

mid week

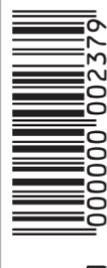
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# maltatoday

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## ACCUSATIONS FLY



### NAMED AND SHAMED

David Casa homes in on Labour MPs suing for car tax refund in Labour's class action

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### OFF WITH HIS HEAD

PN President Victor Scerri called on to assume responsibility for 'scandalous' Bahrija permit

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### POISON PEN

Dirty tricks department? PL candidate Edward Scicluna targeted by anonymous letter

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## TOMORROW IN MALTATODAY'S ELECTION SPECIAL

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Newspaper post

# Don't call us PL, we a

Joseph Muscat reaches out to disgruntled Nationalists while slamming 'blatant abuses' by PN officials. KARL STAGNO-NAVARRA reports



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DENISE SCICLUNA

OPPOSITION and Labour leader Joseph Muscat last night called on all Maltese of goodwill to unite in a brand new coalition that includes those who voted in favour and against joining the European Union, all walks of life and irrespective of what they traditionally voted for in the past.

"This coalition will lead the country towards a brand new dawn," he said before a large crowd that gathered in Narbona Square in Qormi, adding that the time has come for government to assume political responsibility for the abuses in office that are "blatantly" being committed without a care.

Joseph Muscat insisted that PN general council secretary Victor Scerri must assume political responsibility for what he

branded as a "scandalous" permit that was issued by MEPA for a development in the heart of the Bahrija Valley notwithstanding four consecutive refusals.

He said that the people are now fed up of witnessing such things happen, when MEPA refuses permits of a petty nature such as modification of apertures.

"We cannot allow this nonsense to continue, and surely not accept the rape of a pristine valley," Joseph Muscat said.

Acknowledging applause from the crowd, Muscat heightened his attack on Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi's government by insisting that Ministers assume political responsibility for the VAT department fraud and the Matsec exam paper mistakes.

He rebutted Gonzi's comment that Labour is exploiting national rather than European issues, given that Saturday's election are to elect Maltese representatives to the European Parliament.

"I don't care what Lawrence Gonzi wants me to talk about. I certainly do not need to raise my hand and ask for his permission to speak on the issues I know that all Maltese are talking about, and which he just simply ignores," Muscat charged, adding that the truth is that many Maltese are worried about their future.

He dwelt on the uncertainty of thousands of workers, who are working more but earning less, while having to cope with an increasing cost of living.

"Malta is the only country

within the Eurozone that has inflation," he said, insisting that he has no shame in calling for the setting up of what many used to call the "price control" system.

Joseph Muscat explained that the price control system should be activated in the same efficient way the prices were monitored before and shortly after the conversion to the Euro currency.

The Labour leader refused to accept the suggestion made by the Prime Minister that the PL was playing "political football" on issues such as illegal immigration and healthcare.

He challenged the Prime Minister once again on the report commissioned by Castille and was recently discussed in Cabinet, allegedly stating methods of

payment to sustain healthcare.

Joseph Muscat went a notch further to reveal correspondence from the European Commission in Brussels explaining that a "reform" in healthcare was to be implemented.

"This is what the Prime Minister has discussed, and this will happen," he warned the attentive crowd in Qormi.

Moreover, he returned to sender the recent accusation from government that the PL was trying to play "political football" by refusing pairing in Parliament, and denied that the health minister had to attend an important council meeting in Brussels that discussed swine flu.

"We were unjustly accused by government of trying to play dirty, when government never



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Candidate for the European Parliament

Boxing

# St Julian's club goes to Cyprus boxing tournament

OFFICIALS of the St Julian's Boxing Club leading a Malta select to Cyprus have every reason to be proud of themselves as they opened a new chapter in Maltese boxing history with a record number of victories in a three-day international boxing tournament.

The Maltese team opened the tournament with three consec-

utive and very decisive wins. In the schoolboy category Max Farrugia 38kg stopped Cypriot Bernard Nicos in the second round of their bout, his older sibling Zak Farrugia 48kg in the Junior category gave Malta another victory when Cypriot Andreas Giannaki retired in the second round and in the senior category Haithem



Matthew Randon (right) in action



Sean Meli (right)

Laamouz 60kg won on points against Cypriot Titvinitze Giorgi but the surprise of the day was Sean Meli 75kg Senior Category, a novice with zero competition experience who shocked the experienced Thoma Andreas of Cyprus with a series of jabs and counter punches although Meli lost narrowly on a split decision he

has shown that he is a capable and gifted athlete.

On the second day Zak Farrugia notched up another win for the Maltese side against Baglaridis Georgios.

Although our boys did not win their finals on the third day against much tougher opposition from Denmark and Scotland, they gave a good account

of themselves the improvement in Maltese Boxing during the past year is evident.

Coach Dixon also included a number of novices for this event with the main purpose of providing the boys with experience. Pierre Tonna, Dale Micallef, Matthew Randon and Kai Cauchi all gave a good account of themselves.

Illegal immigration

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## Football

# Kaka rumoured in Real move

THE Brazilian has said yes to Real Madrid, and the official announcement is expected soon.

AC Milan star Kaka has agreed to join Real Madrid, according to Sky Italia.

News of his impending transfer to the La Liga giants has been gaining momentum since this afternoon when it was rumoured Milan vice president Adriano Galliani and Kaka's father/agent were in the capital to negotiate a deal.

The Spanish media later reported that a deal had been agreed for €65 million between the two clubs.

The former Ballon d'Or winner is currently on international duty with Brazil, but has allegedly given his stamp of approval to the deal. All that is missing is an official announcement from the two clubs, which is likely to arrive very shortly.

The 27-year-old made 31 appearances in Serie A this season for the Rossoneri, finding the back of the net 16 times in the process.



## Tennis

# Murray and Sharapova out of French Open

CHILE'S Fernando Gonzalez capitalised on another changeable performance by Andy Murray to knock the world number three out of the French Open quarter-finals 6-3 3-6 6-0 6-4.

Andy Murray of Britain reacts during his quarter-final match against Fernando Gonzalez of Chile at the French.

Gonzalez will now face Rafael Nadal's conqueror Robin Soderling, after the Swedish 23rd seed produced another blistering display to dispatch Nikolay Davydenko 6-1 6-3 6-1.

"I guess he's a better clay-court player," Murray said of his South American opponent.

"I think I had my chances but didn't take them and he came up with some big shots in the mean time."

The Scot also paid tribute to his opponent's powerful game.

"His forehand is the biggest in tennis," Murray said.

"Even if you try to hit a ball to his backhand, he makes his mind up that he wants to hit a forehand and he runs around it and spans a winner. You can't do a whole lot with it."

Gonzalez, for his part, said his more extensive experience on clay had given him the upper hand.



Murray started slowly, battling to find his rhythm and save break points as early as the second game.

The Scot battled back into the game, though, and went on to hold comfortably for the majority of the set, even holding break points in the fifth game.

But it was Gonzalez who struck first, breaking in the eighth game after a double fault and a poor backhand volley from Murray that allowed the 12th seed to push down the line for a passing shot winner.

Gonzalez then served out the set with a forehand winner across court on his fourth set point.

Murray recovered by posting consecutive love service games

early in the second set and breaking in the sixth game before levelling the match at the second attempt when Gonzalez hit a forehand long.

But the wheels came off almost immediately for the world number three as Gonzalez changed tactics, mixing a series of drop shots and lobs in with his explosive forehand.

The Chilean broke in the second, fourth and sixth games to claim a bagel set when Murray hit a poor smash - which actually bounced on his side of the net - in just 24 minutes.

Although the Scot recovered his composure enough to make the fourth set more competitive, his mental strength deserted him at the crucial moments, allowing Gonzalez

to break in the wrap up the match in the 10th game when a Murray forehand hit the top of the net and bounced back onto his side of the court.

## Sharapova downed by Cibulkova

Maria Sharapova's Grand Slam comeback ended in the French Open quarter-finals after she was demolished 6-0 6-2 by Slovak Dominika Cibulkova.

Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts during her quarter-final match against Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia at the French Open.

