

MEMO FOR CABINET SUBMITTED BY THE HON. MINISTER OF TRADE,  
INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE REGARDING THE ISSUE OF SURCHARGE  
STAMPS

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In Malta there are a number of private institutions which depend on charity for their existence. Government helps these institutions in various ways. However everyone agrees that these institutions need all the financial help they can get so as not to depend solely on philanthropists.

Many countries are faced with similar problems and different methods have been devised to alleviate this problem.

Switzerland has since 1950, issued yearly two sets of surcharged postage stamps. Surcharged stamps have two values incorporated in the design. The first is the real value of the stamp for postage purposes and the other is the surcharge. The proceeds from the additional charge on the stamps are intended for social, cultural and youth welfare purposes.

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture believes that this is an excellent expedient to help such institutions and he is proposing to introduce this system in Malta for charitable purposes. The introduction of this practice in Malta will surely have the support of all sections of the population especially if it is made during the period October/December which is a very appropriate time for donations. To avoid that Government will be involved financially it is proposed that expenses directly involved in this venture will be deducted from the proceeds and re-imbursed to Government.

There are two ways in which the practice of the surcharge can be introduced:

- (a) issue of a surcharged set of stamps to be put on sale concurrently with an unsurcharged version of the set;
- (b) issue of a surcharged set of stamps only.

The surcharge will not be compulsory and the public can always buy unsurcharged stamps from the definitive set which is on sale all the year round.

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From the philatelists point of view the second way will be the more attractive because they would not have to buy two different sets.

It is expected that both methods outlined above would yield considerable sums which could be made available to Childrens' Welfare Organisations.

An ad hoc Committee will of course be set up to distribute the proceeds.

If the scheme is adopted Government would only be contributing by way of its sales facilities while on the other hand it would make available to charity institutions funds which would greatly ease the burdens of many Childrens' Welfare Organisations.

Hon. Ministers are therefore invited to approve:

- (a) the adoption of the principle of issuing yearly surcharged stamps;
- (b) the proceeds to be distributed amongst Childrens' Welfare Organisations.

MTIA/1023/69

18th July, 1969.