

National



Enemalta pulls back from wholesale increase in fuel price

The Enemalta Corporation has formally withdrawn its decision to raise the wholesale price of fuel, averting a threatened strike by petrol stations.

Instead, the corporation promised to embark on an exercise with the Malta Resources Authority to establish how it could implement the adjustments gradually.

Carlo Cini, who heads the petrol station owners' section within the Chamber for Small and Medium Enterprises - GRTU, hailed the agreement as "positive".

Problems between the corporation and petrol station owners erupted last month when the

owners received a letter from Enemalta CEO Karl Camilleri informing them that the company would be raising its selling price for fuel by 1.6 cents per litre from July 1, after its three-year agreement with them expired at the end of June.

The petrol station owners retaliated with a threat not to buy any fuel from Enemalta, which would have amounted to a strike as they would not have any to sell to consumers.

The letter had been temporarily withdrawn some days after it was sent, after an eleventh-hour intervention by Finance Minister Tonio Fenech. But it has now been permanently withdrawn.

Heritage Malta buys items from Borg Olivier auction

Heritage Malta has moved in on items auctioned at the house of former Prime Minister George Borg Olivier last month and acquired 16 lots at hammer price.

A team of experts evaluated the auctioned items from the prestigious Borg Olivier collection in terms of their artistic, ethnic and historical value.

Among the items acquired is a pair of still life paintings by Ital-

ian artist Antonio Tibaldi, whose works, Heritage Malta said, rarely feature in public collections.

This acquisition has already attracted the attention of the international art community, the agency said. Auctioneer Pierre Grech Pillow said the pair of paintings had sold for €54,000.

Another item is a portrait of Bishop Alpheran by Francesco

Zahra's circle, which sold for over €4,700.

Others include a caricature by Giorgio Preca, a number of portraits and an Apollo 13 mission patch and fragment of heat shield presented to Dr Borg Olivier by its astronauts.

The items will be presented in an exhibition to be announced shortly, Heritage Malta said.



An Antonio Tibaldi painting that Heritage Malta has acquired for the National Collection.

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