Cibulkova will face world number one Dinara Safina for a place in Saturday's final, after the Russian recovered from

dropping the first set to beat ninth seed Victoria Azarenka 1-6 6-4 6-2.

Sharapova, a three-time Grand Slam title winner, but who has never got beyond the last four in Paris, was playing just her second tournament following a 10-month lay-off to recover from a shoulder injury.

She had needed three sets in each of her four matches to make the last eight and the 22-year-old ran out of steam against an inspired Cibulkova, who is enjoying her best Grand Slam run.

The loss was former world number one Sharapova's heaviest defeat since she went down 6-1 6-1 to Serena Williams in the fourth round in Miami in 2007.

It could have been a lot worse as Cibulkova, the 20th seed, had a match point to complete a 6-0 6-0 humiliation before the Russian managed to put two games together to stop the rot.

Had she suffered a white-wash, it would have been only her second 'double-bagel' after she lost to Lindsay Davenport in the Indian Wells semi-finals in 2005.

Sharapova saved three more match points in the eighth game of the second set before her resistance crumbled.

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On this basis, we would like to support his candidacy."

Xavier R. Durieu

Secretary General of EuroCommerce

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# The EU is 'a picnic for Labour'

Gonzi accused Muscat of turning the European elections into a 'picnic', but his own campaign is no walk in the park. By JULIA FARRUGIA

**PRIME** Minister Lawrence Gonzi, visibly tired after a day jam-packed with activities, was warmly welcomed by a small but lively crowd of about 80 people, including MEP and Gozitan local council candidates, at Gharb yesterday.

As a surprise comeback for PN diehards, last night's Nationalist activity in Gozo was anchored by none other than former NET head of news Mario Xuereb, who left the hot seat some weeks ago.

Scoffing at the latest PL billboard, which features the Labour MEP candidates sitting down relaxed in the countryside, Lawrence Gonzi accused the PL candidates of celebrat-



## Behind the scenes

- PN secretary-general Paul Borg Olivier managed to hit the news, at least amongst Gozo Channel employees. The Peugeot car in which Borg Olivier and MEP David Casa were passengers, literally broke a chain which was still being removed by workers upon arrival of the vessel in Gozo. The driver didn't realise that the workers were still removing the chain and sped out of the ferry, smashing the chain in the process.

- A mini van, complete with huge stickers promoting Vince Farrugia's candidature, served as a cooling down attraction magnet to Nationalists MEP candidates before delivering their speeches in Gozo. As soon as it was parked in Gharb's main square, a number of candidates left the tent and made towards the van. The group, led by MEP incumbents Simon Busuttil and David Casa, came up with the idea of pulling Vince's leg by posing with his van for an unplanned photo shoot.



ing a "picnic" (xalata).

"For them the European Union is simply a picnic. For us it is different. It is a duty towards the country," the PN leader insisted towards the end of the Gharb discussion.

Addressing unemployment, one of the weakest points for the Nationalist government in Gozo, Gonzi's sharpest message focused on work. He admitted that for Gozitans, more than for the Maltese, work is a major concern.

"Yes, I am aware that this issue is of a great concern here in Gozo, more so than in Malta. I insist on reminding you that we are working on this issue from dusk till dawn. Even after the campaign we will remain



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### ANTIQUES

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**POMSKIZILLIOUS MUSEUM** of antique toys, situated at 10, Xaghra, Gozo. Toys from the late 18th Century-1950's. Open for visitations from Monday to Saturday during the months of June to September from 10.30am-1.00pm and from 4.00pm-6.00pm. For more information call 21562489

**ONE BRONZE** plaque with angel figures laid on a mahogany base. Grocer's scale, complete with weights. Call 99281114

**ORIGINAL AUTO** signed photograph of Mussolini, stamped and embossed by Luce Italia. Original black silk scarf, containing Mussolini's speech during the Ethiopian Campaign. Call 99281114

**1850'S, CARVED** mahogany wardrobe with shelves, drawers and matching commode. Price €2,500. Call 79558614, 99806001

**ART DECO**, solid mahogany bedroom furniture, consisting of wardrobe, bedside tables, dressing table and bureau with drawers. Price €2,000. Call 99833362

**EIGHT PIECE** Victorian sitting room. Price €3,250. Maltese bookcase. Price €1,750. Georgian chest of drawers. Price €1,700. Call 99499844

**BEAUTIFUL PERSIAN** woven Carpets and bedroom furniture, ideal for farm houses and houses of characters. Call 99299846

**DRESSING TABLE** with swinging mirror, bookcase, desk and crystal hanging chandeliers. What offers? Call 21441072

**ANTIQUE JEWELLERY** box with musical tune, inlaid patterns and a small mirror. In good conditions, just needs polishing. Price €50. Call 21423143

**MUSKET SHOT**, 250 years old lead balls from the Knights era, found in Salina Bay. Price €25. Call 21423143

**1950'S GRAND** Father clock in perfect conditions. Call 79555515

### BOATS

**SPEEDBOAT FLETCHER** Arrow bolt 21, with 175 Mercurier inboard. In good conditions. Price €9,000. O.n.o. Call 99999929

**SPORT FISHING** Shetland cabin boat, measuring 13 feet, including trailer. In good conditions. Price €1,700. O.n.o. Call 99999929

**BOATS, OVER** 60 models of open and cabin boats, dinghies, canoes, outboard engines, canopies and marine accessories. Visit Mecca Marines in St.Paul's Bay or call 21573278 for more information.

**RAN CRAFT** deluxe centre console boats. Package prices includes Suzuki Tohatsu outboard engine. Call Mecca Marine on 21573278

**CANOE IMPORTED** directly from the US, made from tough but light PU. Visit our web site www.mso.com.mt or call 99438055

### FURNITURE

**FOUR SINGLE** beds with mattresses, wardrobe, two arched cane units and chest of drawers. Ideal for a furnished flats. Price for everything €150. Call 79070944

**WARDROBE, RECLINING** chair, glass top table and six chairs, Philips fridge and fax machine. What offers? Call 27330573

**WALL UNIT**, dining table and six chairs, in dark pine. Price €1,000. Call 99426730 or send e-mail to jazz7@onvol.net

**BROWN TWO** seater settee, unused. Price €200. O.n.o. Cane rocking chair. Price €30. Three drawer wooden filling cabinet. Price €90. Call 21641181

**COMPLETE SITTING** room consisting of mirrored Jardinière, six chairs, coffee table, two armchairs and a sofa. Items are made from solid mahogany, engraved by hand and are over 100 years old. Call

99857557

**MAHOGANY SHOW** case. Price €1,164. Antique imitation mahogany oval table. Price €465. Call 79707308

**BED SETTEE**, table with four chairs and music system. Price €100. Call 21827574

**WOODEN TABLE** measuring four feet. Price €20. O.n.o. Call 79603923

**DOUBLE BED** with storage, two bedside cabinets, chest of drawers and mirror. Price €120. O.n.o. Call 79603923

**CURTAINS, DUNLOPILLO** burgundy with small gold motifs, measuring approximately 145cm by 240cm. Complete with rod and tie backs. Price €820 (Lm352) per pair. Call 27372261, 99430079

### GENERAL

**WINE BOTTLES**, for home made wine. Clean and ready to use, with labels removed and packed in boxes, as new. Price €0.25 each. Call 21423143

**WINE FILTER** for crystal clear wines. Price €20. Demijohns for wine making or for decoration. 54 litres, price €15. 25 litres, price €10. 10 litres, price €7 and 5 litres, price €5. Clean and ready to use. Call 21423143

**100'S OF** video cassette movies, in good conditions. Comedy, drama, horror and lots more. Price €1 each. Call David on 99809351

**TWO WOODEN** doors (tal-ahmar) measuring 197cm by 85cm. Wooden door complete with glass panes, for bathrooms. Price €175. Call 79336839, 99880061

**NEW AND** never been used Thread mill, model MTM 4500. Unwanted gift, original price €455, will sell for €300. O.n.o. Call 99242742, 21485145

**DATA BANK** and personal organizer, new and unused. Unwanted gift. Price €70. Hair cutter, German make. New and unused. Price €25. Call 21423143

**SCREEN FOR** showing old super 8 films, slides and more. Price €35. Gas oven with rotisserie, electric grill and other features. Price €100. Call 21423143

