

MALTA

Minister of Science and Technology Policy, Research and Innovation

Ministry for Science, Technology
Policy, Research and Innovation

Dr. Lawrence GONZI

Born on 1 July 1953 in Valletta
Married, three children

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| 23 March 2004 | He took office as Prime Minister of Malta |
| After March 2008 | general elections, he was re-elected Prime Minister and set out to continue transforming the Maltese Islands into a modern and dynamic European country and attain the Vision 2015 targets.
He received his formal education at St Joseph school and later at St Aloysious College and The Archbishop's Seminary. He was also a member of the Circolo Gioventu` Cattolica. |
| 1975 | He graduated from the University of Malta as a lawyer. Following that he practiced law in a private firm and later on worked as a company lawyer with the Mizzi Organisation for whom he served as Group Chairman between 1989 and 1997. |
| 1976 and 1986 | He has been actively involved in the voluntary sector, particularly in the disability rights movement and mental health sector. He was also the General President of the Malta Catholic Action. |
| Nov. 1987 | He was appointed as the first Chairman of the National Commission for the Disabled and he retained this role until April 1994. |
| On 10 Oct. 1988 | he was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the sixth legislature (1988-1992) |
| 5 April 1992 | he was unanimously re-elected Speaker for the seventh legislature (1992-1996). His nomination for Speaker was submitted by the Prime Minister and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition. During his term as Speaker of the House of Representatives, he overhauled the methods in which Parliament used to operate, such as the set-up of permanent committees. While serving as Speaker, he introduced new procedures with regards to the time established for the debate between the two sides of the House. His tenure as Speaker of the |

House of Representatives exposed his modest but firm bearing, which has helped calm frayed tempers during quite difficult moments for the house

- Oct. 1996
Nov. 1996
- He contested the General Elections and was elected to Parliament. He was appointed Opposition Party Whip, Secretary to the Parliamentary Group and Shadow Minister for Social Policy. One year after he was elected Secretary General of the Nationalist Party
- Sept. 1998
- Following the General Elections, he was appointed Minister for Social Policy and Leader of the House of Representatives.
- 05/1994-03/2004
12 April 2003
- He served as Deputy Prime Minister
In the election he was re-elected and appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Social Policy.
- 23 March 2004
- He was sworn in as Prime Minister, including in his portfolio the Ministry of Finance between 2004 and 2008.
- 1 May 2004
- Malta joined the European Union and as Prime Minister, he attended the EU enlargement official ceremony which took place in Dublin, Ireland, where the Maltese flag was hoisted for the first time alongside those of the 24 member states.
- As Head of the Maltese Government, he hosted the 2005 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which was held in Malta.
- During the first term of his premiership, he guided Malta through a restructuring process that resulted in Malta's economy fulfilling the required criteria for the adoption of the euro as Malta's national currency from 1 January 2008. He also embarked upon a drive to improve the management of public finances, focused sharply upon improving Malta's competitiveness in the international market and accelerated the restructuring process of the public sector
- 8 March 2008
- He was re-elected Prime Minister. In his first message to the nation at the beginning of this legislature he said that the work of his government should be based on sustainable development with an emphasis on the country's environment.