



Vince
Farrugia
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malta **today** every sunday

10 October 2004 – issue number 257

www.maltatoday.com.mt

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PM sees nothing wrong with son's translation contract



Taking the flak: Gonzi facing the press yesterday

Karl Schembri

A VISIBLY hurt and surprised Prime Minister yesterday brushed off criticism of his son's involvement in a lawyers' translation company that has received more than Lm24,000 for the translation of EU documents over the last two years.

"It's my son who's the target now," Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi said. "It's alright, I take it as the cross we have to carry, us politicians, when we do our job. I can't understand why, but that's how things happen here."

Speaking during the monthly press briefing yesterday at Castille Gonzi said his 26-year-old son, David, had only joined the company responsible for the translations, Global Translations Solutions Ltd, earlier this year when the company had already started carrying out translation works for the government.

Quizzed by *MaltaToday* about declaring one's interests in public

beforehand, a distraught Prime Minister said he agreed with making things more transparent. He added that such interests such as one's shareholding, assets and business interests had already been declared by Cabinet ministers.

When asked by *MaltaToday* why the appointment of consultants could not be more open and transparent, Dr Gonzi retorted politely: "Do you mean issuing a call for applications?"

Earlier this week a Parliamentary Question put by Labour MP Gavin Gulia to Home Affairs Minister Tonio Borg revealed that Global Translations Ltd has received Lm1,279 in 2003 and Lm23,153 for translation services until August of this year even though the company was only officially registered with the Registry of Companies on 8 January 2004. Gonzi's son is one of four directors and shareholders in their 20s who formed the company.

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Latest

MINISTER CLASHES WITH PBS CHAIRMAN

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Malta snubbed by Gaddafi

Karl Schembri

PRIME MINISTER Lawrence Gonzi's meeting with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi was delayed twice by the Libyan authorities in what is a clear sign of a diplomatic snub.

MaltaToday has learnt that the official visit to Tripoli that was supposed to be held two weeks ago was only called off a couple of days before Gonzi's departure after the Libyans informed the government that Gaddafi would not meet the Maltese premier.

Foreign Minister Michael Frendo however disagreed when asked for his comments.

"I don't think Malta is being snubbed at all, it's not an issue," he told *MaltaToday*. "We are entering a new exciting and intense phase in which we are getting a deeper understanding of each other."

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Tough-talking Brit tells Drydocks managers to shape up or ship out

Kurt Sansone

MALTA SHIPYARDS CEO Peter Moore did not mince his words in an email message sent to all senior managers at the dockyard, chiding them for their "arrogant Malta knows best" attitude and warning them that if they had it their way they would be "booking" the 'yard's "funeral."

The email, leaked to *MaltaToday*, was sent on 18 August under the subject heading, 'Enterprise Duration.' It lists 10 points and contains a number of damning statements addressed to the shipyard's senior managers.

Contacted about the contents of the email, Peter Moore told *MaltaToday* that the memo was an internal document. "It should not find its way in the public domain," Moore said.

He added it was a pity that whoever decided to disclose corporate information did not feel "either duty bound to improve his performance or to demonstrate any loyalty to the compa-



ny that employs him".

The contents of the email jar completely with what Investments Minister Austin Gatt had to say on Friday in a statement expressing satisfaction at the new contracts secured by the shipyards for the months to come.

Gatt said the securing of four different contracts demonstrated that "Malta Shipyards Ltd is able to compete effectively in an increasingly competitive international market."

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Government's decision to 'rent' Freeport land for commercial purposes contested

Julian Manduca

SEVERAL FAMILIES are contesting the government's decision to allow the fifth largest shipping company in the world to use their land claiming that government cannot expropriate land for commercial purposes.

In a court case started several years before the government decided to grant the running of the Freeport to the French CMA CGM the families argued that 31 tumoli of land that government expropriated from them in 1969 was not being used for a public purpose. Defending its position, the Commissioner of Land's argued that the Freeport is a project of public interest, but now the families are even more irate to see that their land will be assisting CMA CGA's commercial interests.

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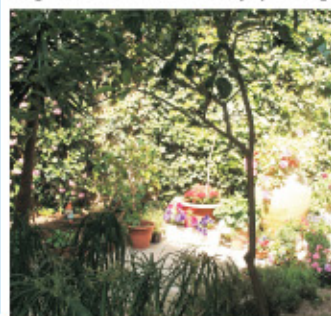
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Telephone enquires also taken on Sunday