

## 'An Analysis of the Local Retail Credit Environment'

**Josef Busuttil** 

Malta Association of Credit Management jbusuttil@macm.org.mt

Seminar 9th March 2007



#### Introduction:

What is causing over-indebtedness?

Is the local credit environment helping these people?

What can we do to overcome this difficulty?



### **History:**

Consumer credit was a taboo

Economic growth – late 80's & early 90's

We are now living beyond our means

## **Symptoms:**

- Slow down of payments
- Dishonoured Cheques
- Bankruptcies



#### Background to the local retail credit environment

Competition

Local Banks

Management Philosophy

**Economic Factors** 



## Competition

Small market economy

Large number of retailers

Products and services are homogenous



#### **Local Banks**

Strong influence in our economy

Competing on various types of personal loans – matching credit terms and rates

Use effective promotional tactics



#### **Banks' Promotions:**

"Shopping & travel made easy"

"We can make it happen"

"Wheeling around on solid ground"

"Adding Value to Life"

"Fee free for 1st year, 0% interest for 6 months"

"Fee free supplementary card for 1st year"



## **Management Philosophy**

- Small to medium firms
- Firms managed by owners
- Influence on the internal culture
- Sales-oriented
- Credit is used as a competing tool



#### **Economic Factors**

Economic Expansion of the early 90's – 'feel good' factor

Recent economic slow-down – low interest rates

Rising house prices



#### Retail Credit: Cost & Risk

Credit finance



Bank over-draft

Credit Risk



Late Payment

**Bad Debt** 



## Motives to grant credit

Sales & Marketing

External Pressure

--- Investment



## Over-indebtedness & Consequences

Buy goods & services associated with the status of owning them

Play excessive lotto

Social factors

Younger generation is more risky

Lack skills to manage and plan finances



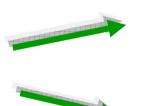
#### **Lack of Education**

- Lack to prioritise
- Lack to identify financial needs
- No help from financial advisors
- Fall victims to abusive practices
- Lack to identify welfare benefits



#### Recommendations

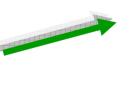
**Education** 



**Consumers** 

**Creditors** 

**Data Sharing** 



Credit analysis

No credit to overindebted



## Legislation which lack enforcement is Vanity

# Education & Information Sharing are Sanity

Thank You