



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MHRA is seriously concerned about recent Power Cuts**

For the second time in just 11 days the country has been plunged into pitch darkness for hours on end. The economic damage due to loss of business, disruption and inconvenience to all, and also the bad impression we give to our visitors, is now too significant to ignore. In both instances the supply was off for hours during peak business time.

This situation is unacceptable in normal times but becomes even more unacceptable given the recent astronomical increases in the electricity rates. In any industry or service when one pays top dollar one expects top service, which is far from what Enemalta is delivering at present.

The fact that we are experiencing such problems during this time of the year, when the demand for power supply is considerably less than that during the high season, does not augur well. What will happen in a few weeks when temperatures will soar and the demand for power supply increases through a higher activity such as air-conditioning systems and the likes? What is also unacceptable is the fact that nobody seems to be assuming responsibility and that there was no clear explanation about the cause of the problem. We have neither heard if similar situations are likely to persist.

In this day and age, industries expect to be given an assurance and peace of mind that that they will have a consistent supply of electricity. The time has now come for Enemalta to assume full responsibility for the damage caused, as Industry and indeed all consumers have a right to know what is happening and who is responsible for this deplorable state of affairs. At a time when the tourism industry and others are striving to regain business, we cannot accept that we are hindered by a lack of the most basic of service. MHRA is aware of Government's planned investment in a new power generation, but it is only reasonable to expect that until then, measures are in place to guarantee an uninterrupted power supply, as otherwise the entire economy, not just tourism will pay a very high price.

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**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2010**

**About MHRA**

The MHRA has been established since 1958 and today represents 70% of all hotels in Malta and 35% of all restaurants, collectively representing an investment of over Euros 1.1 billion and employing in excess of 20,000 people. For the past 50 years the MHRA has represented the interest of hoteliers and restaurateurs on the Island acting as a lobby group to ensure that the policy decisions taken on the Island are in line with what the tourism industry needs to flourish. For more information about the MHRA visit [www.mhra.org.mt](http://www.mhra.org.mt) or call (356) 21 318133. The MHRA is also a member of HOTREC and an Affiliate member of World Tourism Organisation