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PHOTOGRAPHY BY GILBERT CALLEJA

LABOUR PAINS



Bitterness reigns supreme among Muscat's rivals

DAVID DARMANIN
KARL SCHEMBRI

THE Labour Party's new leader, Joseph Muscat, finds himself having to deal with extremely bitter comrades in the aftermath of his election as his contenders show no sign of closing ranks.

The 34-year-old leader's rivals were yesterday ruling out any involvement in the party under Muscat's rule, with his runoff contender George Abela excluding the possibility of holding any post in the MLP although he said he would still somehow give his "contribution to the party".

"The leadership post was the one I thought I could contribute in most, so I am not directly interested in any specific role or area within the party now, but we're still in early days," Abela said.

The reactions of the three other contenders, who are also MPs, suggest that the new leader will have to negotiate a bitter minefield in the coming days.

pg 5 >

MaltaToday survey

Gonzi's post-election blues

PRIME Minister Lawrence Gonzi finds himself snubbed by 9.2% of those who voted for his party last March, in the latest MaltaToday survey seeking the public's verdict on his first 90 days since his improbable re-election.

The results show Gonzi fac-

ing an increasingly sceptical public, with just 38% of voters judging him positively. Significantly, he still manages to attract a sizeable 10.5% of Labour voters who judge him positively.

Full survey report pages 8-9



How do you judge Prime Minister Gonzi's performance since being re-elected Prime Minister on March 8?

	%
Positive	38
Negative	29.5
Fair	18.1
No answer	14.3

Unpublished letter sheds new light on Sette Giugno

RAPHAEL VASSALLO

A document written by a leading Maltese miller who was Flour Control Officer in 1919, published for the first time by MaltaToday, provides new insight into the "Sette Giugno" riots of 89 years ago, in which four Maltese rioters were shot dead by British troops in Valletta.

The incident is now commemorated by a public holiday, and is often presented as an act of sedition against the Colonial forces, as well as an early manifestation of Maltese nationalism. But a letter written by Dr Antonio Cassar Torreggiani,

whose home and flourmills were overrun during the unrest, describes the goings-on from an altogether different perspective, revealing little-known details about the millers' unsuccessful negotiations with British governor Lord Methuen for a bread subsidy, as well as describing the personal financial risks undertaken by flour importers in an effort to keep down the skyrocketing price of wheat.

This new documentary evidence suggests that millers such as Cassar Torreggiani may have been unfairly blamed for an economic disaster they themselves tried their utmost to avert.

pg 7 >

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