



## COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

*HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. (HSBC Malta) is required to publish the following Interim Directors' Statement covering the period from 1 July 2008 to 14 November 2008 (the date of the Statement) under Listing Rules 9.51 and 9.53 of the Malta Financial Services Authority.*

### **Quote:**

### **HSBC BANK MALTA p.l.c. INTERIM DIRECTORS' STATEMENT**

Despite challenging global and local market conditions, core income and profitability levels at HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. remained satisfactory for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 September 2008.

As at 30 September 2008, both customers' deposits and customers' loans increased in line with expectations over the prior September end. In this period there was no deterioration in the quality of the lending portfolio whilst liquidity and capital ratios remained strong and ahead of regulatory requirements.

Further, these trends have been sustained into the fourth quarter of 2008.

HSBC Bank Malta plc issued a €30 million 5.9 per cent subordinated bond to support future business growth.

Alan Richards, Director and Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bank Malta plc said: "The third quarter of 2008 has been challenging, but we have made good progress given the circumstances and results to date remain satisfactory.

"HSBC's commitment to strong capital and liquidity will stand the Bank in good stead. The Bank is financially sound, liquid and has a conservative balance sheet policy with relatively low reliance on funding from the wholesale markets. We have limited investments in corporate securities.

"Although the banking system in Malta is in good shape, the consequences of a pronounced world economic slow down is bound to leave its mark on the local economy."

### **Notes to editors**

1. This statement is based on the unaudited management accounts of HSBC Bank Malta plc up to 30 September 2008 and other financial information.

### **HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.**


Legal Office, Head Office, 116, Archbishop Street, Valletta VLT 1444  
Tel: (+356) 25972406/25972411 Fax: (+356) 25972417/25972418

Registered in Malta number C3177. Registered Office: 233 Republic Street, Valletta VLT 1116  
Regulated by the Malta Financial Services Authority and listed on the Malta Stock Exchange.  
Licensed to conduct Investment Services business by the Malta Financial Services Authority.

## **2. The HSBC Group**

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from more than 9,500 offices in 85 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$2,547 billion at 30 June 2008, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.

*Unquote*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Brancalone', written in a cursive style.

**Dr George Brancalone LL.D.  
Company Secretary**

**14 November 2008**