadinanza permezz tan-naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-
 mertu skont l-artikolu 10(9) tal-Att."

Jissostitwixxi r-regolament 3 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

4. Ir-regolament 3 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bir-regolament ġdid li ġej:

"Tifsir

3. F'dawn ir-regolamenti, kemm-il darba r-rabta tal-kliem ma teħtieġx xort' oħra:

Kap. 188.

"Att" tfisser l-Att dwar iċ-Ċittadinanza Maltija;

L.S. 595.38.

"Aġenzija" tfisser l-Aġenzija Community Malta mwaqqfa bl-Ordni dwar it-Twaqqif tal-Aġenzija Community Malta;

"applikant" tfisser applikant li jissottometti applikazzjoni għaċ-ċittadinanza ta' Malta permezz tan-naturalizzazzjoni skont dawn ir-regolamenti u għandha tinkludi wkoll applikant prinċipali li japplika għan-nom tiegħu jew għan-nom ta' dipendenti jew persuna li tapplika għan-nom ta' persuna oħra iżda ma tinkludix dipendenti;

"applikant prinċipali" tfisser il-persuna li tissottometti applikazzjoni skont dawn ir-regolamenti fejn huma inklużi d-dipendenti;

"applikazzjoni" tfisser kwalunkwe proposta jew applikazzjoni magħmula mill-applikant skont dawn ir-regolamenti;

"Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni" jew il-"Bord" tfisser il-grupp ta' individwi maħtura skont dawn ir-regolamenti sabiex jevalwaw l-applikazzjonijiet magħmula skont l-artikolu 10(9) tal-Att u sabiex iħejju rakkomandazzjoni fir-rigward ta' kull applikazzjoni li għandha tiġi riferuta lill-Ministru responsabbli għaċ-ċittadinanza skont dawn ir-regolamenti;

"data ta' *due diligence*" tfisser kwalunkwe data personali li tappartjeni lill-applikant jew lid-dipendent jew lid-dipendenti jekk applikabbli, miġbura u pproċessata mill-Aġenzija bħala parti mill-proċess ta' *due diligence*, bl-esklużjoni tad-data personali miġbura mill-Aġenzija direttament mingħand l-applikant, jew mid-dipendent jew mid-dipendenti, jekk applikabbli;

"dipendenti" tfisser il-membri tal-familja tal-applikant prinċipali skont dawn ir-regolamenti, sal-punt indikat u strettament relatat mal-proċess ta' naturalizzazzjoni u għandha tinkludi:

(a) konjuġi tal-applikant prinċipali fi żwieġ monogamuż jew sieheb f'relazzjoni oħra li jkollha l-istess status jew xi status simili għal żwieġ monogamuż, inkluża unjoni ċivili, sħubija domestika, żwieġ tal-liġi komuni, iżda għall-fini ta' dawn ir-regolamenti, it-terminu "konjuġi" f'dawn ir-regolamenti għandu jittqies bħala newtrali għas-sess, u salv għad-diskrezzjoni tal-Ministru li jawtorizza, fuq bażi ta' każ b'każ, relazzjonijiet oħra li għandhom status simili bhal dak imsemmi qabel;

(b) wild tal-applikant prinċipali jew tad-dipendenti tiegħu kif imfisser fil-paragrafu (a) inkluż wild adottat, li jkunu għadhom ma laħqux it-tmintax (18)-il sena fil-waqt meta l-applikant prinċipali jissottometti ittra ta' proposta skont ir-regolament 11A li tiġi aċċettata mill-Aġenzija;

(ċ) wild tal-applikant prinċipali jew tad-dipendenti tiegħu kif imfisser fil-paragrafu (a) inkluż wild adottat, li kellu tmintax (18)-il sena iżda li jkun għadu ma għalaqx disgħa u għoxrin (29) sena, meta l-applikant prinċipali jissottometti ittra ta' proposta skont ir-regolament 11A li tiġi aċċettata mill-Aġenzija, u li ma jkunx miżżewweġ u juri, għas-sodisfazzjon tal-Ministru, li huwa għalkollox mantnut jew li fil-biċċa l-kbira sostnut mill-applikant prinċipali;

(d) wild tal-applikant prinċipali jew tad-dipendenti tiegħu kif imfisser fil-paragrafu (a), inkluż wild adottat, li fil-waqt meta l-applikant prinċipali jissottometti ittra ta' proposta skont dawn ir-regolamenti jkun għalaq tmintax (18)-il sena u huwa għalkollox mantnut jew li fil-biċċa l-kbira sostnut mill-applikant prinċipali u li huwa persuna kwalifikata b'diżabilità kif imfisser fl-Att dwar Opportunitajiet Indaqs għal Persuni b'Diżabilità:

Iżda meta tali wild ma jkollux il-kapaċità legali għandhom japplikaw id-dispożizzjonijiet tal-artikolu 21(3) tal-Att;

"eċċezzjonali" għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħti lilha fl-artikolu 10(9) tal-Att;

"interess eċċezzjonali" għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħti lilha fl-artikolu 10(9) tal-Att;

"ittra ta' approvazzjoni" tfisser l-ittra mahruġa wara l-approvazzjoni tal-applikazzjoni għan-naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-mertu sottomessa mill-applikant kif provdut fir-regolament 11B;

"ittra ta' approvazzjoni fil-prinċipju" tfisser l-ittra mahruġa wara l-approvazzjoni fil-prinċipju tal-ittra ta' proposta magħmula mill-applikant kif provdut fir-regolament 11A;

"kopja ċċertifikata" tfisser fotokopja ta' dokument oriġinali ċċertifikat li jkun vera kopja tal-oriġinal, minn avukat bil-warrant, nutar pubbliku, kummissarju b'setgħa li jagħti l-ġuramenti, uffiċjal konsulari jew diplomatiku Malti, skont tali linji gwida li l-Aġenzija tista' toħroġ minn żmien għal żmien;

"kontribuzzjonijiet eċċezzjonali" għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħti lilha fl-artikolu 10(9) tal-Att;

"korp kompetenti indikat" tfisser l-entità reġistrata lokalment f'Malta kif indikata mill-Aġenzija minn żmien għal żmien li tkun kapaċi tistabbilixxi jekk individwu huwiex rikonoxxut f'qasam partikolari bħala talent ewlieni, jew li jkun wera potenzjal eċċezzjonali u li x'aktarx jsir talent ewlieni jew huwa ta' interess eċċezzjonali għar-Repubblika ta' Malta jew inkella jaqa' taħt il-parametri tal-artikolu 10(9) tal-Att;

"Kummissarju" tfisser il-Kummissarju għall-Infurmazzjoni u l-Protezzjoni tad-*Data* kif definit fl-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni u l-Privatezza tad-*Data*;

"Ministru" għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħti lilha fl-artikolu 2 tal-Att;

"persuna" tfisser persuna fiżika u, fejn applikabbli, tfisser persuna ġuridika;

"servizzi eċċezzjonali" għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħti lilha fl-artikolu 10(9) tal-Att;

"Regolament" tfisser ir-Regolament (UE) 2016/679 tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill tas-27 ta' April 2016 dwar il-protezzjoni tal-persuni fiżiċi fir-rigward tal-ipproċessar ta' *data* personali u dwar il-moviment liberu ta' tali *data*, u li jhassar id-Direttiva 95/46/KE;

"traduzzjoni awtentikata" tfisser traduzzjoni magħmula minn traduttur rikonoxxut."

5. Fit-titolu tat-Taqsima II tar-regolamenti prinċipali l-kliem "Dispożizzjonijiet ġenerali applikabbli għall-applikazzjonijiet kollha" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "Applikazzjonijiet għaċ-ċittadinanza permezz tan-naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-mertu".

