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| **Televised Easter Message by the President of the Republic, Mr Nicos Anastasiades****04/05/2013** |
| Fellow compatriots,This yearʼs Easter finds our people under unprecedented economic conditions. The economic stability and growth of nearly four decades that came after the Turkish invasion were replaced by an unprecedented economic crisis.Diachronic mistakes for decades, the omissions, the negligence and the indecision of the recent past on the domestic front, as well as the unheard of treatment our country was subjected to by its partners and lenders abroad have led Cyprus to levels of economic destitution.The Government and I personally, considering the heavy duty towards the citizens and the country, made difficult but necessary decisions, under the circumstances, in order to save the homeland from a complete and disorderly bankruptcy.I know that the sacrifices our people are called upon to endure are painful. This is why we have embarked on a titanic effort of restarting and resetting the Cyprus economy so as to restore, at the earliest possible, the peopleʼs standard of living initially to bearable levels and subsequently on an ascending course.In this effort, there are neither easy nor automatic solutions. The citizens must understand this. And we must all, united and unanimous, assist in the rescue of our homeland and the quick exit from the economic crisis. Without reckless actions and untried prescriptions that involve much greater risks than abiding by the measures that we are aware of and have agreed to implement.In the effort for recovery and return to economic prosperity no one is left out. The Government desires the maximum consensus and cooperation among all the political, productive and social forces of the country. Through everybodyʼs combined effort, I am certain that, with difficulty, of course, but surely and steadily, we will embark again on the course to growth, free at the same time of the pathogeneses of the past.I have complete confidence in the perseverance, the sense of honour, the love of country, and the industriousness of our people. I have no doubt that we will succeed, as in the past. It is up to us. It is us that will determine the present and the future of our homeland.Fellow compatriots,Under the current adverse economic conditions our thoughts turn to our fellow human beings and to those groups of the society that have been affected the most and are experiencing more intensely the effects of the economic crisis. I believe that the solidarity of our people, the wonderful people of our country, is acknowledged every single day, but especially during the Easter days. As a state we are doing everything possible to support these vulnerable groups until the crisis moves into the past as a dark page of history that will not come back.At this time, our thoughts turn also to our territories enslaved by the Turkish occupier. The reunification of our homeland, the people, the institutions and the state as well as deliverance from the occupation, remain my priority and my concern and my vision. I remain committed to a solution on the basis of the principles and decisions of the United Nations, with the safeguarding of all of the European acquis and all human rights. When circumstances allow it and the appropriate conditions are developed the Greek Cypriot side will readily respond to every procedure that would prospectively succeed.Fellow compatriots,With these thoughts, I wish you all a Happy Easter and rest assured that this year's message of the Resurrection of the Lord will be the beginning of our own Resurrection, our exit from the economic impasse and of the welfare and advancement of our people.I wish you all a Happy Easter. |

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