

Business Today



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Crucial MCESD meeting as Finance Minister prepares for "tough budget"

Charlot Zahra

A crucial meeting of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) will be held this morning at Castille during which the Government will be presenting the pre-budget document to the social partners for the 2010 Budget.

The meeting, is being considered as "crucial" following Finance Minister Tonio Fenech's declaration on Sunday that next year's budget will be "tough".

The MCESD meeting will be attended by Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi as well as Finance Minister Tonio Fenech.

Last week, the European Commission warned Malta to cut its budget deficit to less than 3 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the end of 2010.

In his interview on the PN's Radio 101 last Sunday morning, Tonio Fenech said it was true that there were "positive signs which show that the economy has started to slowly recover, but he added "one has to move cautiously".

"Although the Government does not believe that it should increase the tax burden unnecessarily, the alternative solution is to reduce subsidies. Why should I assist someone to pay a bill he can well afford to?" Fenech asked. ▶ **page 4**



Enemalta increases price of fuel

Enemalta announced it was increasing prices for petroleum products due to the increase in the international price of crude oil, as from today.

The price increases are as follows: Unleaded increases by 15c to €1.14 per litre, LRP increases by 15c to €1.21, abnd diesel increases by 10c

to €1.21.

Kerosene is down by 13c to 87c, and there was no change in the 61c per litre for heating gasoil.

Enemalta said that according to its present policy, it announces a revision in the prices of its petroleum products as from 1 July 2009 reflecting changes in prices of

the last consignments purchased.

Crude oil prices have been recovering from a December low of \$32.40 a barrel, back to around \$73 a barrel last week.

Crude price has more than doubled in practically just over six months.

The price of petrol increased from \$464.25 on the 1 April 2009 to \$670.25 on the 25 July.

The price of diesel also increased to a lower degree compared to petrol (\$445 on 1 April to \$585.5 on the 25 June) due to global depressed industrial activity.

Enemalta said this international fluctuation in prices led to revise its prices.

Enemalta also said that in June it received petrol and diesel consignments which had contributed towards this price revision.

However, it added, Enemalta managed to keep prices stable for the past three months thanks to its policy to purchase in bulk. "This policy, especially in relation to the price of diesel, has contributed for a stable price over the last three months and a lower increase this time round."



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Markets

| Security | Closing Prices in Euro Tue 23-June-09 | Closing Prices in Euro Tue 30-June-09 | % Change from previous wk |
|------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|
| Bank of Valletta p.l.c. | 2.670 | 2.600 | -2.622% |
| HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. | 2.550 | 2.600 | 1.961% |
| Lombard Bank p.l.c. | 2.580 | 2.550 | -1.163% |
| Middlesea Insurance p.l.c. | 2.000 | 2.000 | 0.000% |
| Simonds Farsons Cisk p.l.c. | 1.800 | 1.800 | 0.000% |
| GO p.l.c. | 1.780 | 1.810 | 1.685% |
| IHI p.l.c. | 0.951 | 0.800 | -15.878% |
| Plaza Centres p.l.c. | 1.699 | 1.699 | 0.000% |
| FIMBank p.l.c. (US\$) | \$1.182 | \$1.180 | -0.169% |
| Malta International Airport p.l.c. | 2.100 | 2.092 | -0.381% |
| GlobalCapital p.l.c. | 1.500 | 1.500 | 0.000% |
| Datatrak Holdings p.l.c. | 0.190 | 0.190 | 0.000% |
| San Tumas Shareholdings p.l.c. | 3.200 | 3.200 | 0.000% |
| Medserv p.l.c. | 3.550 | 3.550 | 0.000% |
| Grand Harbour Marina p.l.c. | 1.980 | 1.980 | 0.000% |
| Gpm Holdings p.l.c. (GBP) | £0.590 | £0.590 | 0.000% |
| Crimsonwing p.l.c. | 0.390 | 0.390 | 0.000% |
| MaltaPost p.l.c. | 0.650 | 0.651 | 0.154% |
| RS2 Software p.l.c. | 0.690 | 0.690 | 0.000% |