



LABOUR NEWS

**Eamonn Maloney TD
& Pat Rabbitte TD**

Autumn 2012

NEW HOPE AFTER DEBT DEAL

At last, some light at the end of the tunnel. The deal of June 30th in Brussels is a breakthrough. The Irish Banks' crash is the costliest in a modern developed western economy since the 1930s, according to an IMF Study. Taken together with an enduring recession, we are in the middle of the perfect storm. The Brussels Accord may be the first big step on the road to economic recovery.



The Irish people got a new Government last year. But we did not get a new economy. The new Government inherited the old economy – high unemployment, horrific debt and bust banks.

The 2010 Bailout Programme negotiated by Fianna Fail effectively put Ireland into receivership. The result of that fateful decision is that the Troika (IMF/ECB/EU) is dictating economic policy. The Irish Government must comply with the Troika's demands or we can't

borrow funds to support the country's social services.

The Bailout Programme continues until the end of 2013. This means that next December's Budget will be the fifth consecutive tough Budget. Hence the significance of the Brussels deal which separates the burden of bank debt from Ireland's sovereign debt. In the months ahead the mechanics will have to be worked out but, for the first time in a long time, there is new hope.

13,000 JOBS PACKAGE ANNOUNCED

Jobs are the Government's top priority. The stimulus package announced by Government on July 17th will generate 13,000 jobs mainly in construction. An investment package of €2.25bn will give priority to infrastructure projects such as Health Centres, schools, roads and the giant Dublin Institute of Technology (D.I.T.) College at Grangegorman. By 2014 the D.I.T. project alone will employ 3,600 mainly on infrastructure and building.

The cap on public spending imposed by the Troika has made it necessary to source the financing off the State's balance sheet. The projects will be delivered through a mix of Public Private Partnerships and funds from the sale of some non-strategic state assets.

In the transport sector €850 million will be invested in upgrading the national motorway and primary route network. The package invests €280 million in education including in new schools mainly at post-primary level. Twenty Primary Care Centres will be built out of an allocation of €115 million. Procurement of the health projects will commence by end 2012. And €190 million will go into the State Pathology laboratory and two new Garda Divisional Headquarters. Sanction had already been given for the flyover at Newland's Cross.

Twenty new Primary Care Centres will ease the pressure on A&E wards in hospitals. The allocation of 59 new posts in areas such as public health nursing, language and speech therapy and occupational therapy will improve services locally.

Each of these projects will put people back to work. The investment will also create much needed important social and economic infrastructure that will help our economic recovery. The collapse of the construction boom has thrown thousands of building workers out of work. Together with the monies provided in the Public Capital Programme, these measures will put thousands back to work.

More than 20,000 young people attend the Dublin Institute of Technology in more than 30 locations around Dublin. These sites will now be consolidated onto a single location at Grangegorman. It will be the biggest building contract in Ireland and a major inner city regeneration project. It will also link in with the new Luas Broombridge line.

The Government now turns its attention to a new National Broadband Plan designed to improve connectivity so as to enhance jobs potential. The Plan will be published in September.

50 HEALTH POSTS FOR SOUTH WEST

The need to develop a network of Primary Care services and take pressure off Hospital Emergency Departments is a major goal of government Health Policy.



Minister with responsibility for Primary Care, Roisin Shorthall has got sanction for over 50 posts in the South West Health area.

These critical posts include:

Public Health Nurses
Occupational Therapists
Physiotherapists
Speech and Language Therapists
Diabetic Nurse

Appointments will start in September.

Honest and Effective Representation

OPINION

These are tough times for so many families. We are paying a high price for the madness of the Celtic Tiger and the recklessness and criminal negligence that accompanied it. Clawing our way back to stability and self government is a slow business. For the moment we remain dependent on the kindness of strangers. Yes they will loan us money to keep the State afloat but only if we take the hard decisions. Otherwise they show no sentiment.

Ireland depends on investment from abroad and on what we can export. Both are again doing well. But not well enough to put a major dent in unemployment. The building collapse has thrown tens of thousands out of work and thousands more are gone or going from banking and the public service. That's why jobs must be the Government's top priority. The stimulus package to invest another 2¼ billion in the economy is welcome and the breakthrough on debt sustainability at Eurozone level is hugely important.

The ongoing negotiations in Brussels and Frankfurt can return confidence to the Irish economy. Ireland and Europe need stability. One in every two young people under the age of 25 is unemployed in Spain. More than 14% are unemployed in Ireland. Neither is sustainable. But stability brings growth; and growth brings jobs. Given a settlement in Europe, most commentators agree that the Irish economy is likely to grow faster than similar member states.

Separately Irish people want to see those responsible for wrecking our economy brought to justice. Government and the administration of justice are separate in Ireland but it is politics that will suffer unless some of the chief culprits are soon held to account.



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TALLAGHT VILLAGE

Saturday 2pm - 3pm
T.W.S. - Trustus
1 Main Street,
Tallaght Village

(Except August and Bank Holidays)

MORTGAGE HELP

The Personal Insolvency Bill which offers relief to thousands of households in mortgage difficulty is finally being debated in the Dáil. The Bill radically reduces the term of bankruptcy from twelve years to three. It provides new remedies:

- A Debt Relief Notice to allow for the write-off of qualifying debt up to €20,000, subject to a three year supervision period;
- A Debt Settlement Arrangement for the agreed settlement of non-mortgage debt over 5 years;
- A Personal Insolvency Arrangement for the agreed settlement of mortgage debt up to €3 million and non-mortgage debt, over 6 years.

A new Insolvency Service will be established under the Bill and will have a role in either certifying or deciding applications mostly outside of Court.

By altering the balance of power between banks and customers, the new legislation means that banks will now have to offer reasonable out of Court settlement proposals to customers; otherwise the customer will have the option of resorting to bankruptcy – where the banks get nothing.



MORTGAGE TO RENT

Labour's Housing and Planning Minister Jan O'Sullivan launched the Mortgage to Rent Scheme, an initiative targeted at low income families whose mortgage has become unsustainable and face the threat of court proceedings and repossession. This scheme will allow a family to remain in their own home, paying rent, while ownership is transferred to an approved housing body.

Jan also announced new guidelines on local authority mortgage arrears, which will provide for options similar to those already offered to private sector lenders and will see a standardised Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process rolled out by all Local Authorities across the country.

SCHOOLS BROADBAND



Minister Pat Rabbitte pictured at the launch of high speed broadband for secondary schools (Pic Jason Clarke Photography)

Pat Rabbitte has announced that 297 secondary schools were wired for high speed industrial broadband and that a further 200 schools will be done next year.

"This access transforms the learning environment. Next year the 200 schools selected will include the second level schools in West Dublin". The Minister was speaking at the launch of "Delivering a Connected Society – A National Broadband Plan for Ireland".

CONTACT LABOUR & ADVICE CENTRES

ADVICE CENTRES

(excluding Bank Holidays & August)

OLDBAWN

Monday 6.00pm to 7.00pm
Dominic's Community Centre
(Eamonn Maloney)

FETTERCAIRN

Monday 7.00pm to 8.00pm
Fettercairn Community Centre

GREENHILLS

Thursday 7.00pm to 8.00pm
Greenhills Community Centre



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