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mt SURVEY

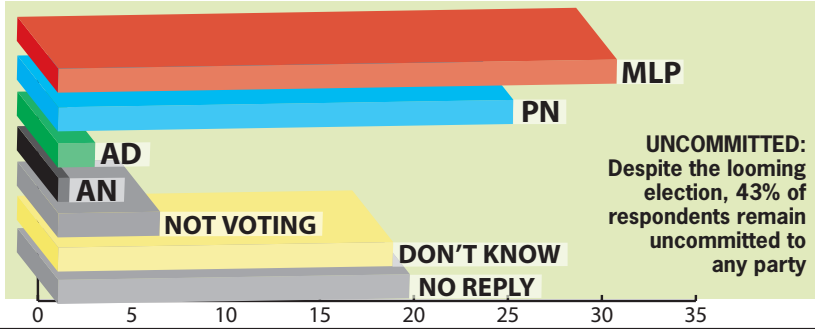
Labour six points ahead as Sant cruises past Gonzi

OVER the past two months, Labour has doubled its lead over the PN from three to six percentage points, and for the first time ever in MaltaToday's surveys, the Labour leader is preferred to incumbent Lawrence Gonzi as Malta's next Prime Minister.

This could be an indication

that Sant's comeback from his recent illness has boosted his appeal among voters. The survey was carried out between Monday and Wednesday, when the political agenda had been set by Alfred Sant's speech on Sunday's MLP general conference.

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Forget your private business, Sant tells his shadow Cabinet

JAMES DEBONO

IF Labour is elected to power, Labour ministers will have to resign from any previous business interest and will not be allowed to receive any form of remuneration from their previous business or professional activity.

Opposition Alfred Sant told MaltaToday that he intends to change the current code of ethics regulating ministers to enshrine these changes.

The current code of ethics

recently exercise their profession as notaries, architects or consultants.

When contacted by MaltaToday, architect Charles Buhagiar declared that he will resign and sever all connections with an architect firm in which he is currently involved, if given a ministerial appointment.

Alfred Sant hinted at Labour's new policy in a hard hitting interview by PBS journalist Reno Bugeja during TV programme Dissett last Tuesday.



ZERO BUSINESS: Architect Charles Buhagiar, Notary Charles Mangion and Corinthia Hotels International chairman Karmenu Vella would have to abandon their private interests if called to the Cabinet

regulating ministers does not oblige ministers to relinquish their shares in business activities commenced before their appointment, and allows them to receive a fixed annual remuneration from such activities.

Only medical doctors will be allowed to continue to exercise their profession in a future Labour Cabinet, but only if their services are not remunerated.

This measure is expected to have a direct impact on the Labour Party's front bench which includes various prospective ministers who cur-

Sant singled out minister Jesmond Mugliett for retaining a professional and commercial interest in a company which presides over major public works like the Manwel Dimech bridge.

Reno Bugeja asked Sant point blank what he would do if a Labour minister is caught in the same position as Mugliett. Sant crisply replied "they will not remain (ministers), period."

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Jail for kids: is it justifiable?

MATTHEW VELLA

THE laws that effectively opened the gates of jail to children were only legislated recently in 2002, in sweeping reforms to the Criminal Code which, three weeks ago, sentenced a 13-year-old girl to a week in prison for a teenage squabble.

In a special feature, Home Affairs



Tonio Borg: Thanks to his reforms, teenagers can end up in prison

and Justice Minister Tonio Borg argues that the laws were meant to provide a more effective form of punishment for children convicted of heinous crimes such as homicide, where before they would have been sentenced to just a fine.

But in the case of the 13-year-old girl, Borg says that magistrates and judges are still allowed a wide area of discretion to sentence children aged 9-14 to forms of punishment other than incarceration.

Strangely, the parliamentary debates held in 2001 over the reforms did not mention this particular clause. Today, Borg's Labour counterpart Gavin Gula claims he does not see the utility of the law because, he says, Malta has no delinquent society among young kids. "I dislike the amendment and I would have preferred to do without it. There are reformatory penalties for misconduct and a judge can safely make recourse to them without the need to incarcerate." Full report page 7 ▶



GET LOST!

Leader pg 21



Saviour Balzan

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You won't shut us up



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GETTING DRUNK ON EUROVISION



George of the concrete jungle

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