

## Government spending on R&D up 4%

Government spending on research and development (R&D) last year rose by 4 per cent to €11.9 million, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said yesterday.

R&D spending was measured through a survey carried out in the first quarter of this year. The total number of respondents was 141 units, of which 15 were actively engaged in R&D projects during 2009. Four of these units were government departments, while 11 were Extra Budgetary Units.

NSO said that labour costs represented 72.5 per cent of total expenditure on R&D whereas other recurrent expenditures and capital projects had a share of 22.3 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

In line with past years, the highest R&D expenditure in the government sector was recorded in the field of social sciences, at 29.1 per cent of total expenditure, followed by engineering and technology and medical sciences, with 17.8 per cent apiece. In 2009, 954 employees were engaged in R&D work within the government, of whom 890 worked on a part-time basis.

## Malta with the highest decrease in retail sales

Malta has registered the highest decrease in retail sales for May, surpassing the figures of all other European Union states.

The figures, published by Eurostat yesterday, report Malta's retail sales index at -3.8 per cent, compared to April. Retail trade increased by 0.2 per cent in the euro area and by 0.5 per cent in the EU27.

Retail trade has declined in six countries; Malta experienced the largest decline, followed by

Portugal (-0.8 per cent). The largest increase in retail sales was registered in Denmark at +3.8 per cent, followed by Poland (+3.5 per cent) and Estonia (+1.7 per cent).

Shopping is slowing down in Malta, more than anywhere else in the EU, with a decrease of 3.8 per cent reported by Eurostat between April and May.

In May, retail spending went up by 0.2 per cent in the euro area and by 0.4 per cent in the EU27.

By means of a decree of the 26th November 2009, the Civil Court (Family Section) ordered the publication of the bann which appears hereunder for the purpose of Article 931(3) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12).

### Bann for Curators

Whereas by a decree given by this Court on the 26th November 2009, following a request of Sarah Dimech, it was ordered that Deputy Curators be chosen to represent the absent Ivan Aleksic, in the records of the Sworn Application 356/09 NC, in the names 'Sarah Dimech vs Deputy Curators' and in the relative and subsequent acts.

By means of a Sworn Application filed in the Civil Court (Family Section) in the names Sarah Dimech (I.D. number 5169(M) vs Deputy Curators to appear for the absent Ivan Aleksic, on the 13th November 2009, the applicant Sarah Dimech asked this Honourable Court:

1. To entrust the applicant with the care and custody of the minor daughter Giulia Aleksic saving if necessary the right of access to the respondent which shall be granted in these proceedings or in separate proceedings following, a request of the same respondent.

With costs, including those incurred in the procedures of mediation against the respondent from now summoned so that a reference to his evidence be made.

List of Witnesses.

List of Documents.

Applicant: 'El Viento', Triq l-Ghenba, Attard.

Notify : Deputy Curators, Courts of Justice, Valletta.

### Bann for Curators REPUBLIC OF MALTA

To Mario Portelli Marshal of the Court of Magistrates (Gozo)

Whereas by a decree of this Court following a request by Anthony Attard filed on the 22nd of June 2010, it was ordered that Deputy Curators be chosen to represent the absentee Maria Rudolfina Afanassieva in the acts of the Sworn Application no. 16/2010(AE) in the names "Anthony Attard vs Deputy Curators to represent the absentee Maria Rudolfina Afanassieva" filed in the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) Superior Jurisdiction, Family Section, requesting the declaration of annulment of the marriage between Anthony Attard and Maria Rudolfina Afanassieva which took place on the 28th of October 2000 and in all other relative and subsequent acts.

You are therefore ordered to affix an official copy of this bann at the entrance of this Superior Court and to summon whosoever wishes to act as curator to appear before this Registry within six (6) days and by means of a minute to submit a declaration that he wishes so to act.

You are also ordered to inform each one that if he fails to make this declaration within the stipulated time, the court will proceed to the selection for Curators of Office.

