



PG 7

HUNTERS TELL LIZZIE!



Magistrate claims Azzopardi jumped, rules out police brutality

Deceased's brother disputes video evidence

KARL SCHEMBRI

THE magisterial inquiry into the death of Nicholas Azzopardi has established that the 38-year-old man, who died on 22 April after claiming he had been beaten up and thrown off a wall by police interrogators, was not beaten by anyone, according to a home affairs ministry statement issued yesterday afternoon.

Announcing that the inquiry by Magistrate Antonio Vella was concluded and passed on to the ministry and the Attorney General, government said the findings showed that Azzopardi was not beaten by anyone during his two days in custody on 8 and 9 April.

According to a summary of the court's conclusions distributed by the Department of Information, Azzopardi

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Joseph and Reno Azzopardi watch as their deceased son and brother respectively accuses the police from his deathbed

'The leader is supreme,' says Micallef

KARL SCHEMBRI

"THE leader is supreme," was Labour Party secretary-general Jason Micallef's response to the impending "earthquake" that is meant to rock the Opposition from within, as promised by MLP leader Joseph Muscat.

Contacted yesterday for his reactions to what is increasingly sounding like an effective downsizing to irrelevance of his own role within the party, Micallef was unfazed at the prospect, which includes the possibility of him being employed as a part-timer.



"I will remain secretary-general," he said. "I don't have any comments to make on these proposals at such early stages. I'm just satisfied with the result I got."

But beyond Micallef's personal satisfaction at his 370 votes garnered last week, which served to re-elect him to the post, Muscat reiterated on Monday that the time for change has arrived.

"If anything, last week's elections hastened it," he wrote in his column on The Times, somehow reinforcing the perception that he was unhappy with Micallef's re-election although he did nothing to stop it.

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FAILED ESCAPEE ALLEGEDLY BEATEN IN PRISON

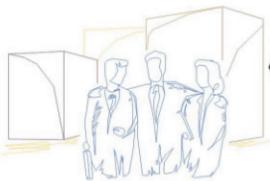
RAPHAEL VASSALLO

A 32-year-old Dutch inmate of the Corradino Correctional facilities, currently serving a 15-year sentence for drug importation, was allegedly beaten in prison after staging an unsuccessful escape attempt.

The incident occurred on Sat-

urday 2 August, when Perry Ingumar Toornstra was granted prison leave in order to visit his mother at a hotel. He was accompanied by a police escort, but on the way back Toornstra somehow managed to open the back door of the van while the prison gate was being opened, and made a daring but brief dash

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