Jemenda t-titolu tat-Taqsima II tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

6. Ir-regolament 5 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Jemenda r-regolament 5 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

(a) is-subregolament (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(i) il-kliem "Persuna tista' tapplika għal ċertifikat ta' naturalizzazzjoni taht dawn ir-regolamenti jekk dik il-persuna:" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "Persuna, inkluż dipendenti tal-applikant prinċipali, jista' jikkwalifika għal ċertifikat ta' naturalizzazzjoni taht dawn ir-regolamenti jekk dik il-persuna:";

(ii) fil-paragrafu (ċ) tiegħu l-kelma "Komunità" għandha tiġi sostitwita bil-kelma "komunità";

(iii) fil-paragrafu (d) tiegħu l-kliem "tissodisfa r-rekwiżiti" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "tissodisfa r-rekwiżiti applikabbli kollha";

(b) is-subregolament (2) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit bis-subregolament ġdid li ġej:

"(2) Minbarra l-kwalifiki stabbiliti fis-subregolament (1), persuna tista' tikkwalifika għal ċertifikat ta' naturalizzazzjoni skont dawn ir-regolamenti jekk tali persuna:

(a) tagħti servizz eċċezzjonali lir-Repubblika ta' Malta jew lill-umanità; jew

(b) tagħti kontribuzzjoni eċċezzjonali lir-Repubblika ta' Malta jew lill-umanità; jew

(ċ) hija ta' interess eċċezzjonali għar-Repubblika ta' Malta."

7. Ir-regolament 6 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Jemenda r-regolament 6 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

(a) fin-nota marginali tiegħu, il-kliem "għal servizzi

eċċezzjonali." għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "abbażi tal-mertu.";

(b) is-subregolament (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(i) fil-paragrafu (a) tiegħu l-kliem "kemm jekk tali persuna nstabt hatja, iddikjarata innoċenti jew b'xi mod ieħor mehlusa għal kwalunkwe raġuni minn din il-Qorti" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "kemm jekk tali persuna nstabt innoċenti jew xort'oħra mehlusa għal kwalunkwe raġuni minn tali Qorti";

(ii) fil-paragrafu (ċ) tiegħu l-kelma "huwa" għandha tiġi sostitwita bil-kelma "huma";

(iii) fil-paragrafu (d) tiegħu l-kliem "f'xi hin, ġiet akkużata bi jew instabet" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "f'xi hin, ġew akkużati bi jew instabu";

(iv) fil-paragrafu (e) tiegħu l-kliem "jkun, f'xi hin, ġiet akkużata jew misjuba hatja" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "jkunu, f'xi hin, ġew akkużati jew misjuba hatja";

(v) il-paragrafu (f) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit bil-paragrafu ġdid li ġej:

"(f) hija jew kwalunkwe mid-dipendenti tagħha, f'xi hin instabu hatja ta', jew f'xi hin matul l-ipproċessar tal-applikazzjoni, ikunu ġew interrogati jew issuspettati, jew inġiebu akkużi kriminali kontrihom, għal xi reat kriminali punibbli b'aktar minn sena (1) prigunerija minbarra għal reat mhux volontarju";

(vi) fil-paragrafu (g) tiegħu l-kliem "jkun, jew x'aktarx ikun, involut" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "jkunu, jew x'aktarx ikunu, involuti";

(vii) il-paragrafu (h) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit bil-paragrafu ġdid li ġej:

"(h) hija jew kwalunkwe mid-dipendenti tagħha ġew miċhuda viża għal pajjiż li miegħu Malta għandha arrangamenti tal-ivvjagġar mingħajr viża u ma jkunux sussegwentament kisbu viża minn dak l-istess pajjiż:

Iżda tali applikant jista' xorta jitqies bħala eliġibbli sabiex japplika jekk l-Aġenzija tkun sodisfatta li l-viża ma gietx miċhuda għal raġunijiet li jikkonċernaw l-ordni pubbliku, jew theddid serju għas-sigurtà pubblika u, jew is-saħħa pubblika taħt il-liġi Maltija;"

(viii) fil-paragrafu (i) tiegħu l-kliem "huwa msemmi jew elenkat" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "huma msemmija jew elenkati".

8. Ir-regolament 7 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Jemenda r-regolament 7 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

(a) is-subregolament (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit bis-subregolament ġdid li ġej:

L.S. 188.01. "(1) L-applikazzjonijiet, minbarra ittra ta' proposta, għandhom isiru fuq dawk il-formoli li jistgħu jiġu preskritti taħt ir-Regolamenti dwar iċ-Ċittadinanza.";

(b) is-subregolament (2) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit bis-subregolament il-ġdid li ġej:

"(2) L-applikazzjonijiet u d-dokumenti l-oħra ta' sostenn għandhom jimtlew bil-lingwa Maltija jew bl-Ingliż u, jekk il-lingwa oriġinali ta' dokument ma tkunx bil-Malti jew bl-Ingliż, id-dokument għandu jkun akkumpanjat minn traduzzjoni awtentikata għall-Malti jew għall-Ingliż.";

(ċ) is-subregolament (4) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit bis-subregolament ġdid li ġej:

"(4) L-applikazzjonijiet kollha sottomessi għan-naturalizzazzjoni skont dawn ir-regolamenti jistgħu jiġu sottomessi minn applikant flimkien mad-dipendenti tiegħu, fejn applikabbli, jew minn tali professjonist kompetenti iehor kif approvat mill-Aġenzija u debitament awtorizzat mill-applikant.";

(d) fis-subregolament (5) tiegħu minnufih wara l-kliem "ikkonfermati b'ġurament" għandhom jiġu miżjudha l-kliem ",fejn applikabbli,";

(e) fis-subregolament (7) tiegħu minnufih wara l-kliem "Jekk applikant" għandhom jiġu miżjudha l-kliem "jew kwalunkwe mid-dipendenti tiegħu,".

Thassar ir-regolamenti 8, 9 u 10 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

9. Ir-regolamenti 8 sa 10 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandhom jiġu mħassra.

Jemenda t-titolu tat-Taqsima III tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

10. Fit-titolu tat-Taqsima III tar-regolamenti prinċipali l-kliem "Dispożizzjonijiet Speċjali applikabbli għan-naturalizzazzjoni għal servizzi eċċezzjonali skont il-mertu" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "Il-Proċess ta' Applikazzjoni u Evalwazzjoni".

Jissostitwixxi r-regolament 11 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

11. Ir-regolament 11 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bir-regolament il-ġdid li ġej:

"Dispożizzjonijiet speċjali applikabbli għal naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-mertu.

11. (1) L-Aġenzija għandha twettaq f'isem il-Ministru l-ipproċessar ta' applikazzjonijiet għaċ-ċittadinanza permezz tan-naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-mertu.

(2) Kull applikazzjoni għandha tiġi ppreżentata lill-Ministru permezz tal-Aġenzija.

(3) Dawk l-applikanti biss li jirċievu ittra ta' approvazzjoni fil-prinċipju, kif ukoll dawk id-dipendenti inklużi fiha skont dawn ir-regolamenti huma eliġibbli li jissottomettu applikazzjoni għal ċertifikat taċ-ċittadinanza permezz tan-naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-mertu skont ir-regolament 11B."

Iżid regolament ġodda mar-regolamenti prinċipali.

12. Minnufih wara r-regolament 11 tar-regolamenti prinċipali, kif sostitwit, għandhom jiġu miżjuda r-regolamenti ġodda li ġejjin:

"Ittra ta' proposta.

