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FEATURE
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WITH AN
AUTISTIC
CHILD
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Housing giveaways on election eve

Threefold increase in housing allocations



JAMES DEBONO

THE number of rented houses allocated by the government increased threefold in the three months before the election, from a mere 32 in the first three

months of 2007 to 106 in the first three months of 2008.

The sharpest increase was registered in Valletta and Cospicua.

In the capital city the number of allocated dwellings shot up from just four in the first three

months of 2007 to 25 in the corresponding period in 2008.

In the same period the number of allocated dwellings in Cospicua increased from 11 in 2007 to 36 in 2008: an increase of almost 230%. A further 203 dwellings were allocated through the

shared ownership scheme, mainly in Pembroke and Mtarfa. But the relevant statistics for 2007 are not yet available. A spokesman



son for the Ministry of Social policy attributed the drastic increase in the number of houses allocated

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AFTER YOU, MIKE: George Abela and Michael Falzon rub shoulders at the National Labour Centre in Hamrun, where they both submitted their nominations yesterday. As expected, five contenders have put themselves forward for the post: Joseph Muscat and Marie Louise Coleiro entering their candidature yesterday, while Evarist Bartolo was first to do so on Friday. See also interviews with Lino Spiteri and Godfrey Grima (pages 10-13)

Archbishop reacts to MaltaToday editorial

ACKNOWLEDGING that divorce can be a second opportunity to start a new life "to some individuals" but also calling for policies to strengthen families, Archbishop Paul Cremona has written to MaltaToday in reaction to the 18 May editorial dealing with the increasing figures of separation cases and divorces obtained from abroad.

In his letter, Mgr Cremona reiterates his position of distinguishing between the Church and the State, while outlining "the individual Christian's responsibility to contrib-

ute in the political and social sphere, obviously in a way that is a logical consequence of his beliefs, otherwise he would be living in a dichotomy between his beliefs and his political stance".

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'New' PN executive paves way for secretary general

CHARLOT ZAHRA

THE Nationalist Party elected its new executive council with old faces grabbing the highest number of votes, and the new face of 32-year-old Marthese Portelli just ranking ninth out of the 13 vacant seats despite the party's unofficial push to elect her as secretary general.

The Gozitan lawyer who was elected as PN councillor in Xaghra last March is in fact being touted in the party's inner circles as the Gonzi choice in the upcoming secretary general's election as Joe Saliba will be making way after a decade at the helm. But on Friday, Portelli got only 342 votes.

Attempts to contact her yesterday proved futile.

Also up for grabs will be the post of

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