

I assent.

(L.S.)

AGATHA BARBARA
President

15th July, 1983

ACT No. XIII of 1983

AN ACT further to amend the Central Bank of Malta Act, 1967, and to make consequential amendments in other laws.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Central Bank of Malta (Amendment) Act, 1983, and shall be read and construed as one with the Central Bank of Malta Act, 1967, hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”.

Short title.

2. For subsection (4) of section 8 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following subsection:

Amendment of
section 8 of
the principal
Act.

“(4) In the event of the temporary absence of both the Governor and the Deputy Governor, the President, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, may designate a director or a senior official of the Bank to act as Governor, during such period of absence and, where no such designation is made, the General Manager of the Bank shall act as Governor during that period.”.

3. Section 15 of the principal Act shall have effect subject to the following amendments:

Amendment of
section 15 of
the principal
Act.

(a) for paragraph (c) thereof there shall be substituted the following paragraph:

“(c) subject to the provisions of subsections (2) and (3) of this section, purchase or sell gold or silver coin or gold, silver or other precious metal in bullion form;”;

(b) for paragraph (h) thereof there shall be substituted the following paragraph:

“(h) subscribe to, purchase and sell shares, bonds or debentures of any body corporate in Malta established by law

or sponsored by, or set up under the authority of, the Government, or of such other body corporate as is approved by the Minister, for the purpose of promoting or financing development in Malta or for the purpose of promoting the development of a money market or a securities market in Malta:

Provided that the total investments under this paragraph shall not exceed the Special Reserve Fund established by the Bank under section 50 of this Act;"

(c) the section, as amended, shall be re-numbered as subsection (1);

(d) at the end of the section, as re-numbered, there shall be added the following new subsections:

"(2) The Bank shall endeavour to hold gold bullion having a current market value (reckoned at the end of each month at the average London fixing prices during such month) not inferior to the value of the Bank's notes and coins issued, excluding coins issued for numismatic purposes; and when the amount of gold bullion held by the Bank has reached 500,000 troy ounces, the Bank's holding of gold bullion shall not be reduced below that quantity.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) of this section —

(i) the Bank may sell gold bullion purchased after 1st July, 1983, provided the price at which any quantity is sold is not less than the price at which the gold was purchased after such date and the proceeds of any such sale is placed in a separate account and used solely for the purchase of gold bullion; and

(ii) where the Bank holds gold bullion in excess of 500,000 troy ounces, it may deal in such excess as it may deem appropriate.

(4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3) of this section all values and all comparisons between prices shall be calculated in Maltese liri."

Amendment of section 37 of the principal Act.

4. For subsection (1) of section 37 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following:

"(1) The unit of currency in Malta shall be the Maltese lira; and the symbol of the Maltese lira shall be Lm."

"Maltese lira" to substitute "Malta pound" in all laws.

5. (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of section 4 of this Act, the principal Act and every other law shall have effect as if for the words "Malta pound" or "Malta pounds", wherever they appear in the English text thereof, there were substituted, respectively, the words "Maltese lira" or "Maltese liri", and as if for the words "pound" or "pounds", wherever they appear in the English text thereof and are used to denote currency of that denomination which is legal tender in Malta, there were substituted, respectively, the words "lira" or "liri".

(2) Nothing contained in the foregoing provisions of this section and in section 4 of this Act shall be construed as in any way affecting the identity, nature, content or other matter of substance of the unit of currency in Malta whether before or after the coming into force of this Act, but shall have effect only as a change in the English name of

the said currency; and any reference in any private or public instrument or other document whatsoever to the unit of currency as called in the English language before the coming into force of this Act shall be read and construed as a reference to such unit as known thereafter.

(3) In this section "law" has the same meaning as is assigned to it by section 126 of the Constitution.

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 119 of the 12th July, 1983.

DANIEL MICALLEF
Speaker

C. MIFSUD
Clerk to the House of Representatives