11A. (1) Individu li japplika għan-naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-mertu skont dawn ir-regolamenti għandu l-ewwel jissottometti lill-Bord permezz tal-Aġenzija, proposta komprensiva permezz ta' ittra, li tikkonsisti f'dan li ġej:

(a) introduzzjoni tal-applikant u, jekk applikabbli, tad-dipendenti tiegħu flimkien ma' ħarsa komprensiva tal-kisbiet tiegħu;

(b) deskrizzjoni dettaljata tas-servizz eċċezzjonali jew tal-kontribuzzjoni eċċezzjonali li l-applikant għandu l-intenzjoni li jagħti jew jagħmel għall-benefiċċju tar-Repubblika ta' Malta jew tal-umanità skont dawn ir-regolamenti, jew deskrizzjoni dettaljata għaliex għandu jitqies ta' interess eċċezzjonali għar-Repubblika ta' Malta;

(ċ) pjan dettaljat dwar kif l-applikant għandu l-intenzjoni li jkompli jikkontribwixxi għar-Repubblika ta' Malta wara n-naturalizzazzjoni, f'każ li l-applikazzjoni tirnexxi; u

(d) kwalunkwe dokument ieħor li l-Aġenzija tista' titlob wara li tirċievi l-ittra ta' proposta.

(2) Hekk kif l-Aġenzija tkun sodisfatta bil-kompletezza tal-ittra ta' proposta iżda fi kwalunkwe każ qabel ma tissottometti l-ittra ta' proposta għall-evalwazzjoni mill-Bord għall-finijiet ta' dan ir-Regolament, l-Aġenzija għandha:

(a) taċċerta t-twetliq ta' kontrolli ta' *due diligence* anke minn partijiet terzi, inkluż fornitur wieħed (1) jew aktar ta' servizzi speċjalizzati ta' *due diligence* rikonoxxuti internazzjonalment, fir-rigward ta' kull applikant u d-dipendenti tiegħu, fejn applikabbli. Tali kontrolli tad-*due diligence* għandhom isiru fuq erba' (4) livelli jew aktar, kif l-Aġenzija għandha tiddetermina minn żmien għal żmien u jistgħu jinkludu kontrolli tas-sigurtà li għandhom jitwettqu mill-awtoritajiet tal-infurzar tal-liġi f'konformità mar-Regolamenti dwar il-Protezzjoni tad-*Data* (Ipproċessar ta' *Data* Personali minn Awtoritajiet Kompetenti għall-Finijiet tal-Prevenzjoni, l-Investigazzjoni, is-Sejbien jew il-Prosekuzzjoni ta' Reati Kriminali jew l-Eżekuzzjoni ta' Pieni Kriminali):

Iżda fir-rigward tal-kontrolli li jikkonċernaw ir-riskji tal-ħasil tal-flus u l-finanzjament tat-terroriżmu, l-awtoritajiet tal-infurzar tal-liġi jistgħu jużaw l-ghodod disponibbli użati mill-awtoritajiet pertinenti li jkollhom l-awtorità meħtieġa sabiex iwettqu tali kontrolli;

(b) ikollha l-informazzjoni rilevanti kollha pprovduta mill-applikant ivverifikata minn fornitur indipendenti wieħed (1) jew aktar ta' servizzi ta' *due diligence*, b'kunsiderazzjoni xierqa għall-leġiżlazzjoni u l-linji gwida dwar il-ġlieda kontra l-ħasil tal-flus u l-finanzjament tat-terroriżmu mahruġa mill-awtoritajiet kompetenti;

(ċ) ikollha l-isfond tal-applikant u d-dipendenti tiegħu, jekk ikun hemm, ivverifikat minn fornitur indipendenti wieħed (1) jew aktar ta' servizzi ta' *due diligence*;

(d) tiżgura li tkun twettqet valutazzjoni xierqa tar-riskju kif stabbilit mill-Aġenzija;

(e) titlob lill-applikant sabiex jipproduci kwalunkwe dokumentazzjoni u informazzjoni ulterjuri li l-Aġenzija tista' tehtieg dwar l-applikant u d-dipendenti tiegħu, fejn applikabbli;

(f) titlob lill-applikant sabiex iħallas kwalunkwe dritt amministrattiv applikabbli mhux rimborsabbli kif jista' jiġi stabbilit mill-Aġenzija minn żmien għal żmien jew kwalunkwe drittijiet oħra skont il-każ.

(3) Hekk kif l-Aġenzija tkun sodisfatta bil-kompletezza u t-twettiq tal-kontrolli kollha skont isubregolament (2), għandha titlob lill-Bord sabiex jevalwa l-proposta sottomessa mill-applikant skont dawn ir-regolamenti. Matul dan il-proċess, il-Bord jista', *inter alia*, jitlob dokumenti jew informazzjoni addizzjonali mingħand l-applikant, permezz tal-Aġenzija, kif iqis mehtieg.

(4) Il-Bord, wara l-proċess ta' evalwazzjoni, għandu jkollu l-awtorità li jirrakkomanda l-proposta lill-Aġenzija għall-approvazzjoni jew iċ-ċaħda abbażi tal-valutazzjoni tiegħu. L-Aġenzija għandha sussegwentement tissottometti r-rakkomandazzjoni tal-Bord lill-Ministru għall-approvazzjoni finali jew għaċ-ċaħda. Il-Ministru ma għandux ikun obbligat li jipprovdi xi raġuni sabiex isostni d-deċiżjoni tiegħu, liema deċiżjoni għandha tkun finali.

(5) Jekk il-proposta tiġi miċħuda mill-Ministru, l-Aġenzija għandha tavża lill-applikant bil-miktub dwar ir-rifjut.

(6) Jekk il-proposta tiġi approvata fil-prinċipju mill-Ministru, l-Aġenzija għandha toħroġ ittra ta' approvazzjoni fil-prinċipju favur l-applikant u d-dipendenti tiegħu fejn applikabbli.

Applikazzjoni
għal
naturalizz-
azzjoni abbażi
tal-mertu.

11B. (1) Wara li jirċievi l-ittra ta' approvazzjoni fil-prinċipju skont dawn ir-regolamenti, l-applikant, flimkien mad-dipendenti tiegħu, fejn applikabbli, jista' sussegwentement jipproċedi sabiex jippreżenta applikazzjoni għan-naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-mertu liema applikazzjoni għandha tkun akkumpanjata minn:

(a) prova ta' residenza f'Malta għal mill-inqas tmien (8) xhur fil-perjodu li jippreċedi d-data tal-applikazzjoni;

(b) fil-każ ta' applikant li jkun issottometta ittra ta' proposta, prova ta' titolu għal proprjetà residenzjali adegwata f'Malta, ħlief fil-każ ta' applikant li huwa minorenni:

Iżda fejn l-applikant ikun issottometta ittra ta' proposta u ma huwiex l-applikant prinċipali, huwa għadu membru tal-familja tiegħu, il-Ministru jista', jekk ikun sodisfatt li l-applikant ma huwiex f'pożizzjoni li jixtri jew jikri tali proprjetà, jirrinunzja dan ir-rekwiżit;

(ċ) indikazzjoni tas-servizz eċċezzjonali jew tal-kontribut eċċezzjonali mogħti jew magħmul jew li għandu jingħata jew isir lir-Repubblika ta' Malta jew lill-umanità, jew tal-interess eċċezzjonali li n-naturalizzazzjoni tiegħu hija jew tista' tkun għar-Repubblika ta' Malta flimkien mal-approvazzjoni mill-korp kompetenti indikat skont dawn ir-regolamenti, kif jista' jintalab mill-Bord;

(d) konferma ta' għarfien adegwat tal-Malti jew tal-Ingliż; u

(e) prova tar-rabtiet l-oħra kollha li jkun holoq mar-Repubblika ta' Malta f'dak l-istadju kif propost fl-ittra ta' proposta.

