



Democracy and the Local Political Scenario

From the feedback gathered to date we could deduce that various locals are experiencing negative or on the other hand unrealistically positive political party campaigns i.e. fed up with the lack of objectivity and incorrect information passed on to the people by both major parties. Basically various persons, apart from experiencing an insult to their critical intelligence, also end up feeling disillusioned about the levels of discussion and thinking promoted by political party media or at times even via the most prominent TV programs on the national TV station.

Based on our consultative experiences with various people, we can state that 'tribal partisan political discussions' are alienating people from the true value of politics and that a growing number of people are getting 'fed up' of the way we do politics locally. Having said so, what is most worrying from a democratic perspective, is the fact that the way political parties act nowadays causes a sentiment of dissatisfaction in people which as a result alienates them from making use of or getting closer to the political tool. A tool which we believe has the intrinsic potential to be one of the noblest social services.

One specific correspondent asked us specifically as a movement to write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the President and the Archbishop and ask them to react to the levels of political hatred on social media. He believes that this should be one of our first initiatives as a movement.

Various people we met also believe that there is room for more consensuses between political parties about areas and issues which work in the national interest and that both parties should lead by example by working together and publically displaying their agreements.

We have also experienced a general consensus, that both major parties 'opportunistically' learn best what it means to 'listen to the people' only prior to an election. As a movement we believe that 'consultative governance' should take place throughout a whole legislature, and not just at the end. Consultancy with the people must start from the first day when a party is elected in government and not in the last months before an election.

We have also experienced an overall a call enhanced enforcement, increased transparency and accountability by ministers. There seems to be a drive in people who request a more accountable and responsible government. In the words of a respondent:



“We need leaders who are accountable, persons who take responsibility for the decisions they make.” In this case, a specific reference was made to the Minister for Transport who was requested to resign for the mess created.

Another proposal was to remove various government authorities from the control of ministers and make them answerable to parliament. This will transform authorities from ‘puppet authorities’ to independent authorities which get things done in the national interest.

Another plea by various individuals was to make parliament a full time job, having said so the timing of the recent increase in parliamentarian’s income was experienced as highly insensitive when compared to what people most persons were going through. The major complaint received was related to the timing rather than the principle behind the increase. Having said so, as a movement we are not against parliamentarians having more resources to be of service and becoming full time politicians with a decent wage, since we believe that this would strengthen the local democratic system.

Last but not least, nepotism (which is still experienced as common practice) leaves many honest, hard working and merit oriented citizens perplexed and frustrated. As a movement we are in favour of competence and merit as the antidote to this way of proceeding.

