

## PRESS INFORMATION NOTICE

27 May 2026

### Information on the Rescheduling of Scheduled Statistical Releases

The National Statistics Office (NSO) notes recent reports published by the media regarding the decision taken on 21st May 2026 by means to reschedule the publication of 'Government Finance Data: January – April 2026' and 'Registered Unemployment: April 2026' from 29th May to 3rd and 4th June 2026 respectively.

The reason for rescheduling the official statistics was taken in full observance of the principles imposed by Article 114(1) of Chapter 354 of the Laws of Malta 'General Elections Act'. This provision stipulates that during the day immediately preceding an election and on the day of the General Election, no person may publish any printed matter or other means of communication to the public which may likely influence voters. Breach of this provision carries with it a fine and imprisonment.

Guided by the spirit of this legislation, as well as the core values of integrity, neutrality, ethics and sound statistical governance, the NSO deemed it prudent and correct to avoid publishing official statistics when voters are legally entitled to a reflection window. Furthermore, publishing such data at a time when policymakers are in a legal impossibility to react to the published statistics in a timely and meaningful manner would create an unfair information asymmetry.

The NSO reiterates that this decision was taken on the 21st of May, 2026 and published on the NSO online calendar the 22nd of May, 2026. At that time, the data was not yet compiled and therefore the contents of the statistics were unknown. The NSO maintained its scheduled release of the Gross Domestic Product for the first quarter of 2026 data for Thursday 28th May 2026 as this date falls outside the legally mandated reflection period.

Accordingly, the postponement was guided solely by considerations of institutional responsibility and sound statistical practice. The objective remains to ensure that official statistics continue to serve their intended purpose effectively and appropriately, and in a manner consistent with the spirit of Article 114(1) of the General Elections Act.