(2) Malli tircievi applikazzjoni, l-Aġenzija għandha:

(a) taġġorna d-*due diligence* tagħha;

(b) titlob lill-applikant sabiex jipproduci kwalunkwe dokumentazzjoni u informazzjoni ulterjuri li hija tista' teħtieġ, dwar l-applikant jew id-dipendenti tiegħu, fejn applikabbli fid-diskrezzjoni tagħha;

(ċ) titlob lill-applikant sabiex iħallas kwalunkwe dritt amministrattiv applikabbli mhux rimborsabbli kif jista' jiġi stabbilit mill-Aġenzija minn żmien għal żmien jew kwalunkwe drittijiet oħra skont il-każ.

(3) Meta l-Aġenzija tkun sodisfatta bil-kompletezza u t-twettiq tal-kontrolli kollha skont ir-regolament 11B(2), hija għandha titlob lill-Bord sabiex jevalwa l-applikazzjoni sottomessa mill-applikant u d-dipendenti tiegħu, fejn applikabbli, wara l-ittra ta' proposta sottomessa minnu. Tali evalwazzjoni ulterjuri għandha titwettaq f'perjodu ta' żmien raġonevoli. Matul dan il-proċess, il-Bord jista' jitlob dokumenti jew informazzjoni addizzjonali mingħand l-applikant, permezz tal-Aġenzija, kif iqs meħtieġ.

(4) Il-Bord, wara l-proċess ta' evalwazzjoni, għandu jkollu l-awtorità li jirrakkomanda l-applikazzjoni lill-Aġenzija għall-approvazzjoni jew għaċ-ċaħda. L-Aġenzija għandha sussegwentement tissottometti r-rakkomandazzjoni lill-Ministru għall-approvazzjoni finali jew għaċ-ċaħda. Il-Ministru ma għandux ikun obligat li jipprovdi kwalunkwe raġuni sabiex isostni d-deċiżjoni tiegħu, liema deċiżjoni għandha tkun finali.

(5) Jekk l-applikazzjoni tiġi miċhuda mill-Ministru, l-Aġenzija għandha tinnotifika lill-applikant bil-miktub bid-deċiżjoni.

(6) Jekk l-applikazzjoni tiġi approvata mill-Ministru, l-Aġenzija għandha tohrōġ ittra ta' approvazzjoni favur l-applikant u d-dipendenti tiegħu, fejn applikabbli, liema ittra ta' approvazzjoni tista' tinkludi wkoll ċerti obbligi kontinwi, fejn applikabbli.

Jissostitwixxi r-regolament 12 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

13. Ir-regolament 12 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bir-regolament il-ġdid li ġej:

"Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni.

12. (1) Il-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni għandu jevalwa l-applikazzjonijiet magħmula skont dawn ir-regolamenti.

(2) Il-kompożizzjoni tal-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni għandha tvarja skont in-natura tal-applikazzjoni li għandha tiġi evalwata u għandha tinkludi:

(a) president li għandu jinhatar mill-Ministru wara konsultazzjoni mal-Kabinett tal-Ministri, li għandu jkun persuna li tkun ipprattikat il-professjoni ta' avukat għal mill-inqas seba' (7) snin; u

(b) żewġ (2) membri li għandhom jintgħażlu mill-President minn fost il-membri ta' tliet (3) panels li għandhom jiġu mahtura mill-Ministru, liema panels għandhom jinkludu persuni li għandhom l-għarfien dwar l-isport, il-kultura, l-arti, ix-xjenza, ir-riċerka, il-filantropija, it-teknoloġija u l-intraprenditorija u kwalunkwe qasam ieħor kif jista' jiġi stabbilit minn żmien għal żmien.

(3) Il-President u l-membri mahtura tal-panel tal-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni għandu jkollhom il-kariga għal terminu ta' tliet (3) snin u taht tali kondizzjonijiet kif jistgħu jiġu stabbiliti fl-ittra tal-hatra tagħhom, u għandhom, malli jiskadi t-terminu tal-kariga tagħhom, ikunu eligibbli sabiex jinhatru mill-ġdid.

(4) Il-President u l-membri mahtura tal-panel tal-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni għandhom jiġu rimunerati b'mod adegwat, kif determinat mill-Ministru.

(5) Il-President u l-membri tal-panel tal-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni għandhom, qabel ma jibdwu iwettqu dmirijiethom, jieħdu gürament fil-forma stabbilita fl-Iskeda. Tali gürament għandu jittiehed qabel, u għandu jiġi depożitat, mal-Avukat tal-Istat.

(6) Meta jkun hekk post vakanti fil-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni, il-Ministru għandu, malajr kemm jista' jkun, jahtar persuna oħra sabiex timla l-post vakanti.

(7) Membru tal-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni jista' jitneħħa mill-kariga mill-Ministru, fuq prova ta' inabilità li jwettaq il-funzjonijiet tal-kariga tiegħu, kemm jekk jirriżulta minn nuqqas ta' saħħa mentali jew fiżiku jew kwalunkwe kawża oħra, jew minħabba mġiba ħażina.

(8) Il-President u kwalunkwe membru tal-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni jistgħu jastjenu f'xi seduta jew jistgħu jiġu kkontestati għal xi waħda mil-kawżi msemmija fl-artikolu 734 tal-Kodiċi ta' Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili.

(9) Kemm-il darba dawn ir-regolamenti ma jipprovdwx espressament xort'oħra, il-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni jista' jagħmel ir-regoli tiegħu stess u xort'oħra jirregola l-proċedura tiegħu stess.

(10) Il-Ministru għandu jahtar Segretarju għall-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni u tali uffiċjali oħra kif jista' jkun meħtieġ minn żmien għal żmien u għandu jiddetermina d-dmirijiet tagħhom.

(11) Il-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni għandu jkollu s-setgħa li jitlob tali parir tekniku kif jista' jqis meħtieġ għat-twettiq xieraq tal-funzjonijiet tiegħu.

(12) Kwalunkwe avviż mahruġ mill-Bord għandu jiġi ffirmat mill-President u kontrofirmat mis-Segretarju.

(13) Is-sejbiet tal-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni għandhom jiġu ffirmati mill-President u mis-Segretarju u jintbagħtu lill-Ministru għall-konsiderazzjoni tiegħu permezz tal-Aġenzija."

Jissostitwixxi r-regolament 13 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

14. Ir-regolament 13 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bir-regolament il-ġdid li ġej:

"Proċess ta' evalwazzjoni.

13. (1) Il-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni għandu jevalwa l-ittra ta' proposta u l-applikazzjonijiet sottomessi skont dawn ir-regolamenti u jhejji rakkomandazzjoni. Il-Bord jista', fi kwalunkwe stadju, jintervista personalment lill-applikant u lil kwalunkwe persuna oħra kif jista' jqis xieraq.

(2) Il-Bord jista' wkoll jintervista lir-rappreżentant legali tal-korp kompetenti indikat li japprova lill-applikant u lil kwalunkwe persuna oħra li jista' jqis xieraq."

Jissostitwixxi r-regolament 14 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

15. Ir-regolament 14 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bir-regolament il-ġdid li ġej:

"Ġurament ta' lealtà.

14. (1) L-applikant u d-dipendenti tiegħu, fejn applikabbli, għandhom ikunu meħtieġa li jieħdu l-ġurament ta' lealtà, li, fil-każ tal-applikant għandu jittiehed fi żmien sitt (6) xhur mill-hruġ tal-ittra ta' approvazzjoni:

Iżda l-Ministru jista' jestendi l-imsemmi perjodu ta' sitt (6) xhur f'ċirkostanzi eċċezzjonali.

