

# maltatoday



Guido de Marco

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## Labour MEPs banned from standing in national election

Louis Grech decides not to quash false reports about him

RUMOUR that Louis Grech a socialist European parliamentary would be contesting as a candidate in the next general elections and had been promised a ministerial post was ruled out yesterday. More oddly even Louis Grech chose not to quash the rumours,

which have turned out to be untruths. When contacted MLP Secretary General Jason Micallef argued that all the three MEPs had a commitment with the party that they would not contest the next general election. "There is no truth in the story

that appeared in il-Mument that Louis Grech will stand as candidate or has been offered a ministerial post by Dr Sant."

Louis Grech a bon vivant served as Chief executive of the national airline Air Malta on an annual pay packet of Lm56,000. Yet, he

fell out of favour with Austin Gatt when the latter took over Air Malta from Josef Bonnici.

The brusque minister had at the time pinpointed at mismanagement and overspending at Air Malta. Louis Grech was reappointed Chairman of Air Malta

by the 1998 Nationalist government amidst strong opposition from some cabinet ministers.

On leaving Air Malta was quickly wooed by the Labour party, standing out next to his less colourful candidates for his passion for fast cars and

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## Polidano's squats on government land for 10 years

THE Court of Appeals last week ruled that Polidano Brothers Limited, the group of companies belonging to construction magnate Charles Polidano, has been illegally occupying 3,000 square metre stretch of land in Hal Farrug, limits of Mqabba, since allegedly purchasing the property in 1997.

The property, which will now return to the Lands Department after a legal battle waged over five years, has since been used as a parking space for Polidano Bros employees, asphalted and surrounded by a ring wall.

The same ruling also rejected the Lands Department's request that Polidano Brothers pay damages arising from the same ille-

gal occupation.

The land in question was bought by Polidano in September 1997, in the area known as Tal-Wied, close to the airport runway off the Hal Farrug Road between Siggiewi and Luqa. The Lands Department claimed that the same land was included in a plot bought separately by the Government in November 1979. Despite discrepancies between the descriptions of the land in the two contracts, the annexed plans show clearly that the plot of land is one and the same.

Curiously however, nobody at Polidano Group appears to know anything about the case. Lawyer Dr Jesmond Manicaro has also denied any knowledge of the case.



Carmel Farrugia 22, Richard Caruana 25, Sunny Borg 34, Paul Bonnici 47 and Vincent Galea 66 were laid to rest yesterday. The five men, four from B'Kara and one from Valletta lost their lives on the 27 June in a fireworks explosion at the Ta' Xwieki fireworks factory off Gharghur. Yesterday morning, hundreds gathered at St Helen's Basilica in B'Kara to pay their respects to the five men, their family and friends. Photo taken by Gilbert Calleja

## Ghadira concession dates back to when the GWU had a cabinet post

THE Mellieha Holiday Complex was given a beach concession on a part of Ghadira Beach in 1986 at a time when the GWU had a cabinet post in the Maltese Labour government.

This emerges from a letter sent by Flemming Jensen-the managing director of the Mellieha Holiday Complex.

Contacted by MaltaToday on Friday Flemming, who was not on this island in 1986, explained the GWU's involvement in the company has remained in line with its policy to seek partners within the local community.

"Their role is that of a small minimal partner, because as Danes we like to have a connection to the Maltese."

Last week MaltaToday revealed that the GWU President Salvu Sammut had actively lobbied the office of the Prime Minister to get an approval for 40 new bunga-

lows on a nature conservation area close by the Bird Reserve.

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**Do you feel betrayed by Selvaggi and Gerada?  
"Their choice of words did not help."**

**See full interview with Jesmond Mugliett See page 8**



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