

TRAVEL AUDIT AFFAIR: Irregularities... but no mention of Dalli

THE long-awaited National Audit Office's report into the procurement of air tickets by government ministries was tabled in Parliament Monday evening, but the inquiry concludes nothing about John Dalli's alleged irregular engagement of Tourist Resources Limited when he was foreign minister.

Instead, the report puts the entire spectrum of government ministries and offices under the spotlight in their rampant breaches of air tickets procurement regulations.

Asked for his reactions to the audit report yesterday, Dalli said: "The auditor general has looked into all the government air tickets procurement systems, and found nothing against me. On the contrary, it lists other ministries' irregularities but finds no irregularities in my regard."

The Office of the Prime Minister limited itself to saying that government will be studying the recommendations put forward in the report. pg 4 >

Teachers' unions threaten general strike

The Government's threat takes us back to the 1980s. We are bound to extend our directives through the THIS OCTOBER

whole educational sector – John Bencini

JULIA FARRUGIA

JOHN Bencini, president of the Malta Union of Teachers (MUT), has threatened to order a general strike across the entire educational sector if Government does not accept the union's counter-proposal.

Bencini told this newspaper that the Government's letter, sent yesterday afternoon in reaction to today's strike by the University and Junior College academic staff, is nothing but "a threat that took the country back to the 1980s." He stated that the University of Malta Academic Staff Association (UMASA) and the MUT have now presented the Government with a fresh counterproposal in an endeavour to solve the financial row over the academics' pay package.

If a deal is still not reached, the unions are pledging to step up the directives.

"With this arrogant attitude we have no other option but to strike in all sectors, from Kinder, to the Primary, the Secondary, MCAST, ITS and other sectors," Bencini stated.

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