Given by the Court of Magistrates (Gozo), Superior Jurisdiction, Family Section, above mentioned with the witness of the Magistrate Dr Anthony Ellul B.A., LL.D., Magistrate of the Court above mentioned.  
Today 25th of June 2010

Magistrate  
D/Registrar



## Proud soldiers back home

Franco Debono, Parliamentary Assistant in the Office of the Prime Minister, yesterday presided over a medal awarding ceremony on board the HNLMS *Johan de Witt*. This event marks the successful completion of the tour of duty of 12 Maltese AFM officers who were deployed as a Vessel Protection Detachment in support of the EU's anti-piracy operation off the coast of Somalia.

The 12 men, sourced from the Armed Forces of Malta's 1st Regiment C Company, formed a Vessel Protection Detachment onboard the warship, which served in the EU Naval Force Somalia (EU NAVFOR) Operation Atalanta.

The operation's main tasks are escorting vessels carrying humanitarian aid of the World Food Programme and vessels of the African Union Mission in Somalia, as well as protecting vulnerable ships off the Somali coasts and deterring and disrupting piracy.

The *Johan de Witt*, a landing platform dock ship equipped with smaller boats and landing craft and which includes a hospital, commenced its service in EU NAVFOR on 17 April and left the theatre of operations on 29 June. It is heading back to its home port of Den Helder.

In his address, Captain Ben Bekkering congratulated the Maltese soldiers, stating that they not only returned home safely, but also "proudly and rightly so."

He noted that they had been considered fellow shipmates at work and at play, including when following the World Cup – joking that the Maltese "picked the wrong team to support".

The 12 soldiers were also congratulated by their commander, Brig. Martin Xuereb, who noted that Maltese participation in such operations was one of the AFM's goals for years, and that the soldiers' efforts started months before they embarked the *Johan de Witt* on 4 April, with an intensive training programme.

The team also received a formal award from the government of the Netherlands, with each soldier receiving a commemoration medal.

The Maltese Vessel Protection Team on board the warship was deployed on various occasions to protect merchant ships that were transporting humanitarian cargo to Somalia.

The soldiers contributed to operations to deter and disrupt pirates from deploying to sea. They also participated in confidence-building with the local fishing community missions.

They came face to face with six pirates in the middle of last month when their skiff was intercepted in the Gulf of Aden.

As soon as those aboard the skiff realised they were dealing with a military vessel, they changed course towards the coast. The Dutch ship fired a number of warning shots in the skiff's direction. It stopped and the suspected pirates surrendered, with the AFM team securing the skiff and transferring the pirates onto the navy ship.

This was the first time that the Armed Forces of Malta deployed troops in theatre in an EU-led mission. Three members of the AFM's 1 Regiment are also in Uganda taking part in an EU training mission for Somali military personnel.

## 10-year-old girl critically injured in crash

A 10-year-old girl was critically injured on Sunday night in a crash at Hal Far.

The incident happened shortly before 10pm when the Maruti Gypsy in which the girl was a passenger was involved in a crash with a Hyundai Accent which emerged from a side road.

The girl was rushed to Mater

Dei Hospital, where she is in intensive care.

The Hyundai Accent was driven by a 23-year-old man from Zurrieq while the Maruti was being driven by a 45-year-old man from Kalkara. Both drivers suffered slight injuries.

Magistrate Jacqueline Padovani Grima is leading an inquiry.

## Pedestrian injured in car crash

A woman suffered fractures after she was hit by a car which had just been hit by another early yesterday morning, the police said.

The accident happened at about 6.30am in Triq il-Wileg, Qawra, when a Peugeot 205 driven by a 60-year-old woman from Zebbug collided with a Skoda Felicia driven by a 25-year-old Nigerian woman who resides in St Paul's Bay.

As a result of the impact, the Skoda Felicia ended up on the pavement, hitting a 52-year-old woman who was walking there.

The pedestrian, a Birkirkara resident, was taken to Mater Dei where she was found to have suffered fractures. She is not in danger of dying.