

maltatoday

ELECTIONS
27
DAYS TO GO

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Di-ve election reporting stopped after government complaints

MATTHEW VELLA

GO chairman Sonny Portelli yesterday denied discussing his company's news portal di-ve.com with the Office of the Prime Minister,

prior to a company decision not to report the general elections. But MaltaToday can reveal the decision by Go to stop di-ve.com reporting the general elections was taken after some senior government officials expressed serious concern

that di-ve was leaning too far towards Labour.

Ironically, in the same week di-ve's decision was made public, the PN's media company, media link, revamped its news portal maltarightnow.

com in a new bilingual format.

Go's bizarre decision was announced Tuesday night on di-ve.com, but no reason was given for the company's decision not to cover the elections, the first time in the history of **pg 2 ►**



What is Dom up to now?!

pgs 6-7 ►

It's election time and il-Perit is once again concocting something. Dom Mintoff was spotted by our photographer visiting the electoral office in Valletta on Friday. "Tell Saviour Balzan he's on his own, despite the British government's backing," he yelled back at him. Sources at the electoral commission said Mintoff neither submitted a nomination nor renewed his ID card, leaving his surprise visit shrouded in mystery. Rumours quickly spread he may be contesting with Josie Muscat's Azzjoni Nazzjonali, but the far-right leader yesterday said: "So far I don't think he'll be contesting with is. We meet often a lot but I can't imagine him contesting."

Anglu Xuereb tendered for Sant' Antnin!

AZZJONI Nazzjonali's deputy leader Anglu Xuereb had shown interest in the re-modernisation of Sant' Antnin recycling plant, MaltaToday can reveal. The far right movement captained by the fiery former Nationalist MP Josie Muscat has vehemently opposed the Sant' Antnin plant.

The opposition to the plant has in fact served as Muscat's springboard for his return to politics in Marsascala, who was quick to capitalise on the popular protests and mass discontentment in **pg 3 ►**

PN



NO CAKES FOR GONZI:

The PN leader is rapped by Joe Saliba just as he is about to have a bite in a Qormi confectionary, as an assembly of loyal followers, mostly women, greet him enthusiastically in their locality. He tells our journalist that there are no plans to make up for the shortfall in revenue that would follow the tax cuts promised, estimated to cost some €46 million by the PN, but is positive the economy will keep growing. **PAGE 8 ►**

MLP



SANT TAKES A BREAK:

Alfred Sant takes it easy before today's mass meeting in Cottonera – his first one in this campaign – leaving his deputies to visit the island of Gozo on their own while he limits himself to a radio programme in home territory on Super One. This morning he will be on the party's television station with Simone Cini as the party machinery gears up for the big event from 4pm onwards in Cospicua. **PAGE 8 ►**

AD



COURTING THE RICH:

The Green party is flirting with high-income earners in tax cuts it is proposing as it tries seducing the upper middle class vote in affluent districts. "Our aim isn't to punish the well off but to ensure that more and more people pay their fair share of taxes," says AD's spokesman for finances Edward Fenech, dispelling the image of a Robin Hood party. But it is still the only party advocating an increase in bank profits' redistribution. **PAGE 9 ►**

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SMALLER GOVERNMENT:

Azzjoni Nazzjonali present their electoral manifesto declaring they want us all to be little rich people, just like its leaders. This requires a government cut down to size and more powers handed over to individuals, together with easing taxes and ensuring accountability from the President downwards, says Josie Muscat. **PAGE 16 ►**

PN EDGES CLOSER TO LABOUR

JAMES DEBONO

THE official start of the electoral campaign has resulted in a 7% drop in uncommitted voters with the Nationalist Party gaining 5% over last week's survey.

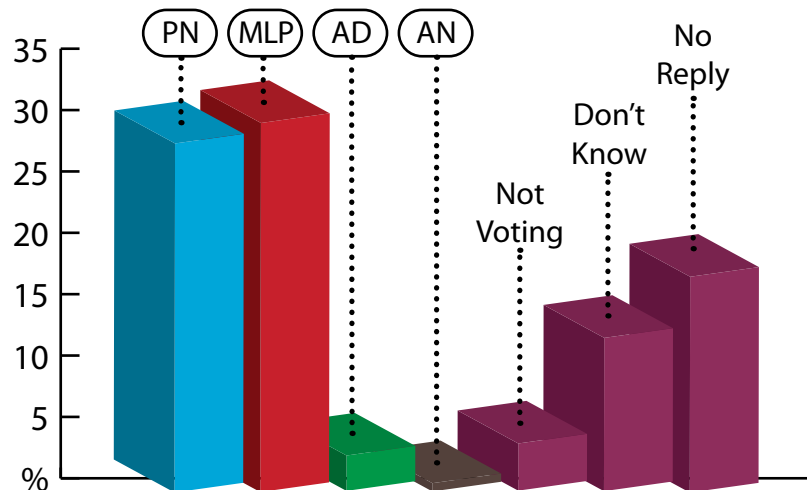
Yet the MLP which started the campaign with a 6% lead, still enjoys a 2% lead after increasing its support by 1% during the past week.

This emerges from MaltaToday's first survey after the dissolution of parliament

and the start of the electoral campaign.

Alternattiva Demokratika which has seen its national profile rise with newcomer Carmel Cacopardo – a former PN candidate enjoying the media spotlight – has climbed to 3%.

With the billboards of the two big parties mirroring each other's claim that the opposing party is full of yesterday's men, the third party vote has reached the 3.7% mark. **pg 4 ►**



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