**CLEARANCE OF** warehouse. Top quality relations Christmas cards and wrapping papers. Any offer, to clear. Call 79424548

**29 INCH**, Sony FD Trinitron Colour, 2003 model, flat screen with woofer, in impeccable condition and used by only owner. Price €250. Open display shelving in wrought iron with glass shelves. Price €95. Call owner on 79478867, 21382958

**DIAMOND SOLITARY** ring, as new, hardly used. Price €250. O.n.o. Call 79220660

**BLACK OTTOMEISTER**, upright piano. In very good conditions. Price €1,500. Price negotiable. Call 79220660

**GAS PIZZA** oven, two on each other. Price €600. Call 79057051

**ELEGANT, LONG** evening dress by Kyoto in size 20. Bought for €360 and will sell for €270. O.n.o. Call 21584390

**CLIFF RICHARD**, lean on you, limited edition picture disc. Very rare and highly collectible. Disk is in the shape of Cliff Richard, bought from Germany. Price €30. O.n.o. Call 99236283

**READERS DIGEST** magazines, starting from 1970's. Price €0.50 each or one price for the lot. Call 99236283, 79242932

**SOIL FOR** sale. Transport also available. Call Charlie on 99422746

**WORLD WAR** 1 and 2 Medals, from 1914-1918 and from 1939-1945. Maltese coins, at reasonable prices. Call 99210595

**ORIGINAL MICROSOFT** service binders, are no longer made. These are now functional collector's items. Price €15. O.n.o. For more information send e-mail to alan@onneutral.com

**PLANTS, YUCCA** measuring about 200 cm. Price €50. Two Aspidisti. Price €12 each. Call 79440531

**BRAND NEW** Eva collection three piece cheese set, consisting of a board, with magnetic strip, one cheese knife and one cheese fork. Ideal as a gift or for own use. Price €9. o.n.o Call 99857557

**ALL CONTENTS** of a souvenir shop. Everything must go. Call 99267747

**STONE SLABS**, measuring 3.5 and 4 feet. Call 79730397

**WOODEN BEAMS**, measuring between 11.5 feet and 12 feet. In very good conditions. Price €45 each. Call 79730397

**BABY ITEMS** used only once, car seat, maxi cosi, highchair, 3 in 1 pram, playpen and all you need for your baby. Price €230 for everything. Call 99846250, 21640502

**OKI MICROLINE** 321 Turbo heavy duty forms printer, in very good conditions. It is perfect for a range of assignments, from point of sale to automation to utili-

ties. Price €105. O.n.o. Send e-mail to pawlub@gmail.com

**Q-TEC 550W** dual fan gold power supply unit, complete with power cord and SATA power. This PSU is capable of providing the necessary power to today's modern computers. Price €30. O.n.o. Send e-mail to pawlub@gmail.com

**HOUSE HOLD** items, ideal for car boot sale enthusiasts. Call 99299846

**EXERCISE BICYCLE** and stepper, at lowest prices. Call 99498489, 99710912

**BEAUTICIAN EQUIPMENT**, at lowest prices. Call 99498489, 99710912

**BAGS OF** used clothes, consisting of shirts, jackets, trousers and more. Fairly new and some designer clothes. What offers? Call 79830656

**TWO MOBILE** gas heaters. Price €40 each. Dehumidifier/heater. Price €75. Call 79603923

**YELLOW HIGH** chair. Price €25. Walker. Price €25. In very good conditions. Call 21470273, 79269576

### LETTING

**ALBERT TOWN**, brand new, corner industrial building, measuring approximately 100 square meters. €21 daily. Call 79424548

**BAHAR IC-CAGHAQ**, new three bedroom, ground floor maisonette. €500 monthly. Call 99267747

**BIRZEBBUGA, SEAFRONT** bar, with internal yard, no premium and ready to use. Call 99472457

**BIRZEBBUGA, UNFURNISHED** sea front flat, situated near Alfresco restaurant. Call 79331654

**FGURA, TWO** car street level garage, situated in Triq il-Foss. €1,200 per year. Call 79424548

**GUDJA, DVD'S**, stationery and bazaar shop with good cliental. Shop is situated on a Main road. Call 27695639, 77291704, 99695639

**GZIRA, COMMERCIAL** property, situated nine meters away from the seafont, next to Ohea opticians. Property is ideal to use as a clinic or an office, having 75 square meter yard and a bathroom. €21 daily. Call 21338288

**GZIRA, TWO** large warehouses, for sale or to let. Call 79571435

**HAL SAFI**, furnished, six bedroom farmhouse, situated next to Lidl supermarket. €470 monthly. Call 79820749

**HAMRUN/MARSA, STREET** level, one and two car garages, with yard. Situated in Marsa road. Call 99494299

**MARSASCALA, FOR** long lets only. One bedroom apartments. Prices start from €220 monthly. Call 216333303, 79633303

**MOSTA, OFFICE** for sale or to let, at competitive prices. Call 99491665

**MOSTA, CORNER** terraced bungalow, having air condition, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, living room, dining room, sitting room, hall, fruit garden and three car spaces. Call 99833362

**NAXXAR, SHOP** in central square, ideal as a betting shop, store, hairdresser and more. Recently decorated, situated in an excellent location and measures 12 ft by 24 ft. €25 daily. Call 79830656

**PAOLA, LARGE**, well kept and ready to move into, class 4 clothes shop. Situated in the heart of Paola and enjoying a good passing trade. Premium and a daily rent include a high quality computer system, fixtures and fittings, equipment and a store at the back. Shop is ideal for any kind of business. Call 21692182

**QAJJENZA, SEAFRONT**, three bedroom furnished penthouse. €280 monthly. Call 79820749

**SMALL PLOT** without permit for only €39 monthly. Call 21225064

**SHOP, SITUATED** near Mater dei Hospital, empty with permits. Ideal for any kind of business or office. Call 99461181

**ST. JULIANS-THE** Gardens, property having three bedroom, combined sitting, dining and kitchen. €800 monthly. Call or sms on 99497767

**TARXIEN, ONE** car semi basement garage and elevated ground floor garages. Call 99494299

### PETS

**CHINCHILLA GOLDEN** cats, very nice brown tabby Persian kittens. Price €70. Call 79896240

**PUG PUPPIES**, with Champion blood. Call 27695639, 99447092, 77291704

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

**ATTARD, BUNGALOW**, having two bedrooms and a large front garden. Needs restoration. Call 99267747

**ATTARD, DEVELOPMENT** site, measuring 200 square meters. Situated in an excellent position. Call 99267747

**ATTARD, BUILDING** site, situated in a commercial area, measuring 191.50 square meters(36 feet by 55 feet). Call 99267747

**BAHAR IC-CAGHAQ**, corner building site, measuring 1200 square meters, plans available. Call 99267747

**BAHAR IC-CAGHAQ**, garages in semi basement level. Call 99267747

**BAHAR IC-CAGHAQ**, airspace for a three bedroom penthouse, with views and use of lift. Plans available. Call 99267747

**BIDNIJA, PLOTS** without permits. Prices start from €8,900 each. Call 21225064

**BIRKIRKARA, MAISONETTE**, consisting of three double bedrooms, ensuite, large bathroom, sitting room, large complete kitchen with living area, large wash-room and full roof with own air space. Property is ready to move in. Call owner on 79923002

**BIRKIRKARA, READY** to move into, three bedroom maisonette having kitchen, living room and two yards. Worth viewing. Call owner on 79593963

**BIRKIRKARA, ONE**, two and three bedroom maisonettes, situated in an excellent area. Properties are finished to high standards. Prices start from €94,000. Call 79571435

**BIRZEBBUGA, TERRACED** bungalow, built on two plots, also ideal for new development. Call owner on 79000771

**BIRZEBBUGA, BASEMENT** garage measuring 39 ft by 9½ ft, with door and two windows. €25,000. Call 79536992

**BIRZEBBUGA, GARAGE** measuring 25 ft by 9½ ft. €16,500. Call 79536992

**BUGIBBA, SPACIOUS** maisonette, situated near Mc Donald's, with sea views yard and terrace. €100,200. Call 99491837

**BUGIBBA, TWO** bedroom maisonette, consisting of kitchen, living room, bath room, yard and large balcony. Property is situated near Mc Donald's. €100,000. Call 99446859

