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3 criminal suspects, 1 debtor: Josie's 'law and order' party

By SABRINA AGIUS, DAVID DARMANIN, and MATTHEW VELLA

CANDIDATES of the far-right Azzjoni Nazzjonali – the party which claims to uphold law and order as its core principles – are facing a spate of criminal charges and other claims of alleged illegalities, MaltaToday can confirm.

An AN candidate and candidates Paul Salomone and Pierre Cutajar, all face criminal charges, while AN deputy leader Anglu Xuereb faces claims in court by the Lands Department of illegal and abusive occupation of public land. He also owes government over €2 million over his property in Verdala, Rabat.

A particular AN candidate was named in the government gazette of 26 February 2007 as one of four accused before the Court of Magistrates as the court of criminal inquiry in the preliminary investigation brought



Anglu Xuereb is accused of illegal occupation of land of unpaid dues to government



Candidate Pierre Cutajar stole from cars and is on probation over possession of cannabis



This candidate whose name is banned by court order faces money laundering charges



Official Paul Salomone is accused of inciting to racial hatred

by the police over a case of money laundering. His name cannot be published by court order.

The case involves the transfer of Lm900,000 (€2,096,440) from Italy into Maltese bank accounts, changed into two bank drafts and distributed through a brokerage company. The case concerns a five-year investigation started in 2001 between Italian

and Maltese investigators. The criminal court ordered that all the money and moveable property belonging to the accused could not be transferred or disposed of in any way.

AN leader Josie Muscat has told MaltaToday that this candidate did not inform him of the case.

Deputy leader Anglu Xuereb is accused by the Lands Department of

– and carrying out the construction of structures over it which he offered for use by third parties through public calls. He also faces court procedures by Malta Enterprise over €2 million in unpaid dues.

Paul Salomone, who is the party's logistics secretary and a candidate on the first and 12th district, faces criminal

having “illegally and abusively” occupied public land in Qawra – namely the Suncrest Hotel and the Sunny Court Leisure Complex as claimed in the writ filed against him

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ELECTIONS

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DAYS TO GO

PN



PUBLIC FUNDS FARCE: After the Good Causes Funds scandal, Jesmond Mugliett takes the cue and channels speed camera earnings for a district sports club. They will be used to remind his constituents to wear seat belts, so there's absolutely no political mileage, he says.

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MLP



BROTHERS IN ARMS: As Alfred Sant deplores the barbaric vandalism against the spring hunting ban lobbyists, his deputy Michael Falzon gets all edgy when asked if he is still comfortable travelling abroad with hunting activists. It's not illegal, after all, he reminds our journalist

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AD



RENT REFORM: Harry Vassallo accuses Labour and the PN of abandoning the rent reform issue ahead of the elections. The MLP, he says, left it out completely whereas the Nationalists made only vague promises which benefit only the tenants and not the long-suffering owners.

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AN



DESTROY SANT' ANTININ: After the far right deputy leader tendered to build the recycling plant in 2001, his party now wants to pull down the whole facility. Meanwhile Josie's party turns out to be a motley crew of suspected money launderers, drug addicts, and debtors who moralise about Christian values

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DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR MALTATODAY ELECTION SPECIAL DAILY FROM TOMORROW

PN SCRAPES PAST LABOUR

JAMES DEBONO

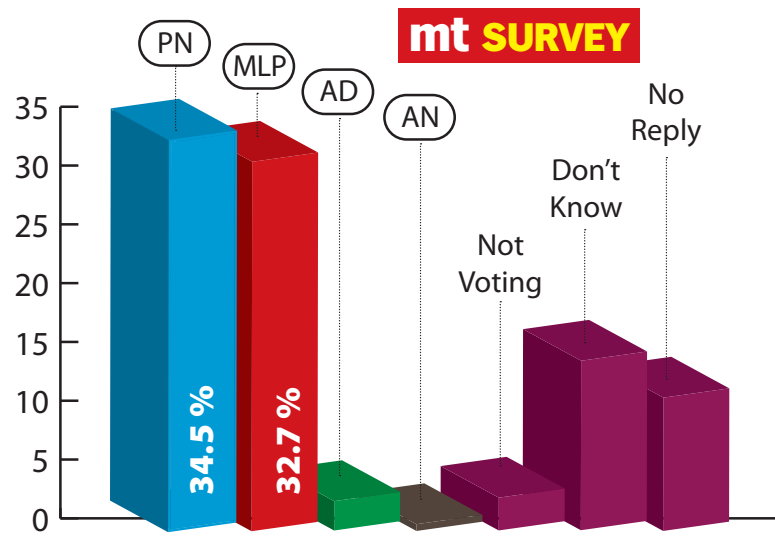
THE Nationalist Party gained 4% during the third week of the electoral campaign to snatch a slender 1.8% advantage over the MLP, previously leading by 1.7%.

Yet the two big parties are still neck and neck, with the difference between the two parties still falling within the +/-3.3% margin of error of the survey. Theoretically, this can put either party in the lead.

For the second consecutive week, the MaltaToday survey took a sample size of 900 respondents.

The PN's rise in support comes in the wake of a 5% decrease in the number of undecided voters and a 0.7% decrease among those intending not to vote.

Still, despite the increase in com-



mitted voters, a significant 27% of respondents are still undecided or refusing to divulge their voting

intentions. Surprisingly, the PN's increase in support comes despite a 0.8%

increase in AD's support.

The Green Party's resilience at 2.6% defies a PN TV campaign spot warning potential third party voters that a vote for AD or AN is a vote for Alfred Sant. The campaign was echoed in a series of articles harping the same message in the English language press.

During the past week the MLP has seen a small 0.6% increase in its share of the vote. Yet this increase was not enough to compensate for the swing of undecided voters in favour of the incumbent party.

This result could be an indication that the PN's slick and personalised campaign is more incisive than the MLP's more cautious and corporate equivalent.

Lawrence Gonzi also emerges as the preferred Prime Minister of 46% of respondents with Alfred Sant

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