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## PN officials defend request for sensitive information

But Gonzi's personal secretary reiterates that ministers must not share personal data with party

**KARL SCHEMBRI**

NATIONALIST Party high officials on the administrative council have defended the PN secretary-general's request for sensitive information from government ministers, justifying it as a way to "increase efficiency" and customer care.

The president of the PN's General Council, Victor Scerri, said he was

aware of the information-sharing between government and the party. "It's done to facilitate people's queries," Scerri said. "It's not a question of the party getting data from the government, but of centralising government's queries so that people get replies to their concerns."

Scerri denied that the PN was seeking confidential information from government ministries, even though the prime

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PN secretary-general Paul Borg Olivier has asked government ministers for data on citizen complaints in an email. The prime minister's secretary promptly reminded ministers not to disclose such personal data, after the email was found to have been inadvertently sent to a person outside PN circles



UHM secretary-general Gejtu Vella (left) and president Gejtu Tanti

## Unions present nine alternative energy proposals to government

**RAPHAEL VASSALLO**

REPRESENTATIVES of the 18 trade unions which protested last Friday against the government's utility tariff hike, yesterday presented nine alternative proposals to Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi during a one-hour meeting at Castille.

The first to emerge was Gen-

eral Workers' Union secretary-general Tony Zarb, who gave a terse overview of the meeting and its outcome.

"We have presented government with our common proposals, which had been agreed to beforehand by all participating unions," he told the assembly of journalists on the palace steps.

But asked to expand on the un-

ions' common proposals, Zarb would only say that they had been calculated to reduce the burden on low-income Maltese families, and were based on the concept of social justice.

"We are now waiting for the government to come back to us with its own workings (of these proposals)", Tony Zarb added.

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