**BUGIBBA, BAR** and restaurant. Part exchange with a residential property in the North or central of Malta considered. Call 21582007

**BUGIBBA, ONE**, two and three bedroom apartments and maisonettes, finished to high specifications. Prices start from €69,800. Call 99446859

**BUGIBBA, THIRD** floor, bright and sunny furnished apartment, having two double bedroom, front and back balconies. Property is situated close to the Square in quiet area. No agents. €93,000 (Lm39,900). Call 99829585

**CONVERTED, TWO** bedroom house of character, with original features and a rarely found large garden with ample space for pool. Property is situated in village core on a private road in quiet area and can be extended, if required. €185,000. Direct from owner, no agents. Call 21806072

**BUSKETT / Dingli** area, land having a total area of 800 sq meters, with numerous olive trees and other trees. Land is surrounded by rubble walls and includes a small storeroom with easy access. Freehold. €65,000 (Lm28,000) Call owner on 99492448

**FGURA, SOLITARY** maisonette, measuring 25 ft by 70 ft, having three bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting room, open plan combined kitchen, dining room in oak and living room, study and washroom. €172,370. Call 99422749

**FGURA, LARGE**, brand new, three bedroom penthouse. Situated close to all emities. €85,045. Call 99490264

**FGURA, ELEVATED** new ground floor maisonette, consisting of three bedrooms, bathroom, ensuite, fitted kitchen, large yard and internal doors. Excellent finish. €130,000. Call 99896405

**FGURA, SOLITARY** maisonette, having three double bedrooms, roof with own air space, oak kitchen with appliances still under guarantees, oak doors and much more. Call owner on 79297929

**FGURA, HIGHLY** finished flats, having two to three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, dining room and living room. €88,516. Call owner on 79297929

**FGURA / Tarxien**, terraced house measuring 32ft by 90ft, having four bedrooms, two bathrooms, large garden, terrace and back yard measuring 17ft by 32ft. €291,170. Price negotiable. Call 99422749

**GHAXAQ, FLAT** measuring 130 ft and consisting of three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a large openplan. €102,490.

Call 21639754, 99422749

**WARDAMANGA/HAMRUN, FINISHED** apartments and penthouses, having two to three bedrooms. Prices start from €78,000. Call 79297929

**GZIRA, TERRACED** house, can also be developed. Price €279,600. Call owner on 99495468, 79495468

**HAMRUN/ST VENERA**, two bedroom town house with air space and permit in hand. Can also be used as an office. €46,590. Call 99422749

**HAMRUN, APARTMENTS**. Prices start from €65,000 each. Payable 25% down payment and the rest in monthly instalments of €299 monthly. Call 21225064

**JUST UNDER** a tumolo of land, situated on high grounds, surrounded by rubble wall and gate, having easy access from main road. Best views ever of Nadur and Malta. Property is being sold freehold. €58,000 (Lm25,000) Call owner on 99492448

**KAPPARA, SPACIOUS** semi detached villa, having a large terraced, garden and a lock up garage. Property is situated in a quite street. €430,900. Call 21343053

**LUQA, LARGE** plot measuring 140 ft by 50 ft, next to Lidl supermarket in Qormi road. It can also be used as stables for horses, green house or for leisure. Reasonable price. Call 21692182, 99490264

**MARSA, SEMI** finished, one bedroom flats with use of lift. Prices start from, €58,234. Call 99495468

**MARSASCALA, FINISHED** penthouse, with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and two terraces with views of the sea all the way round. €113,673. Call owner on 79297929

**MARSASCALA, DOUBLE** fronted, four bedroom terraced house, having a large kitchen and living room, sitting and dining room, two bathrooms, one ensuite, spare toilet, front and back garden with space for pool. Makes a lovely residential home or can be used for development. Priced for quick sale. €360,000. Call 99662128

**MARSASCALA, TWO** to three bedroom flat and maisonette, partly finished. €88,520. Call 21639754, 99422749

**MARSASCALA, GROUND** floor maisonette having three bedrooms, sitting room, living room, kitchen, large back yard and a two car garage. €172,370. Call 99422749, 21639754

**MARSASCALA, BRIGHT** two bedroom apartment, having a 38 ft wide façade, three balconies on the front and use of roof. €70,000(Lm30,000). Call 21802714

**MARSASCALA, TWO** bedroom penthouse with nice views, served with lift and with common parts finished. €84,000. Cal owner on 21802714, 99826434

**MELLIEHA, SEMI** detached apartment, in a block of only two. Property consists of three bedrooms, bathroom, shower, own airspace, garage and fantastic views. €300,000. Call 79873850

**MELLIEHA, SEMI** finished, spacious three bedroom apartment, having unobstructed views, two balconies, two bathrooms and optional garage. €111,800 (Lm47,995). Call 99827074

**MELLIEHA. THREE** bedroom maisonette, with yard, two bathrooms and optional garage. €123,450 (Lm52,997). Price negotiable. Call 99827074

**MELLIEHA, SEMI** basement garage measuring 45ft by 32ft, with elevator (4 Tons) and electric door shutter. Call 99894958

**MELLIEHA, STREET** level garage, measuring 27ft by 11ft by 12ft. Garage is complete with water, electricity and door. Call 99894958

**MOSTA, BRAND** new garage, situated in Santa Margerita, having iron door and window. Garage is underneath a block of flats. €23,000. Call 99822203

**MOSTA, 300** year old house of character, having a roof garden and courtyard. Garage available. €302,800. Call 21343053

**MQABBA, UNCONVERTED** house of character, with originals features. Property is situated in the heart of the village. €52,000. Call owner on 21339435, 99499381

**MSIDA, SPACIOUS** and bright, corner three bedroom apartment, situated opposite the Junior Collage gardens. €130,444. Call owner on 99499381, 21339435

**NAXXAR, TERRACED** house consisting of three bedrooms, fitted kitchen, sitting room and dining room combined, garage and basement. €330,000. Call owner on 99499844

**ONE TUMOLO** of land, having large reservoir with running water, room with permit and electricity nearby. Land is surrounded with high walls, closed by

# Gentlemen prefer PN, ladies go for Labour



Marlene Mizzi - Labour candidate is strong with the female vote

## Sex and the survey - the results at a glance:

- Vince Farrugia: popular only among male voters
- Marlene Mizzi: only woman to attract the female vote
- Simon Busuttil: tops list of preferences with both sexes
- Joseph Cuschieri: more popular among women than men



Simon Busuttil - his popular appeal straddles both sexes

creases to 6.4 percentage points – a further indication that the gap between the two main parties is directly proportional to the number of undecided voters.

This is also the case with respondents aged above 55, where the PN's slight advantage is also reflected in a lower number of undecided.

Surprisingly, however, women have so far not shown any predisposition to vote for other women. In fact the only female candidate to make it among the top five among both males and females is Marlene Mizzi.

Yet while Marlene Mizzi emerges as the PL's frontrunner among females (together with economist Edward Scicluna), among males she is surpassed by both Scicluna and Louis Grech.

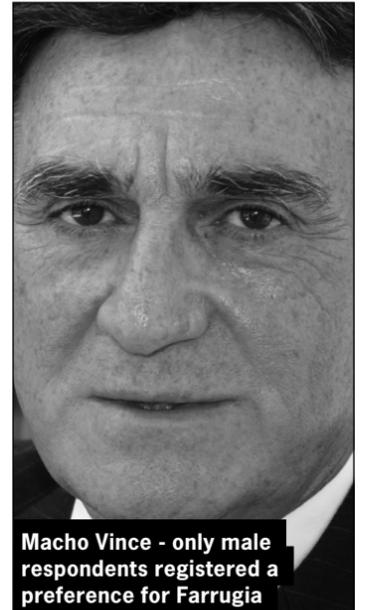
## Top six favourites candidates according to gender

Males	%
Simon Busuttil	14.4
Edward Scicluna	8.4
Louis Grech	5.6
Arnold Cassola	2.8
Marlene Mizzi	1.9
Vince Farrugia	1.9

Females	%
Simon Busuttil	17
Marlene Mizzi	3.4
Edward Scicluna	3.4
Louis Grech	2.8
Joseph Cuschieri	1.6
Arnold Cassola	1.6

## Methodology

A total of 1,127 respondents were randomly selected. Of these 720 accepted to be interviewed. The results were weighed to reflect the age/sex balance of the population as represented in the latest demographic review. The survey has a margin of error of +/-3.65. The survey was conducted between Wednesday 20 May and Wednesday 27 May.



