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Maltese Economy

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Muscat aims to upstage Gonzi with ambitious 'world tour'

KARL STAGNO-NAVARRA

OPPOSITION leader Joseph Muscat is to embark on a foreign tour of Malta's established commercial partners in a bid to upstage Lawrence Gonzi's government on issues of energy and tourism.

Starting next April, Muscat is reportedly kicking off his tour with a visit to China, where he will lead a delegation of Labour officials for meetings and visits to a number

of industries and cities, said to include Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing.

When asked to comment, Muscat confirmed that he will embark on the foreign tour with a bid to ensure further investment in Malta and to assure prospective investors that a new Labour govern-

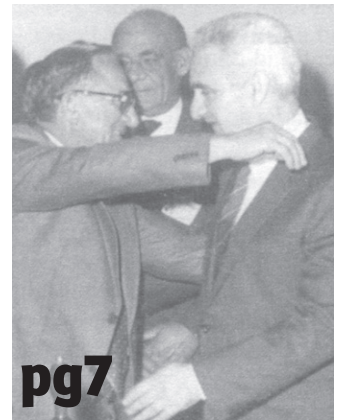


ment will be totally focused on creating the right business environment to nurture their potential investment.

While senior PL officials denied any meetings with political leaders, Joseph Muscat insisted that his missions abroad will be more focused on meeting "key economic and sectoral decision makers rather than politicians."

While this foreign tour is expected to be spread over this year and 2011, PL sources have said that preparations are under way for visits to Italy, France, Germany and Spain, who are considered to be Malta's key economic and commercial partners.

Meanwhile, a visit to the United States has also not been excluded.



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