(2) Iċ-ċertifikat ta' naturalizzazzjoni abbażi tal-mertu skont dawn ir-regolamenti jista' jinħareġ lill-applikant u lid-dipendenti tiegħu fejn applikabbli, hekk kif ikun ittiehed il-ġurament ta' lealtà.

(3) L-Aġenzija tista' tissospendi jew ittemm il-proċess tal-applikazzjoni qabel ma l-Ministru joħroġ iċ-ċertifikat ta' naturalizzazzjoni, jekk l-applikant jonqos milli jissodisfa l-kondizzjonijiet kollha jew jekk il-Ministru ma jibqax sodisfatt li l-applikant jistħoqqlu ċittadinanza Maltija."

16. Ir-regolamenti 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 u 21 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandhom jiġu mħassra.

Ihassar ir-regolamenti 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 u 21 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

17. Ir-regolament 22 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bir-regolament ġdid li ġej:

Jissostitwixxi r-regolament 22 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

"Obbligi kontinwi u formola ta' konformità annwali.

22. (1) L-applikant għandu, qabel ma jieħu l-gurament ta' lealtà, jimpenja ruħu u jikkonferma bil-miktub li għandu jkompli josserva u jissodisfa l-obbligi kontinwi kollha u tali impenji oħra, f'termini tal-applikazzjoni tiegħu u ta' dawn ir-regolamenti, jew kif jista' jiġi stipulat xort'oħra mill-Ministru fl-ittra ta' approvazzjoni kif applikabbli.

(2) L-Aġenzija għandha tiżgura t-twetliq kontinwu tal-impenji u l-obbligi kontinwi, u jekk ikun meħtieġ, tista' titlob prova tal-osservanza ta' dawn l-impenji u l-obbligi u twettaq il-verifiki tagħha stess."

18. Fir-regolament 23 tar-regolamenti prinċipali, il-kliem "L-Aġenzija għandha, minn żmien għal żmien, tohroġ linji gwida proċedurali" għandhom jiġu sostitwiti bil-kliem "L-Aġenzija tista', minn żmien għal żmien, tohroġ linji gwida."

Jemenda r-regolament 23 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

19. Ir-regolament 24 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bir-regolament ġdid li ġej:

Jissostitwixxi r-regolament 24 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

"Ċaħda taċ-ċittadinanza.

24. (1) Bla ħsara għad-dispożizzjonijiet tal-artikolu 14 tal-Att, il-Ministru għandu jkollu s-setgħa li jċaħħad persuna miċ-ċittadinanza Maltija mogħtija taħt dawn ir-regolamenti, jekk il-persuna:

(a) tonqos milli tikkonforma ma' kwalunkwe obbligu materjali jew impenji oħra stabbiliti minn dawn ir-regolamenti jew kif stipulat fl-ittra ta' approvazzjoni maħruġa mill-Aġenzija; jew

(b) issir theddida għas-sigurtà nazzjonali; jew

(ċ) tkun involuta f'aġir li jkun ta' preġudizzju serju għall-interessi tar-Repubblika ta' Malta.

(2) F'tali każijiet il-proċedura għaċ-ċaħda taċ-ċittadinanza stipulata fl-artikolu 14 tal-Att u fi kwalunkwe regolamenti magħmula taħt l-Att fir-rigward ta' tali privazzjoni għandha tapplika *mutatis mutandis*."

Jissostitwixxi r-regolament 25 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

20. Ir-regolament 25 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi sostitwit bir-regolament ġdid li ġej:

"*Bona fide* u standards professjonali.

25. Kull persuna għandha taġixxi bil-*bona fide*, iżżomm l-istandards professjonali, u iżżomm livelli għoljin ta' integrità fil-kwistjonijiet kollha relatati mal-kisba taċ-ċittadinanza permezz tan-naturalizzazzjoni, filwaqt li tiżgura li l-azzjonijiet kollha fir-rigward ta' tali naturalizzazzjoni jitwettqu b'mod responsabbli, xieraq u skont ir-rekwiżiti stabbiliti mill-Aġenzija."

Jemenda r-regolament 27 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

21. Ir-regolament 27 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) is-subregolament (1) tiegħu għandu jiġi sostitwit bis-subregolament ġdid li ġej:

"(1) Hlief għal qadi xieraq tad-dmirijiet jew funzjonijiet tagħhom skont dawn ir-regolamenti u skont it-termini tal-Att, inkluż għall-finijiet tal-kontrolli tad-*due diligence* msemmija fir-regolamenti 11A(2) u 11B(2), jew kif jista' jkun provdut xort'oħra fi kwalunkwe liġi oħra, l-Aġenzija u l-uffiċjali u l-impjegati tal-Aġenzija, għandhom jittrattaw f'kull waqt l-informazzjoni kollha provduta skont dawn ir-regolamenti bħala kunfidenzjali u l-Aġenzija għandha tużaha biss għall-finijiet ta' dawn ir-regolamenti, u ma għandhiex, direttament jew indirettament, tiżvela tali informazzjoni lil kwalunkwe persuna oħra, hlief bil-kunsens tal-persuna li magħha tirrelata l-informazzjoni. Għall-finijiet ta' dan is-subregolament "impjegati" u "uffiċjali" għandhom jinkludu impjegati u uffiċjali preċedenti.";

(b) fis-subregolament (3) tiegħu minnufih wara l-kliem "l-Awtorità għas-Servizzi Finanzjarji ta' Malta" għandhom jiġu miżjuda l-kliem ", ir-Reġistru tan-Negozju ta' Malta".

Ihassar ir-regolamenti 30 u 31 tar-regolamenti prinċipali.

22. Ir-regolamenti 30 u 31 tar-regolamenti prinċipali għandhom jiġu mħassra.

23. L-Ewwel Skeda li tinsab mar-regolamenti prinċipali għandha tiġi sostitwita bl-Iskeda ġdida li ġejja:

Jissostitwixxi l-Ewwel Skeda li tinsab mar-regolamenti prinċipali.

"Skeda
(regolament 12)

Il-Ġurament li għandu jittiehed mill-President jew minn Membru Tal-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni

Jiena, wara li ngħatajt il-ħatra bħala President/Membru tal-Bord ta' Evalwazzjoni għall-perjodu minn.....
sa..... solennement nahlef/niddikjara, li b'mod fidil, shih u imparzjali u bl-aħjar hila tiegħi nwettaq l-qadi tad-dmirijiet li jiddevolvu fuqi bis-saħħa tal-ħatra msemija.

Hekk Alla jgħinni.

.....

President/Membru".

24. It-Tieni, it-Tielet u r-Raba' Skedi li jinsabu mar-regolamenti prinċipali għandhom jiġu mħassra.

Ihassar it-Tieni, it-Tielet u r-Raba' Skeda li jinsabu mar-regolamenti prinċipali.

25. L-akkwist, iċ-ċaħda jew iż-żamma taċ-ċittadinanza Maltija permezz tan-naturalizzazzjoni regolati mil-liġi jew regolamenti rispettivi fis-sehħ qabel id-dhul fis-sehħ tar-Regolamenti tal-2025 li jemendaw ir-Regolamenti dwar l-Għoti ta' Ċittadinanza għal Servizzi Eċċezzjonali, għandhom jibqgħu jiġu regolati minn, u għandhom jibqgħu validi taht, il-liġi jew ir-regolamenti rispettivi applikabbli għalihom:

Dispożizzjoni tranżitorja.

A.L. — tal-2025.