Macho Vince - only male respondents registered a preference for Farrugia

Elsewhere, no significant difference was registered among male and female voters

Significantly GRTU director general Vince Farrugia emerge as the fifth most popular candidate among males but does not register at all among female respondents.

Arnold Cassola is also more popular with males than with females, while Labour MEP candidate Joe Cuschieri emerges as the most popular among the ladies.

Simon Busuttil emerges as the PN front runner among both males and females - an indication that the possibility of a female PN candidate being elected depends on where his second preferences go.

IT'S a man's world for the Nationalist Party and Alternattiva Demokratika, both of which enjoy higher popularity among male voters.

But while women appear likelier to vote Labour in this election, the percentage of female voters to remain undecided (26%) is higher than that of males: only 21.4% of whom have yet to make up their mind how to vote next Saturday.

And while the gap between

the PL and the PN amounts to 5.1 percentage points among males, among females it in-

## Voting intentions according to gender

	PL	PN	AD	AN	Others	No Answer	Not Voting
Males	36.3	31.2	3.3	0.5	0.5	21.4	6.9
Females	35.2	28.8	1.8	0.6	0.6	25.6	7.4

## Grumpy middle-aged Nationalist men

**JAMES DEBONO** profiles the typical non-voter in Saturday's elections, and finds they are mostly Nationalists aged between 35 and 54, with a low level of education and an axe to grind

ONLY 15.1% of respondents who declared they would not vote in next Saturday's MEP election had voted Labour in last year's general election. On the other hand, a staggering 60.4% had voted for the PN.

And while only 3.5% of all respondents – voting or otherwise – consider hunting and trapping as their major issue, among non-voters this statistic rises to 9.4%.

This is a strong indication that a sizeable section of the hunting community will not be voting on Saturday.

On the other hand, the environment is not a concern for these respondents.

## Major concerns

	Non Voters	All respondents
Immigration	20.8	30.1
Hunting and Trapping	9.4	3.5
Cost of Living	7.5	8.5
Utility Bills	3.8	2.0
Employment	1.9	3.1
Environment	1.9	5.3

While 5.3% of all participants consider the environment as the major issue of the campaign, only 2% of non voters think likewise.

Nearly half of them are aged between 35 and 54 and only 11% are under 35 years of age.

And while 24.7% of respondents have undergone a post secondary education, only 21% of non voters have completed post secondary education.

A large number of non voters hail from Nationalist leaning localities like Sliema/St Julians,



Mosta and Balzan/Attard. But a significant number also hail from Labour leaning localities like Zejtun and Zabbar.

## Locality of respondents who will not vote

B'Kara	9.4
Sliema/St Julian's	7.5
Mosta	7.5
Zejtun	7.5
Gozo	5.7
Qormi	5.7
Zabbar	5.7
Tarxien/Zejtun	5.7
Fgura/Poala	5.7
Balzan/Attard	3.8
Rabat/Dingli	3.8
Cottonera	3.8
Zurrieq	3.8
Others	24.4

## Age of respondents who will not vote

Age	Non-voters	All respondents
18-34	11.3	30.9
35-54	49.1	33.8
55+	39.6	35.2

## Level of education of respondents who will not vote (%)

	Non-voters	All respondents
Post Secondary	20.7	24.7
Secondary	52.8	51.3
Primary	26.4	22.6

## Party allegiance in 2008 general election

PL	15.1
PN	60.4
Did not vote	17
Under 18	1.9
No answer	5.7



# ON THE RECORD

Compiled by James Debono

## Arnold Cassola Alternattiva Demokratika

### On Malta's decision to join the European Union:

The people of Malta and Gozo face a stark choice... We either face short term pain and experience long term gain, or else restructure at our own pace and remain out of the block. The latter option would mean no funds would be available to help us in the restructuring process.  
*MaltaToday, August 2001*

### On being Italian:

When I introduce myself to expatriate Italians, I tell them that Arnold Cassola stands for 'sangue Italiano, qalb Maltija' (Italian blood, Maltese heart), and a European spirit!"  
*MaltaToday, April 2006*

### On his decision to contest MEP elections after losing his seat in the Italian parliament:

I am desperately in love with politics. I like to try influence politics and I will use any means to influence politics for the common good.

Therefore I do politics. There were times when I was extremely well paid, while there are times when I get zero money for what I do. Life goes in cycles.  
*MaltaToday, April 2009*

### On voters who will abstain:

Whether it's 10 people who vote or 100,000, we will always have five people elected in June and possibly a sixth one taking a seat in January if the Irish do not say no to the Lisbon Treaty. If you don't vote others will be deciding for you.  
*MaltaToday, April 2009*

### On consistency:

We are not a party full of contradictions. We are not a party where one candidate says 'I am in favour of car registration tax' and another says no, where one candidate favours spring hunting and the other is against.  
*MaltaToday, April 2009*

### On sending migrants back to Libya:

We cannot send people to unsafe places not governed by international law, but we have no qualms on sending back illegal immigrants from Tunisia or Egypt where there are no such problems.  
*MaltaToday, April 2009*

### On hunting:

One must mention that the ban on spring hunting was one of the first and greatest victories for the majority of the population who believed in the European dream. It seems however that some candidates and particular parties want to go back on the done deal, or else purport to modify something that cannot be."  
<http://arnoldcassola.wordpress.com>, May 2009



## Frank Portelli Nationalist Party

### On free healthcare:

You cannot give everything to everyone – anyone who believes this really ought to have his head examined. Even a millionaire has the right to go to St Luke's

Hospital for a hernia operation without incurring payment if he has not paid

his national insurance or skived on his income tax. Then you have patients who have cancer and the NHS cannot give them treatment because it is so expensive. I believe that affordable treatment and inexpensive operations should be paid by all who can afford it. Yes, I agree with a form of means-testing. The NHS should be there as a safety net for those who cannot afford treatment and for very expensive treatment.  
*MaltaToday, November 2005*

### On the immigration crisis:

I will say the same thing as Eddie Fenech Adami said in 1986: everything else is irrelevant. Illegal immigration is the major problem facing our country.  
*MaltaToday, March 2009*

### On Europe, Libya and immigration:

Europe must put pressure on Libya... initially it should exercise diplomatic pressure. But let us not forget that Libya depends on selling its oil. They produce 1.8 million barrels of oil every day. Libya clearly needs Europe. If necessary Europe should apply economic sanctions.  
*MaltaToday, March 2009*

### On Enemalta:

Enemalta has a monopoly and

they are in a completely dominant position in the market. See what happened with mobile telephony. When Vodafone started operating a mobile telephony service in Malta, it had a monopoly and you had to pay a Lm100 deposit to get a mobile phone. Today, because there is competition, Vodafone phoned me to give me a free phone. If we had competition in the energy supply, Enemalta would have to come off its high horse and all consumers will benefit.  
*MaltaToday, March 2009*

### On the 'invasion':

Gaddafi has got it into his head that he could turn Europe into a Muslim continent. The number of immigrant arrivals in Malta is higher than the number of births, so the word 'invasion' is justified.  
*Discussion at University, April 2009*

### On poverty in Africa:

It is not true there is poverty in Africa. There are many African leaders spending money on armaments and nuclear weapons rather than education.  
*Discussion at University, April 2009*



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# AD says green energy can create 545 new jobs



Environmental guru Prof. Edward Mallia (left) has endorsed Green Party candidates Arnold Cassola and Yvonne Ebejer Arqueros

## CHARLOT ZAHRA

HARPING on their theme of the Green New Deal of five million green jobs in Europe in five years' time, Alternattiva Demokratika (AD) yesterday presented a proposal for the construction of 40 floating offshore wind-farms off Sikka l-Bajda, the installation of 50,000 solar panels and 5,000 photovoltaic units over the next five years, which would create at least 545 green jobs in Malta.

