

## €84,997 spent on Palace square inauguration



A total of €84,997 were spent on the inauguration of St George's Square (Palace Square) after its rehabilitation last month, Resources Minister George Pullicino said in Parliament.

A further €56,773 were spent on the week of activities following the inauguration. The spending on the inauguration included €45,400 spent on choreography by Jochen Schweizer, €5,800 for the production of a documentary, €4,000 on PBS advertising, €1,341 in overtime to Casino Maltese workers, €1,152 to the Excelsior Hotel, €1,368 on a reception, €5,800 for the direct transmission by WE, €2,500 for PBS airtime, €3,450 for the rental of scaffolding and €5,650 on logistical set-up.

The minister said the week of activities was held in coordination with the business community to attract business after the inconvenience caused by the works.

He said there were a number of sponsorships

## Comments

Galea. L (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

This is a typical example of squandering peoples taxes. If the pn has to resort to such celebrations for such petty things as paving a square, they are really scraping the bottom to try to get some political publicity. shallow depths never reached before.

Noel Cutajar (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

...to think that I will be unemployed in two months...with that money they could have employed me for another 3 years...thank god that there is a recession!!

Paul Borg (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Almost 142,000 euros blown on bread and circuses when so many Valletta building are disintegrating. The Minister says "the week of activities was held in coordination with the business community to attract business after the inconvenience caused by the works." Instead my Valletta shopkeeper friends always say that business always worse when there is an activity on in Valletta as people rush to that instead of spending time in the shops.

It would be interesting to hear from this business community if those 142,000 euros really boosted their profits, or simply boosted someone's image. It would have been far better for businesses if that money had been spent on giving Valletta a really good clean-up, but I forget, that does not involve a marble plaque.

c. portelli (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

SHAME ! SHAME ! SHAME ! I'm sure there were qualified Maltese artists who could have co-ordinated the opening and also professional maltese percutionists to play !!

C.camilleri (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

WOW

84997 euros celebrations for paving a square.

Back to the times of money no problem.

Viva l-gvern Viva Dr.Gonzi.

Maybe we should consider also marking the celebrations of the square inauguration by making it a public holiday.

Only in Malta.com

Sandro Magri (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Tonio fenech is begging on his knees to collect overdue tax and then doesn't even dare to control this exaggerated money expenditure for inaugurations which seems know is getting a habit!

Do they pretend we clap our hands when something good is done?

Vella Ruth (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

How many tiles were paved at the Main Guard, 84,000 tiles? I doubt it. One euro of entertainment per tile? Give me magic and notte bianche, but no economic reality or deficit!

Ronald Zammit (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Nobody can deny that the palace square needed to be upgraded and that the result is to the benefit of all. But in our present economic situation was it really necessary to spend all that money in its inauguration ? As many others have stated this spending could have been used for other projects or usefull needs. But than we have a GonziPN administration who cannot do without glamour and does not even know the meaning of priorities!! . The upgrading of the palace square was welcomed and so will other similar projects... BUT the exagerated spending in the inaugurations...we can definitely do without !!!

Gerard Cassar (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Just a remark on the water spouts. It appears that the water ends nowhere. With time it will produce something like slime even some water grass or moss that will make the place slippery.

I am writing from experience where there is constant running water without anything to collect it from flowing free.

It is hoped that who suggested the idea knew what could be the consequences after some time.

Vince Calleja (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

@ Mr. Barrett

The money spent here are only on the celebrations.... the sum used to repair is apart. That is the only difference!

victor pulis (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

I shudder to think what the cost of celebrations for the new parliament will cost? And by then we may no longer be in a recession therefore the authorities can really go to town with the festivities!!

A cuschieri (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

i was watching the show on the night and i think this is what we should do to attract more tourists to our country

Jimmy Magro (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

@Dominic Fenech

on ideology - maybe one can take lectures from the US Ambassador in Malta ? Giving up our neutrality to join their war when they cannot defend their own military camps and innocent passengers flying on civil planes.

@cut the spending

It is impossible to cut down on the spending 'cos these are bread and butter events that keep companies like WE increasing their financial capital

Joe Borg (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Government explains decision not to pay for drugs in cancer relapse...

by Juan Ameen -

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20100108/local/government-explains-decision-not-to-pay-for-drugs-in-cancer-relapse>

The state's coffers are not bottomless and cannot cover all medicines, including expensive ones used to treat cancer relapse, according to the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Joe Cassar....

No Comment!!!!

J Farrugia (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

I admit that we could do very well without all the fanfare but as regards the Square it is a very nice project worth doing. And all the workmanship of the Maltese worker.

G Cauchi (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

money well spent!! i feel honoured with such a project in our capital city

Dominic Fenech (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Tax money spent "in coordination with the business community to attract business after the inconvenience caused by the works". And they say there's no place left for ideology.

Paul Barrett (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

I applaud the openness on the dispersal of Euro 141,770.00 - though it would have been nice to have had something useful to show for it at the end.

Louis Gatt (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

I am sorry to say this is absolute squandering of public money. Who affords this in a recession?

Charmaine Chetcuti (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Why the need to spend so much for the inauguration? As M. Brincat pointed out, they could have easily invested that sum in the rehabilitation of another square!!

H Dempster (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Mr Pullicino , would it not have been more prudent by having given the money you wasted to the health dept to buy the herceptin for the patients who together with their families are suffering due to lack of medication.

Charles Sammut (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

This is scandalous. How many potholes could have been filled with this money? Now if there is something fake in Valletta, this must be it and not a restored Opera House.

Estelle Inguanez (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Almost €85,000 spent on an inauguration???? I can understand that Valletta / Malta needs promoting but this is a huge amount.... how much was covered by sponsorship?! and what's the estimated return in business growth?

Joseph Borg (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

How shameful! When the country is at its knees ... when the Government should lead by example ... at a time of sacrifice and recession ... here comes the Government spending and squandering so much money for the inauguration of a piazza!

John Zammit (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Was it really worth it? Is it justified to spend this sort of money at this time. Is the cutting of a ribbon not enough any more?

George Caruana (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

What an embarrassment. And the statement "The minister said the week of activities was held in coordination with the business community to attract business after the inconvenience caused by the works," for how long is the political establishment think of us as morons and continue insulting our intelligence?!

Charles Micallef (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

This is only a drop in the ocean, who cares...? we just keep adding it up to the defici.....

We must thank god that we not have not got the same mentality as the fanfarun government...money no object policy!

James Grech (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Money down the drain!

Anthony Mizzi (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Why €84,997 and not €85,000 for this water sprout inauguration?

Update of the current state Sette Giugno monument clandestinely removed from the square please.

Will the plaques on Parliament walls suffer the same fate and to be transferred to the New Parliament bulding when this is completed?

Piano, Piano does it.....

R. Bezzina (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Sberbiq Galore. If they had that money to dish out and din't know how to spend it, surely there must have been more important, wise and less futile reasons to distribute all that money. Anyway I envisage more the publishing of how public money is spent so that then we as citizens would be able to make an informed opinion.

M.Brincat (2 weeks, 6 days ago)

Ahjar ghamlu pjazza ohra :p