



PHOTOGRAPHY BY GILBERT CALLEJA

Another pre-electoral direct order, this time of €1.8 million to Mekanika for Mater Dei maintenance, while 64 maintenance staff are kept on at St Luke's with nothing to do

MATTHEW VELLA

AFTER last week's cover story that security firm Group 4 Securitas (G4S) had been given

a direct order of just under €2 million a year at Mater Dei, MaltaToday can reveal that yet another private company – Mekanika Ltd – has been given red carpet treatment by Prime Min-

ister Lawrence Gonzi.

Mekanika was allowed to have a maintenance contract it had with private firm Skanska extended after Mater Dei Hospital passed on into government's

hands, in exactly the same way that G4S was favoured with its million-euro direct order.

Mekanika was engaged by Skanska for the installation, testing and commissioning of

mechanical and electrical systems at the hospital. When the hospital finally passed on to the government, the maintenance services contract with Mekanika was **pg6 >**

Labour calls on newly-appointed Auditor General to investigate MaltaToday story – page 6

Breast cancer patients still denied free cure

KARL SCHEMBRI

WOMEN suffering from breast cancer and prescribed Herceptin by their doctors are still waiting for the government to honour its promise to include the drug on the list of free health services as they fork out thousands of euros to get their treatment.

Since last April, parliamentary secretary for health Joe Casar has been promising to offer

for free the hefty treatment for breast cancer, but four months later the drug is still off the national health service.

A spokesman for the minister confirmed the decision to include Herceptin taken last April, but added that the junior minister could not give a date from when it will be available.

"There's a process before it is included on the government formulary and we are in the process of finalising it," he said. "But I can't give a date."

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