Presenting the project during a press conference yesterday afternoon, AD spokesperson Ralph Cassar said that the party was in favour of a mix of different sources of energy.

"Today, as one example of the potential of creating new jobs in the sector of wind farms only, we are presenting a scenario in which all the 10 per cent from renewable energy by 2020 according to the Renewables Directive is obtained from wind, amounting to approximately 338,000 MWh of electrical energy," Cassar told journalists.

He explained how this demand could be met by installing approximately forty 3.6 megawatt wind turbines of off-shore platforms. Part of this amount

could be also obtained from land-based wind farms.

Such an offshore platform wind farm would cost a little bit more than €390 million spread over 25 years and would generate electricity at €0.083 per unit, as against the current energy costs for Enemalta at €0.17 per unit.

"This is even cheaper than energy generated from oil and that is excluding the social costs of pollution and other hidden costs," Cassar insisted.

Such a venture had potential in the employment sector, since these wind turbines would have to be assembled on-shore and would require periodic maintenance, he said.

According to the America Wind Energy Association, the job figure for land based wind farms was of 4.8 jobs per MW installed. "Hence, it was estimated this project could create from 160 to 230 full-time jobs in the medium-term," Cassar explained.

He added that this was "a conservative estimate and did not take into account the possibility of jobs if wind turbines are actually manufactured in Malta for the international market".

Moreover, a wind farm off the Northern coast of Gozo could

also create much needed jobs in the region.

"It is a well known fact that no industry in Malta caters for the Maltese market only and these jobs can be sustained if wind turbines are manufactured in Malta," the AD spokesperson insisted.

The demand in this sector was high and Malta "should grab this opportunity to grab a part of the market which can provide jobs for a significant number of people from labourers, to technicians to engineers for years to come," Cassar added.

"The number of people employed in this sector could only increase," he insisted.

AD has also proposed schemes to have 50,000 solar water heaters and 5,000 photovoltaic panels installed in Malta and Gozo in the next five years.

"Saving energy and micro-energy generation should be at the centre of the country's plans for energy efficiency and is also a means in ensuring the affordability of energy for normal wage earners and their families," Cassar explained.

The job creation potential, calculated for the Maltese market alone, let alone if manufacturing plants were set up in Malta, were "quite encouraging".

A job creation study in California (2004) for Votesolar by the University of California, Berkeley estimated that 20 manufacturing jobs and 13 installation-maintenance jobs per MW of photovoltaic installed were created.

"Using this conservative estimate for 5,000 photovoltaic panels, 65 new jobs will be created instantly," Cassar insisted. "Once more, the number of jobs would increase if Malta became a manufacturing and R&D centre for this technology."

"Estimating a conservative 1.5 jobs for each 300 solar water heater installation and maintenance and excluding the possibility of manufacturing in Malta for both the local and international market, AD's 50,000 solar water heater proposal will create 250 jobs," Cassar added.

If the PV units were manufactured in Malta and taken up by more households, "would make these jobs sustainable in the long term", he added.

Therefore if one took a medium-term perspective, the total amount of jobs from renewable energy and solar water heaters for the Maltese market only, 545 jobs would be created, Cassar insisted.

On his part, AD Chairperson

and MEP candidate Arnold Cassola said: "It is important that we develop such projects to ensure increased job creation through solar water heating, photovoltaic and wind energy".

The AD chief insisted that one had to ensure that these appliances and equipment were in the long run manufactured and produced locally. "This will also create sustainable jobs throughout the value chain and reduce the cost of these technologies," he added.

Prof. Edward Mallia, from the University of Malta's Physics Department lamented that at present, the feed-in tariffs offered by Enemalta Corporation was disadvantageous for the consumer, with the Corporation paying one kWh unit for each kWh unit purchased from the consumer, thus disincentivising the uptake of alternative energy sources.

"For instance, Germany and Italy offer a feed-in tariff of 1:3, paying the price of three units for each unit purchased from the consumer, making the purchase of alternative energy units a more attractive for consumers," Mallia insisted.

czahra@mediatoday.com.mt

focused on the work issue," Gonzi asserted.

The Prime Minister said that his administration is working hard to safeguard jobs in Gozo claiming that the government is in direct contact with a number of factories in Gozo.

"I cannot say much, but we will do all that is necessary to safeguard jobs," he added.

Without revealing or giving concrete examples, Lawrence Gonzi said that despite the international recession, there are "signs of encouragement... though the waves and bad weather are still there."

The PN leader once lambasted again the Labour Party for capitalising on populist issues, insisting that on the immigration issue, a country that was previously "united" ended up divided thanks to Joseph Muscat's antics.

"Our appeal is being heard more and more. It was Malta that managed to strike an agreement on asylum and immigration with which other countries had to share the burden by voluntarily taking up immigrants. Now thanks to Simon Busuttill's report, burden sharing is obligatory."

Lawrence Gonzi reiterated the government's commitment towards Gozo.

"Judge us on what we do, and not on what we say," the PN leader said, boasting of a number of election give-aways to the Gozitan voters.

Amongst these projects, inaugurated on the eve of the MEP elections, are the new €1 million Institute for Tourism Training, and a day centre in Rabat for disabled people.

"I can tell you that even though trouble is looming, good projects are coming in," Gonzi promised.



## Driving the point home

PN incumbent David Casa yesterday revealed that 11 Labour party exponents – including MPs, MEP candidates and high-ranking party officials – have also applied to be included in the Labour Party's action for a refund on their car registration tax.

"We will unveil the Labour Party's and its leader's hypocrisy," Casa declared at yesterday's meeting in Gharb, Gozo. "You remember the gimmick of the refund of car tax registration? Why is the PL making all this big noise? Because the PL leader himself wants the refund! And it is not just the leader of the Opposition. Who also hid his interest...?"

Casa then "named and shamed" the Labour Party exponents who had filed for a refund on the registration tax paid on their own private cars, purchased after EU accession in 2004.

Apart from PL leader Joseph Muscat, these are: Chris Agius (who has applied for a refund on two separate cars); Stefan Buontempo; Justyne Caruana; Helena Dalli; former deputy leader Michael Falzon; ex-Minister Michael Farrugia; Silvio Parnis ("the one who helps the poor", Casa quipped); Claudette Abela Baldacchino (followed by a boo); incumbent secretary general Jason Micallef; and Labour's front-runner in this election, Prof. Edward Scicluna.

Nonetheless it was veteran PN activist Dr Frank Portelli who stole the show yesterday, eliciting peals of laughter from all the crowd – including the Prime Minister – by referring to Labour candidate Glenn Bedingfield as an "energy-saving light bulb".

"I thought you were going to switch off the lights before my speech, since he (Bedingfield) called me a 1,000-Watt bulb. And this from Glenn Bedingfield: the energy saver!"

Portelli went on to ridicule Bedingfield's unproductive year in the European parliament.

"Log into [www.votewatch.eu](http://www.votewatch.eu) and you will see... Glenn Bedingfield zero. Glenn Bedingfield zero. Everything zero. He did nothing. He did not write an opinion, a single report. And he wants to go there again! Not to do anything? If I were in his place I would be ashamed to present myself in front of you..."

Other speakers included Alex Perici Calascione, Rudolphe Cini, Vince Farrugia and Marthese Portelli.



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# PL frontrunner shrugs off letter attack as 'spin'

**MATTHEW VELLA**

LABOUR'S star candidate Edward Scicluna has become the target of an anonymous poison-pen letter, which was passed on to Labour delegates and voters during the last week of the election campaign.

The letter, seen by MaltaToday,

Be that as it may, the letter itself denounces Scicluna as a person who had "mostly worked against the Labour Party and acted as a spoke in the wheels for Labour, to help the Nationalists."

It lists examples such as the sale of Mid-Med Bank, where Scicluna, as chairman of the Malta Financial and Services Corporation, is alleged to have

Prof. Scicluna's socialism? Is this his social heart? Is this the type of acquisition workers will make if Scicluna is elected MEP?"

