

News

Enemed's 'fuel supply monopoly': 'Partit Demokratiku asks European Commission to investigate



Contact us

Standard House, Birkirkara Hill,
St Julian's STJ 1149
T: 2134 5888
E: tmis@independent.com.mt
Editor: David Lindsay

Advertising
T: 2134 5888
E: advertising@independent.com.mt

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Pharmacies open today

Malta: 9am to noon

Valletta: Regent Pharmacy, 70 Merchants Street; **Hamrun:** St Gaetan Pharmacy, Parish Priest Mifsud Street; **Santa Venera:** Collis Williams, St Venera Pharmacy, 532 St Joseph High Street; **Swatar:** St Mark's Pharmacy, P. Borg Olivier Street c/w Gianni Vella Street; **Pietà:** St Luke's Pharmacy, St Luke's Road; **Ibraġ:** Krypton Chemists, Ibraġ Road; **Sliema:** Stella Maris Pharmacy, 34 Milner Street; **Iklin:** Il-Mehrież Pharmacy, 31 Giovanni Curmi Street; **Mosta:** St Joseph Pharmacy, 1 Żakkak Street; **Mel-
lieħa:** Remedies Pharmacy, 111 George Borg Olivier Street; **Santa
Luċija:** Sta Lucia Pharmacy, 1 Dorell Square; **Kalkara:** Brown's Pharmacy, 8 Archbishop Gonzi Square; **Żabbar:** Felice Pharmacy, 95 Sanctuary Street; **Birżebbuġa:** Blossoms Pharmacy, Gurgier Street; **Safi:** Pasteur Pharmacy, Tellerit Street; **Żeb-
buġ:** Brown's Pharmacy, 47 Freedom Avenue; **Rabat:** Nova Pharmacy, 142 College Street.
Malta International Airport: The '8 Till Late Pharmacy' is open every day from 8am to 10pm

Gozo: 9am to noon

Victoria: Azzopardi Pharmacy, Ca-puchin Street; **Kerċem:** Sokkors Pharmacy, St Gregory Street.

LOTTO Date: 03/03/2018
Draw No.: 713

PRIMA - AMBO - TERNO
25 • 54 • 38 • 10 • 37 / 41 • 48 • 1

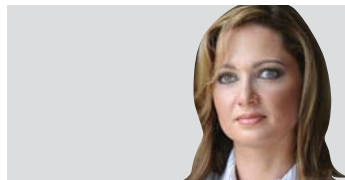
QUATERNIO+

Prizes are being paid at:

Quaterno+	5/8:	€-----
	4/8:	€750
	3/8:	€50
	2/last 3:	€10
Terno:	3,500	times the stake
Ambo:	215	
Prima:	60	

Next Quaterno+ Jackpot:
€640,000

Fearne's five-year refurbish Mount



With questions being asked about the future plans for Mount Carmel Hospital and the exact plans the government has in mind with regard to the new acute hospital at Mater Dei, **Rachel Attard** speaks to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health **CHRIS FEARNE**, who specifies that a five-year plan is in place for the hospital's complete refurbishment

NGOs involved in the mental health sector have been campaigning for a psychiatric hospital near Mater Dei, is this on the cards?

Yes, I have gone on record saying that we have embarked on a project of building an acute mental health care facility on the Mater Dei Campus. The Foundation for Medical Services has acquired the land for this and a medical brief is currently being drawn up.

Discussions with relevant stakeholders – including the NGOs you mention – will be scheduled in the near future. A Project Review Board within the Health Ministry has been set up and is piloting the development of the new facility. Of course, we will still need Mount Carmel for the psychiatric care of long-term care patients.

In fact, we are looking at the development of mental health care services in a holistic manner. We have embarked on a programme of reorganization and refurbishment at Mount Carmel; the building of a new acute hospital at Mater Dei; the further development of community mental health services. And then the drawing up of a long-term mental health strategy as part of the National Health Strategy for 2021 – 2030 which we have started working on.

Mount Carmel has been screaming for attention for a long number of years. Successive administrations have been dormant with regard to Mount Carmel. What is being done to actually have a safe place for both patients and staff?

We have embarked on a programme of refurbishment and reorganisation of Mount Carmel Hospital. We are giving priority to the water system, electrical wiring and ageing beams, and have started refurbishment work in Male Ward 2. We have gutted out this Ward entirely and are creating a new ward on a par with the wards at Mater Dei. Once this is done – by April – we will move on to other sectors of the hospital. This process includes a reorganization of services in Mount Carmel.

The services that MCH is offering are in the process of becoming more specialised with teams led by Psychiatrists specialised in different areas. Child and adolescent psychiatric services and acute psychiatric services are being prioritised in this process. Particular attention is also being given to addiction services. These services use a multidisciplinary approach with teams including psychiatrists, doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, social workers, psychologists and other health care professionals.

At the moment there are patients that have their ID cards on Mount Carmel Hospital. How many are there and what will happen to them? Will they remain there?

At present there are over 500 patients receiving care at Mount Carmel Hospital, about 100 of them have been residing at the hospital for 20 years or more.

Over the last few years, we have placed a number of long-term patients in sheltered accommodation in



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Major works are also being carried out on roof structures as well as on the electrical wiring and water pipes – most of which have been there since Victorian times!

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the community in partnership with the Richmond Foundation and *Suret il-Bniedem*. However, a significant number of patients find it extremely difficult living outside the institution. We have therefore embarked on a five-year plan – which we started working on last year – to fully refurbish Mount Carmel. This hospital will continue to care for long-term patients. For acute cases we are looking at a new facility at Mater Dei.

Male Ward 2 at Mount Carmel, which is currently being refurbished, will be ready in about six weeks' time. Besides this, major work is also being carried out on roof structures as well as on the electrical wiring and water pipes – most of which have been there since Victorian times! The full reorganization and refurbishment of Mount Carmel will cost around €30 million.

It is a fact that mental health problems are on the increase and it is estimated that in