Izda kwalunkwe applikazzjonijiet sottomessi taht it-Taqsima IV tar-Regolamenti dwar l-Għoti ta' Ċittadinanza għal Servizzi Eċċezzjonali li ma kinux ġew approvati għan-naturalizzazzjoni mill-Ministru taht l-imsemmija Taqsima IV qabel id-29 ta' April 2025, ma għandux jibqa' jkollhom effett.

L.S. 188.06.

**- REVIEWED -
LEGISLATION UNIT
MINISTRY FOR
JUSTICE AND REFORM
OF THE CONSTRUCTION
SECTOR**

.....
President of Malta

L.N. [.....] of 2025

**MALTESE CITIZENSHIP ACT
(CAP. 188)**

**Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services (Amendment)
Regulations, 2025**

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by article 24 of the Maltese Citizenship Act, the President of Malta has made the following regulations:-

Citation.

S.L. 188.06.

1. The title of these regulations is the Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 and these regulations shall be read and construed as one with the Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the "principal regulations".

Substitutes
regulation 1 of
the principal
regulations.

2. Regulation 1 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

"1. The title of these regulations is the Granting of Citizenship by Naturalisation on the basis of Merit Regulations."

Substitutes
regulation 2 of
the principal
regulations.

3. Regulation 2 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

"2. The scope of these regulations is to prescribe the requirements and to regulate the granting of citizenship by naturalisation on the basis of merit in accordance with article 10(9) of the Maltese Citizenship Act."

Substitutes
regulation 3 of
the principal
regulations.

4. Regulation 3 of the principal regulations shall be

substituted by the following new regulation:

"Interpretation.

3. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

Cap. 188.

"Act" means the Maltese Citizenship Act;

S.L. 595.38.

"Agency" means the Community Malta Agency established by the Community Malta Agency (Establishment) Order;

"applicant" means an applicant who submits an application for citizenship of Malta by naturalisation in accordance with these regulations and shall also include a main applicant who applies on his own behalf and on behalf of a dependant or a person who applies on behalf of another person, but does not include a dependant;

"application" means any proposal or application made by the applicant in accordance with these regulations;

"authenticated translation" means a translation made by a recognised translator;

"certified copy" means a photocopy of an original document certified to be a true copy of the original, by a duly warranted lawyer, notary public, commissioner for oaths, Maltese consular or diplomatic officer, in accordance with such guidelines as the Agency may issue from time to time;

Cap. 586.

"Commissioner" means the Information and Data Protection Commissioner as defined in the Data Protection Act;

"dependant" means the family members of the main applicant in terms of these regulations, to the extent indicated and strictly related to the naturalisation process and shall include:

(a) the spouse of the main applicant in a monogamous marriage or partner in another relationship having the same or similar status to a monogamous marriage, including a civil union, domestic partnership, common law marriage, provided that for the purpose of these regulations, the term "spouse" shall be construed as gender neutral, and saving the discretion of the Minister to authorise, on a case by case basis, other relationships having a similar status as aforesaid;

(b) a child of the main applicant or of his dependant as defined in paragraph (a) including an adopted child, who has not yet attained eighteen (18) years of age at the time when the main applicant submits a proposal letter in terms of regulation 11A which is accepted by the Agency;

(c) a child of the main applicant or of his dependant as defined in paragraph (a) including an adopted child, who has attained eighteen (18) years of age but has not yet attained twenty-nine (29) years of age, when the main applicant submits a proposal letter in terms of regulation 11A which is accepted by the Agency, and who is not married and proves, to the satisfaction of the Minister, that he is wholly maintained or otherwise largely supported by the main applicant;

(d) a child of the main applicant or of his dependant as defined in paragraph (a), including an adopted child, who at the time when the main applicant submits a proposal letter in accordance with these regulations has attained eighteen (18) years of age and is wholly maintained or otherwise largely supported by the main applicant and is a qualified person with a disability as defined in the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act:

Provided that where such child does not have legal capacity the provisions of article 21(3) of the Act shall apply;

"designated competent body" means the locally registered entity in Malta as designated by the Agency from time to time that is capable of determining whether an individual is recognised in a particular field as a leading talent, or has demonstrated exceptional promise and is likely to become a leading talent or is of exceptional interest to the Republic of Malta or otherwise falls within the parameters of article 10(9) of the Act;

"due diligence data" means any personal data pertaining to the applicant, or the dependant or dependants if applicable, collected and processed by the Agency as part of the due diligence process, excluding the personal data collected by the Agency directly from the applicant or the dependant or dependants, if applicable;

"Evaluation Board" or the "Board" means the group of individuals appointed in accordance with these regulations to evaluate applications made in accordance with article 10(9) of the Act and to prepare a recommendation with regard to each application to be referred to the Minister responsible for citizenship in terms of these regulations;

"exceptional" shall have the same meaning assigned to it in article 10(9) of the Act;

"exceptional contributions" shall have the same meaning assigned to it in article 10(9) of the Act;

"exceptional interest" shall have the same meaning assigned to it in article 10(9) of the Act;

"exceptional services" shall have the same meaning assigned to it in article 10(9) of the Act;

"letter of approval" means the letter issued following the approval of the application for naturalisation on the basis of merit submitted by the applicant as provided for in regulation 11B;

"letter of approval in principle" means the letter issued following the approval in principle of the proposal letter made by the applicant as provided for in regulation 11A;

"main applicant" means the person who submits an application in terms of these regulations wherein dependants are included;

"Minister" shall have the same meaning assigned to it in article 2 of the Act;

"person" means a physical person and where applicable means a legal person;

"Regulation" means Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC."

Amends the title of Part II of the principal regulations.

5. In the title of Part II of the principal regulations the words "General provisions applicable to all applications" shall be substituted by the words "Applications for citizenship by naturalisation on the basis of merit".

Amends regulation 5 of the principal regulations.

6. Regulation 5 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-regulation (1) thereof shall be amended as follows:

(i) the words "A person may apply for a certificate of naturalisation under these regulations if that person:" shall be substituted by the words "A person, including a dependant of a main applicant, may qualify for a certificate of naturalisation under these regulations if that person:";

(ii) in paragraph (c) thereof the word "Community" shall be substituted by the word "community";

(iii) in paragraph (d) thereof the words "satisfies the requirements" shall be substituted by the words "satisfies all the applicable requirements";

(b) sub-regulation (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(2) In addition to the qualifications established in sub-regulation (1), a person may qualify for a certificate of naturalisation in accordance with these regulations if such person:

(a) renders an exceptional service to the Republic of Malta or to humanity; or

(b) makes an exceptional contribution to

the Republic of Malta or to humanity; or

(c) is of exceptional interest to the Republic of Malta."

7. Regulation 6 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

Amends
regulation 6 of
the principal
regulations.

(a) in the marginal note thereof the words "for exceptional services." shall be substituted by the words "on the basis of merit.";

(b) sub-regulation (1) thereof shall be amended as follows:

(i) in paragraph (a) thereof the words "whether such person has been found guilty, declared innocent or otherwise acquitted for any reason by such Court" shall be substituted by the words "whether such person has been found innocent or otherwise acquitted for any reason by such Court";

(ii) in paragraph (c) thereof the word "is" shall be substituted by the word "are";

(iii) in paragraph (d) thereof the words "has, at any time, been charged with or found guilty" shall be substituted by the words "have, at any time, been charged or found guilty";

(iv) in paragraph (e) thereof the words "has, at any time" shall be substituted by the word "have, at any time";

(v) paragraph (f) thereof shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:

"(f) he or any of his dependants have, at any time, been found guilty of, or at any time during the processing of the application, have been interrogated or are suspected of, or have criminal charges brought against them, for any criminal offence punishable with more than one (1) year imprisonment other than an involuntary offence;"

(vi) in paragraph (g) thereof the words "is or is likely to be, involved" shall be substituted by the words "are or are likely to be involved";

(vii) paragraph (h) thereof shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:

"(h) he or any of his dependants have been denied a visa to a country with whom Malta has visa-free travel arrangements and have not subsequently obtained a visa from such country:

Provided that such applicant may still be considered as eligible to apply if the Agency is satisfied that the visa was not denied on grounds concerning public policy, or serious threats to public security and, or public health under Maltese law;"

(viii) in paragraph (i) thereof the words "is named or listed" shall be substituted by the words "are named or listed".