Contacted yesterday, Edward Scicluna said he was unaware of the letter doing the rounds and that nobody from the party administration had informed him of anything unusual.

However, he did say the accu-



Edward Scicluna, pictured seated next to Labour leader Joseph Muscat, said the letter was 'spin' that was aimed at chipping off his lead

openly questions Scicluna's "socialist credentials" in a compilation of newspaper excerpts on his career and his alleged role in the sale of Mid-Med Bank to HSBC.

But Scicluna dismissed the source of the letter as an "inside job", saying he contacted 25 delegates who said they had not received the letter. "Someone is trying to spin this letter through your newspaper," he said yesterday.

He also pointed out that the content of the letter contained libellous references to his time as Chairman of the MFSC and his alleged role in pension reform talks.

"warned journalists that if the sale does not take place, Malta would lose its international standing."

It quotes from excerpts of The Malta Independent from April 1999 in which the Labour Party had "interpreted Scicluna's words as an attack on Labour" and that the party felt "threatened" by the economist's advice.

The anonymous letter also attempts to lay the blame of redundancies at HSBC at Scicluna's door, and attacks the economist on his position on pensions, claiming it is at loggerheads with Labour's.

It concludes by asking: "is this

sations were not anything new. "I seem to recall that similar accusations were hinted at in a reply to some internet blog... so the tone of the accusation is not entirely new to me," Scicluna said.

But he added that having emerged as a frontrunner among Labour candidates, according to polls, including MaltaToday's, he is not surprised at the attack.

He later called MaltaToday to inform the newspaper that several delegates had denied receiving any such letter. He said he had "confirmed" that the letter was not sent to any of the delegates from Malta and Gozo whom he had called.

## Police receive reports on M'skala mayor's alleged campaign overspending

**JULIA FARRUGIA**

THE Commissioner of Police has been alerted to allegations that Marsaskala's incumbent Labour mayor, Mario Calleja, has exceeded the legal limit for expenditure on his campaign for re-election.

The Director of Local Councils Natalino Attard confirmed yesterday that an anonymous letter points towards lavish extravagance on the part of the PL candidate.

"I confirm that I received an anonymous letter on 29 May," Attard told MaltaToday, "A copy of this letter is being sent to the Commissioner of Police for the necessary investigations according to law. If proven, this allegation constitutes a crime."

Sister newspaper Illum revealed last Sunday the content of a letter, sent anonymously by another candidate for the Marsaskala local council election, to the local council director. A copy of the same letter was also delivered to Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi.

The letter urged the Director of Local Councils to investigate how Calleja is exceeding the expenditure limit established by law for one's personal election campaign, claiming that the Labour candidate has spent thousand of euros by throwing a lavish party and organising various coffee mornings.

Maltese law stipulates that each local council candidate cannot spend more than €1,165 (Lm500.13) or €0.25 for each registered vote in a particular locality, whichever figure is the highest.

In Marsaskala there are 7,735 registered voters, meaning that the maximum expenditure of a local council candidate in this town cannot exceed €1,933.97.

Among the expenditure cur-

rently under scrutiny are various propaganda initiatives, including a "Grand Reception" scheduled for tomorrow night at MonteKristo Estates in Hal Farrug.

According to a spokesperson for the premises, venues can be booked at anything between €1,000 and €2,000, depending on which area the activity takes place.

The figures do not include food and beverages, which Calleja was also offering free of charge.

In the past few days, Marsaskala residents also received a 12-page full colour election campaign brochure highlighting the incumbent Mayor's public profile.

Speaking to MaltaToday, Natalino Attard also stated that following the anonymous letter, he has also alerted the Electoral Commission.

"A copy of the letter is being also sent to the Electoral Commission, which according to the Third Schedule of the Local Councils Act, is the entity responsible for the Local Councils elections."

Marsaskala's Labour mayor is also at the centre of another controversy. The VAT Department is investigating the council's failure to declare VAT on advertising revenues generated from its magazine 'Max-Xtajta', and from another similar publication called 'Ix-Xatt'.

Councillors had protested at the lack of transparency behind the publication, accusing Calleja of failing to produce receipts or accounts related to the magazine.

Parliamentary secretary Chris Said confirmed the investigation is still ongoing. "If it is found that there was a violation of the law, the matter will be taken to the competent authorities," he said.

## 'Wiki-insult' for Triccas Tedesco

AFTER Mary Gauci's billboard vandalism earlier this week, Roberta Metsola Tedesco Triccas has become the second MEP hopeful to fall victim to a little crude manipulation in the ongoing European election campaign.

The Nationalist Party candidate's entry on Wikipedia, the free online encyclopaedia, was yesterday 'edited' to include a somewhat unflattering description among to all the usual biographical details.

"Roberta Metsola Tedesco Triccas (born January 18, 1979) is a Nationalist Party (Partit Nazzjonalista) candidate for the 2009 European Parliament elections in Malta," the entry begins... to which someone added in Maltese: "U hija l\*\*\*imgiddma".

A precise English translation would be too obscene even for this newspaper: suffice it to say that the message is clearly intended as an insult, and one can

safely conclude that whoever added it will not be voting Tedesco Triccas on Saturday.

As for the rest of the entry, it carries on in the same tone as before it was rudely interrupted: "She has two sons, Luca and Alec, and is married to Ukko Metsola... Professionally she is a lawyer and has specialised in European law and politics..."



Candidate wiki-sabotaged

## Government targeting hunters again – FKNK

THE hunting lobby FKNK yesterday claimed the Office of the Prime Minister and the foreign minister were paying travel expenses for foreign witnesses who will testify against hunters in court.

The FKNK accused the government of attacking the hunting community after it learned in court that the ministries would be paying the travel expenses for witnesses to testify in cases of alleged illegal hunting.

"At this delicate stage, where hunting and trapping is once again becoming prominent on the eve of the MEPs' election, it is shameful that the government itself is paying travel and accommodation for these foreign witnesses," the FKNK said in a statement.

"This behaviour does not benefit the Nationalist candidates, since while the Prime Minister is claiming he has 'stuck his neck out' for hunters, the government is actually working

together with foreigners against hunters," FKNK spokesperson Lino Farrugia said.

The case concerns charges of illegal hunting brought against hunters apprehended during the spring season, which was closed this year.

Malta is currently defending its case for having opened the spring hunting season four years in a row, without applying for a derogation from the Birds Directive, in the European Court of Justice.

# re the 'new coalition'



Former tourism minister Karmenu Vella was present during yesterday's Labour's rally

bothered to explain that as Opposition we offered to take the parliamentary vote that day on any other day, such as before or after," he said.

Here, Joseph Muscat pulled out a meeting agenda dated May 21, where the World Health Organisation (WHO) had its world annual conference, and no minister was sent for that meeting even though there was no parliamentary vote scheduled that day.

A further dig at what he called "Lawrence Gonzi's total loss of control," was made when Joseph Muscat referred to VAT being charged on vaccines, quoting Taxation and Customs Union

Commissioner Laszlo Kovacks stating that the choice of VAT was never imposed by the EU but left as a prerogative of the member state.

"We have cases of people who were charged VAT for serious vaccination such as meningitis and cervical cancer," Muscat said with an angry tone, accusing government of gross irresponsibility, by exploiting VAT from the vulnerable.

Once again, Joseph Muscat warned on the importance of next Saturday's vote, and appealed to all his supporters not to count their chickens before they are hatched.

He rejected the suggestion on voter polls that are putting the PL in the lead for the European elections, stating that "lessons must be learnt from how the PN confronts elections and turns them his way."

Before Joseph Muscat took centre stage, deputy leader Anglu Farrugia warned government that the PL will not be complacent in the eventuality of any suspected corrupt practices.

He announced that together with PL vice president Louis Gatt, he had formally written to the Electoral Commission requesting the issuing of a Legal Notice that would enforce a ban on the carrying of cell phones, recorders or photographic equipment into polling stations.

"So far we have received no notice of such a Legal Notice, and we know how government and the PN have an influence on the Electoral Commission," he said, while appealing to all Labourites to be "vigilant at all times" and report to the party's customer service department any suspicious activity in or around any polling station.