Amends
regulation 7 of
the principal
regulations.

8. Regulation 7 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-regulation (1) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

S.L. 188.01. "(1) Applications, other than a proposal letter, shall be made on such forms as may be prescribed under the Citizenship Regulations.";

(b) sub-regulation (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(2) The applications and other accompanying documents shall be completed in the Maltese or English language and, if the original language of a document is not Maltese or English, the document shall be accompanied by an authenticated translation into Maltese or English.";

(c) sub-regulation (4) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(4) All applications submitted for naturalisation in terms of these regulations may be submitted by an applicant, together with his dependants, where applicable, or by such other competent professional as approved by the Agency and duly authorised by the applicant.";

(d) in sub-regulation (5) thereof immediately after the words "confirmed on oath" there shall be added the words

",where applicable,";

(e) in sub-regulation (7) thereof immediately after the words "If an applicant" there shall be added the words "or any of his dependants,".

9. Regulations 8 to 10 of the principal regulations shall be deleted.

Deletes regulations 8, 9 and 10 of the principal regulations.

10. In the title of Part III of the principal regulations the words "Special Provisions applicable to naturalisation for exceptional services by merit" shall be substituted by the words "The Application and Evaluation Process".

Amends the title of Part III of the principal regulations.

11. Regulation 11 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

Substitutes regulation 11 of the principal regulations.

"Special provisions applicable to naturalisation on the basis of merit.

11. (1) The Agency shall carry out on behalf of the Minister the processing of applications for citizenship by naturalisation on the basis of merit.

(2) Every application shall be presented to the Minister through the Agency.

(3) Only applicants in receipt of a letter of approval in principle and any dependants included therein in terms of these regulations are eligible to submit an application for a certificate of citizenship by naturalisation on the basis of merit in terms of regulation 11B."

12. Immediately after regulation 11 of the principal regulations, as substituted, there shall be added the following new regulations:

Adds new regulations to the principal regulations.

"Proposal letter.

11A. (1) An individual applying for naturalisation on the basis of merit in terms of these regulations shall first submit a comprehensive proposal to the Board through the Agency by means of a letter, consisting of the following:

(a) an introduction of the applicant and, if applicable, his dependants together with a comprehensive overview of his achievements;

(b) a detailed description of the exceptional service or exceptional contribution the applicant intends to render or make for the benefit of the Republic of Malta or of humanity in accordance with these regulations, or a detailed description of why he should be considered of exceptional interest to the Republic of Malta;

(c) a detailed plan on how the applicant intends to continue contributing to the Republic of Malta following naturalisation, should the application be successful; and

(d) any other documents the Agency may request following receipt of the proposal letter.

(2) Once the Agency is satisfied with the completeness of the proposal letter but in any case prior to submitting the proposal letter for evaluation by the Board for the purposes of this regulation, the Agency shall:

(a) cause due diligence controls to be performed also by third parties, including one (1) or more internationally recognised specialised due diligence service providers, in respect of every applicant and his dependants, where applicable. Such due diligence controls shall be of a four (4) tier nature or more, as the Agency shall determine from time to time and may include security checks to be carried out by law enforcement authorities in accordance with the Data Protection (Processing of Personal Data by Competent Authorities for the Purposes of the Prevention, Investigation, Detection or Prosecution of Criminal Offences or the Execution of Criminal Penalties) Regulations:

S.L. 586.08.

Provided that with regard to controls concerning money laundering and terrorism financing risks, law enforcement authorities may use available tools used by pertinent authorities having the necessary authority to conduct such controls;

(b) have all relevant information provided by the applicant verified by one (1) or more independent due diligence service providers, with due regard to anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism legislation and guidelines issued by the competent authorities;

(c) have the background of the applicant and his dependants, if any, verified by one (1) or more independent due diligence service providers;

(d) ensure that an appropriate risk assessment has been carried out as established by the Agency;

(e) request the applicant to produce any further documentation and information that the Agency may require on the applicant and his dependants, where applicable;

(f) request the applicant to pay any applicable non-refundable administrative fees as may be established by the Agency from time to time and such other fees as the case may be.

(3) Once the Agency is satisfied with the completeness and fulfilment of all controls in terms of sub-regulation (2), it shall request the Board to evaluate the proposal submitted by the applicant in terms of these regulations. During this process, the Board may, *inter alia*, request additional documents or information from the applicant, through the Agency, as it deems necessary.

(4) The Board, following the evaluation process, shall have the authority to recommend the proposal to the Agency for approval or rejection based on its assessment. The Agency shall subsequently submit the recommendation of the Board to the Minister for final approval or rejection. The Minister shall not be obliged to provide any reason in support of his decision, which decision shall be final.

(5) If the proposal is rejected by the Minister, the Agency shall notify the applicant in writing of the refusal.

(6) If the proposal is approved in principle by the Minister, the Agency shall issue a letter of approval in principle in favour of the applicant and his dependants where applicable.

Application for
naturalisation on
the basis of
merit.

11B. (1) Pursuant to the receipt of the letter of approval in principle in accordance with these regulations, the applicant, together with his dependants, where applicable, may subsequently proceed to file an application for naturalisation on the basis of merit, which application shall be accompanied by:

(a) proof of residence in Malta for a period of at least eight (8) months or more in the period preceding the date of application;

(b) in the case of an applicant who has submitted a proposal letter, proof of title to adequate residential property in Malta, except in the case of an applicant who is a minor:

Provided that where the applicant who has submitted a proposal letter and is not a main applicant, is still a member of the household of his family, the Minister may, if he is satisfied that the applicant is not in a position to purchase or take on lease such property, waive this requirement;

(c) an indication of the exceptional service or the exceptional contribution rendered or made or to be rendered or made to the Republic of Malta or to humanity, or of the exceptional interest that his naturalisation is or may be to the Republic of Malta together with an endorsement by the designated competent body in terms of these regulations, as may be requested by the Board;

(d) a confirmation of adequate knowledge of Maltese or English; and

(e) proof of all other ties created with the Republic of Malta as at that stage as proposed in the proposal letter.

(2) Upon receipt of an application, the Agency shall:

(a) update its due diligence;

(b) request the applicant to produce any further documentation and information that it may require on the applicant and his dependants, where applicable at its discretion;

(c) request the applicant to pay any applicable non-refundable administrative fees as may be established by the Agency from time to time and such other fees as the case may be.

(3) When the Agency is satisfied with the completeness and fulfilment of all controls in terms of regulation 11B(2), it shall request the Board to evaluate the application submitted by the applicant, and his dependants, where applicable, further to the proposal letter submitted by him. Such further evaluation shall be performed within a reasonable period. During this process, the Board may request additional documents or information from the applicant, through the Agency, as it deems necessary.

(4) The Board, following the evaluation process, shall have the authority to recommend the application to the Agency for approval or rejection. The Agency shall subsequently submit the recommendation to the Minister for final approval or rejection. The Minister shall not be obliged to provide any reason in support of his decision, which decision shall be final.

(5) If the application is rejected by the Minister, the Agency shall notify the applicant in writing with the decision.

(6) If the application is approved by the Minister, the Agency shall issue a letter of approval in favour of the applicant and his dependants, where applicable, which letter of approval may also include certain continuing obligations, where applicable.

13. Regulation 12 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

Substitutes regulation 12 of the principal regulations.

"Evaluation Board.

12. (1) The Evaluation Board shall evaluate applications filed in terms of these regulations.

(2) The composition of the Evaluation Board shall vary in accordance with the nature of the application to be evaluated and shall comprise:

(a) a Chairperson to be appointed by the Minister after consultation with the Cabinet of Ministers, who shall be a person who has practiced the profession of advocate for at least seven (7) years; and

(b) two (2) members to be selected by the Chairperson from amongst the members of three (3) panels to be appointed by the Minister, which panels shall include persons having knowledge of sport, culture, the arts, science, research, philanthropy, technology and entrepreneurship and any other area as may be established from time to time.

(3) The Chairperson and the appointed panel members of the Evaluation Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and under such conditions as may be established in their letter of appointment, and shall, on the expiration of the term of their office, be eligible to be reappointed.

(4) The Chairperson and the appointed panel members of the Evaluation Board shall be adequately remunerated, as determined by the Minister.

(5) The Chairperson and the panel members of the Evaluation Board shall, before commencing to execute their duties, take an oath in the form established in the Schedule. Such oath shall be taken before, and shall be deposited with, the State Advocate.

(6) When any vacancy in the Evaluation Board occurs, the Minister shall, as soon as practicable, appoint another person to fill the vacancy.

(7) A member of the Evaluation Board may be removed from office by the Minister upon proof of inability to discharge the functions of his office, whether arising from infirmity of mind or body or any other cause, or for misbehaviour.

(8) The Chairperson and any member of the Evaluation Board may abstain from sitting or may be challenged for any of the causes mentioned in article 734 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure.

(9) Save as otherwise expressly provided by these regulations, the Evaluation Board may make its own rules and otherwise regulate its own procedure.

(10) The Minister shall appoint a Secretary to the Evaluation Board and such other officers as may be necessary from time to time and shall determine their duties.

(11) The Evaluation Board shall have the power to request such technical advice as it may deem necessary for the proper performance of its functions.

(12) Any notice issued by the Board shall be signed by the Chairperson and counter-signed by the Secretary.

(13) The findings of the Evaluation Board shall be signed by the Chairperson and by the Secretary and forwarded to the Minister for his consideration, through the Agency."

14. Regulation 13 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

Substitutes regulation 13 of the principal regulations.

"Evaluation process.

13. (1) The Evaluation Board shall evaluate the proposal letter and applications submitted in terms of these regulations and prepare a recommendation. The Board may, at any stage, interview the applicant in person and any other person it may deem fit.

(2) The Board may also interview the legal representative of the designated competent body endorsing the applicant and any other person it may deem fit."

15. Regulation 14 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

Substitutes regulation 14 of the principal regulations.

"Oath of allegiance.

14. (1) The applicant and his dependants, where applicable, shall be required to take the oath of allegiance, which, in the case of the applicant shall be taken within six (6) months from the issuance of the letter of approval:

Provided that the Minister may extend the said period of six (6) months in exceptional circumstances.

(2) A certificate of naturalisation on the basis of merit in accordance with these regulations may be issued to the applicant and his dependants where applicable, once the oath of allegiance has been taken.

(3) The Agency may suspend or terminate the application process before the Minister issues a certificate of naturalisation, if the applicant fails to satisfy all conditions or if the Minister is no longer satisfied that the applicant is worthy of Maltese citizenship."

- Deletes regulations 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21 of the principal regulations.
- 16.** Regulations 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21 of the principal regulations shall be deleted.
- Substitutes regulation 22 of the principal regulations.
- 17.** Regulation 22 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:
- "Continuing obligations and annual compliance form.
- 22.** (1) The applicant shall, prior to taking the oath of allegiance, undertake and confirm in writing that he shall continue to observe and fulfil all continuing obligations and such other commitments, in terms of his application and these regulations, or as may otherwise be stipulated by the Minister in the letter of approval as applicable.
- (2) The Agency shall ensure the ongoing fulfilment of commitments and continuing obligations, and if necessary, it may request proof of observation of these commitments and obligations and make its own verifications."
- Amends regulation 23 of the principal regulations.
- 18.** In regulation 23 of the principal regulations, the words "The Agency shall, from time to time, issue procedural guidelines" shall be substituted by the words "The Agency may, from time to time, issue guidelines".
- Substitutes regulation 24 of the principal regulations.
- 19.** Regulation 24 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:
- "Deprivation of citizenship.
- 24.** (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of article 14 of the Act, the Minister shall have the power to deprive a person of Maltese citizenship granted under these regulations, if the person:
- (a) fails to comply with any material obligation or other commitments established by these regulations or as stipulated in the letter of approval issued by the Agency; or
- (b) becomes a threat to national security; or
- (c) is involved in conduct which is seriously prejudicial to the interests of the Republic of Malta.

(2) In such cases the procedure for deprivation of citizenship stipulated in article 14 of the Act and in any regulations made under the Act in respect of such deprivation, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply."

20. Regulation 25 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

Substitutes regulation 25 of the principal regulations.

Good faith and professional standards.

"25. Persons shall act in good faith, uphold professional standards and maintain high levels of integrity in all matters related to the acquisition of citizenship by naturalisation, ensuring that all actions regarding such naturalisation are conducted responsibly, appropriately and in accordance with the requirements established by the Agency."

21. Regulation 27 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

Amends regulation 27 of the principal regulations.

(a) sub-regulation (1) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-regulation:

"(1) Other than for the proper discharge of their duties or functions under these regulations and in terms of the Act, including for the purposes of the due diligence controls referred to in regulation 11A(2) and regulation 11B(2), or as may be otherwise provided in any other law, the Agency, and the officers and employees of the Agency, shall at all times treat all information furnished in accordance with these regulations as confidential and the Agency shall solely use it for the purposes of these regulations, and shall not directly or indirectly, disclose such information to any other person, except with the consent of the person to whom the information relates. For the purposes of this sub-regulation, "employees" and "officials" shall include former employees and officials.";

(b) in sub-regulation (3) thereof immediately after the words "the Malta Financial Services Authority" there shall be added the words ", the Malta Business Registry".

22. Regulations 30 and 31 of the principal regulations shall be deleted.

Deletes regulations 30 and 31 of the principal regulations.

Substitutes the First Schedule to the principal regulations.

23. The First Schedule to the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new Schedule:

**"Schedule
(regulation 12)**

**Form of Oath to be Taken by the Chairperson or a Member
of the Evaluation Board**

I, having been appointed to be Chairperson/Member of the Evaluation Board for the period to, do swear/solemnly affirm that I shall faithfully, fully, impartially and to the best of my ability, discharge the trust and perform the duties devolving upon me by virtue of the said appointment.

So help me God.

.....

Chairperson/Member".

Deletes the Second, Third and Fourth Schedules to the principal regulations.

24. The Second, Third and Fourth Schedules to the principal regulations shall be deleted.

Transitory provision.

**L.N. — of
2025.**

25. The acquisition, deprivation or retention of Maltese citizenship by naturalisation regulated by the respective law or regulations in force prior to the coming into force of the Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services (Amendment) Regulations, 2025, shall continue to be regulated by, and shall remain valid under, the respective law or regulations applicable thereto:

S.L. 188.06.

Provided that any applications submitted under Part IV of the Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services Regulations which had not been approved for naturalisation by the Minister under the said Part IV prior to 29 April 2025, shall cease to have effect.