“

**I don't care what Lawrence Gonzi wants me to talk about. I certainly do not need to raise my hand and ask for his permission to speak on the issues I know that all Maltese are talking about and he just simply ignores**



The cheek of it all... Muscat is warmly greeted by a Labour supporter



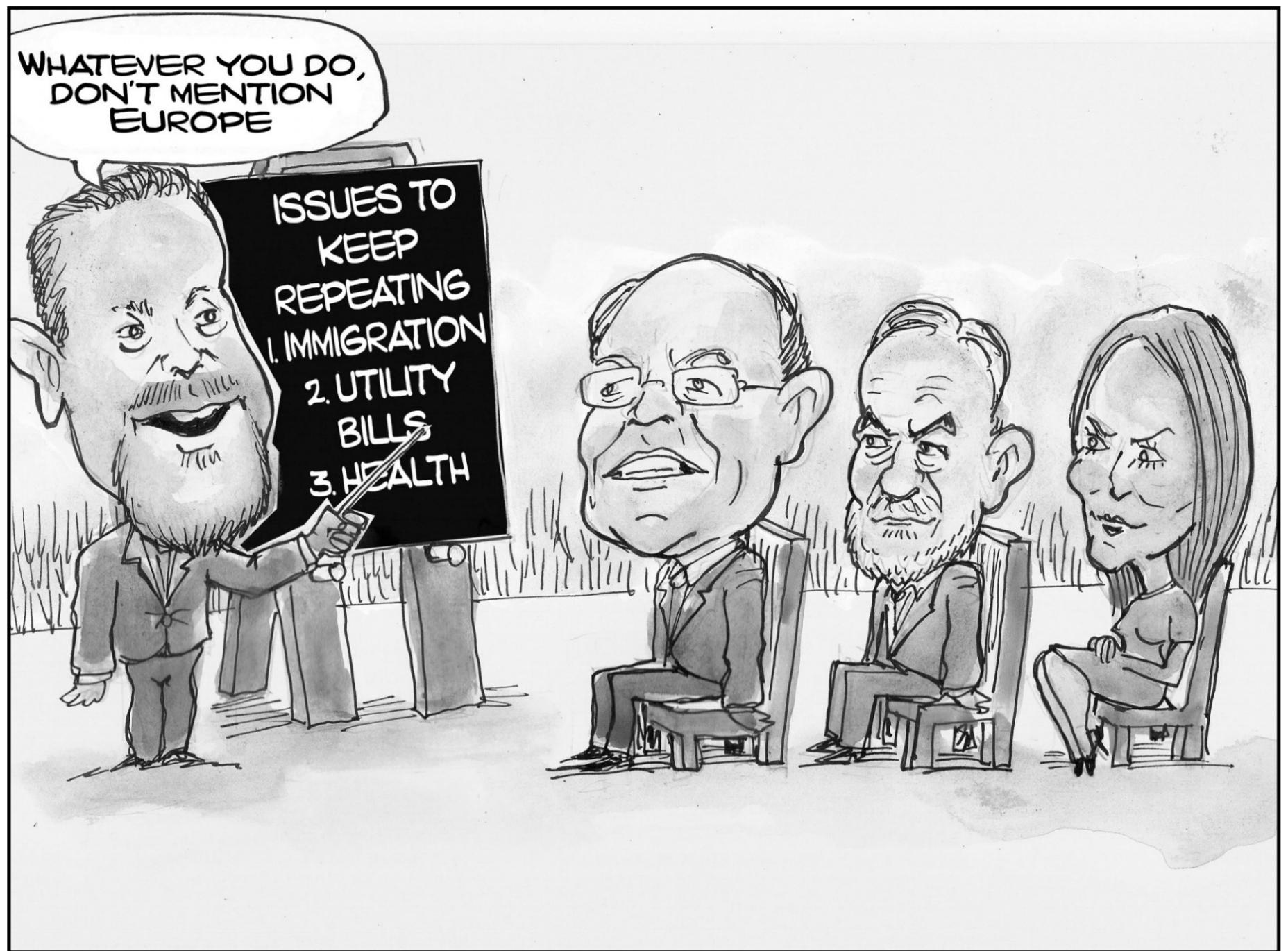
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# Opposition, opportunism

IT may be a “European” election, but to all intents and purposes the parties’ campaigns have to date been grounded in purely domestic issues.

Starting with billboards about water and electricity bills, and culminating in Joseph Muscat’s press conference yesterday urging voters to “send a message to the government”, all sides appear to have forgotten that Saturday’s vote also serves to elect five (maybe six) MEPs to Brussels and Strasbourg.

In a sense, this was all along to be expected. For one thing, many ordinary voters still feel that the European Parliament – crucial as it may be to EU administration – is far removed from their everyday concerns. For another, the prospect of an election which means a lot to the parties themselves, without actually jeopardising the political balance of power, provides the perfect opportunity to vent one’s frustration or disgruntlement with one’s own traditional party of choice.

In fact this is precisely how the campaign has unfolded in practically all other European states. In the UK, the election has been overshadowed by the recent MP expenses scandal. In Spain, by

soaring levels of unemployment and the government’s bid to further liberalise abortion laws. In Italy, the main issue appears to be (of all things) Silvio Berlusconi’s private life.

So perhaps it should come as no surprise that here in Malta, domestic issues like utility bills, the cost of healthcare and above all immigration would be seized upon by a hungry Opposition to underscore a widespread sense of disillusionment with the government.

And yet, there is something almost cynical and calculated about PL leader Joseph Muscat’s approach to these same issues. It is almost as though he has scoured the surveys to identify the general public’s most urgent concerns – Labour and Nationalist supporters alike – but instead of proposing serious alternative solutions, he has limited his public outbursts to simply hammering the government over its failure to solve the seemingly insoluble.

A few examples. In recent days, Joseph Muscat has produced a document, supposedly discussed at Cabinet level, which floats the idea of introducing charges on medical services provided by the State. It was a

carbon copy of the pre-election strategy used by Alfred Sant last March (and in a sense, Lawrence Gonzi brought it upon himself by responding with a rash promise to keep healthcare free, no matter what.)

Muscat may well score crucial political points by accusing Gonzi of misleading the public. But the sad truth of the matter is both sides are being deceptive here: Gonzi, by promising the impossible, when he knows only too well that the State simply can’t afford such luxury without cutting back on other essential services in other departments; and Muscat, by declaring that the government “intends” to introduce such fees, when all it did in reality was discuss a report, compiled by members of the medical profession, in which this idea was fleetingly suggested.

But neither side has yet come up with a serious, plausible and viable strategy on how it intends to guarantee free health for all, in a country which faces serious financial problems.

The other bone of contention is irregular immigration. Few would deny this poses several problems locally, but to describe the issue – as Muscat has

repeatedly done – as a “national crisis” is singularly irresponsible.

A dispassionate assessment of the figures concerned – 12,000 immigrants in total, of whom almost half have already been deported – reveals that the problem is already under some form of control... even if things could always be managed slightly better.

But in his eagerness to capitalise on the issue, Muscat appears to have forgotten the levels of ill-feeling currently directed at immigrants in our country. His use of language has at times bordered on the downright inflammatory... although to be fair, in his recent speeches Muscat appears to have been more careful in his choice of words.

As on the health issue, however, the Labour Party has so far failed to produce any credible alternative strategies to those already in place. Talk of “threatening Europe with vetoes” might be music to the electorate’s ears; but in fact Malta has already resorted to this strategy before, with only debatable levels of success. Likewise, posturing about “putting the message across to Europe” is precisely the kind of populist babble that

doesn’t cut very much ice in Europe... and few should know this better than Muscat himself, who after all has served as an MEP for four years.

The sad truth is that our country’s current levels of political discourse have remained woefully immature. On health, we must acknowledge that the doctors and nurses who drew up the above-mentioned report know far more about the issue than Joseph Muscat ever will. And on immigration, we stand to gain far, far more by presenting Europe with a united front on what is after all a national (not a Nationalist) cause for concern.

After all, opposition is all well and good... but opportunism is something else altogether.

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 EDITOR: RAPHAEL VASSALLO  
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# SPORT TODAY

Small Nations Games

## Chetcuti takes gold in double trap

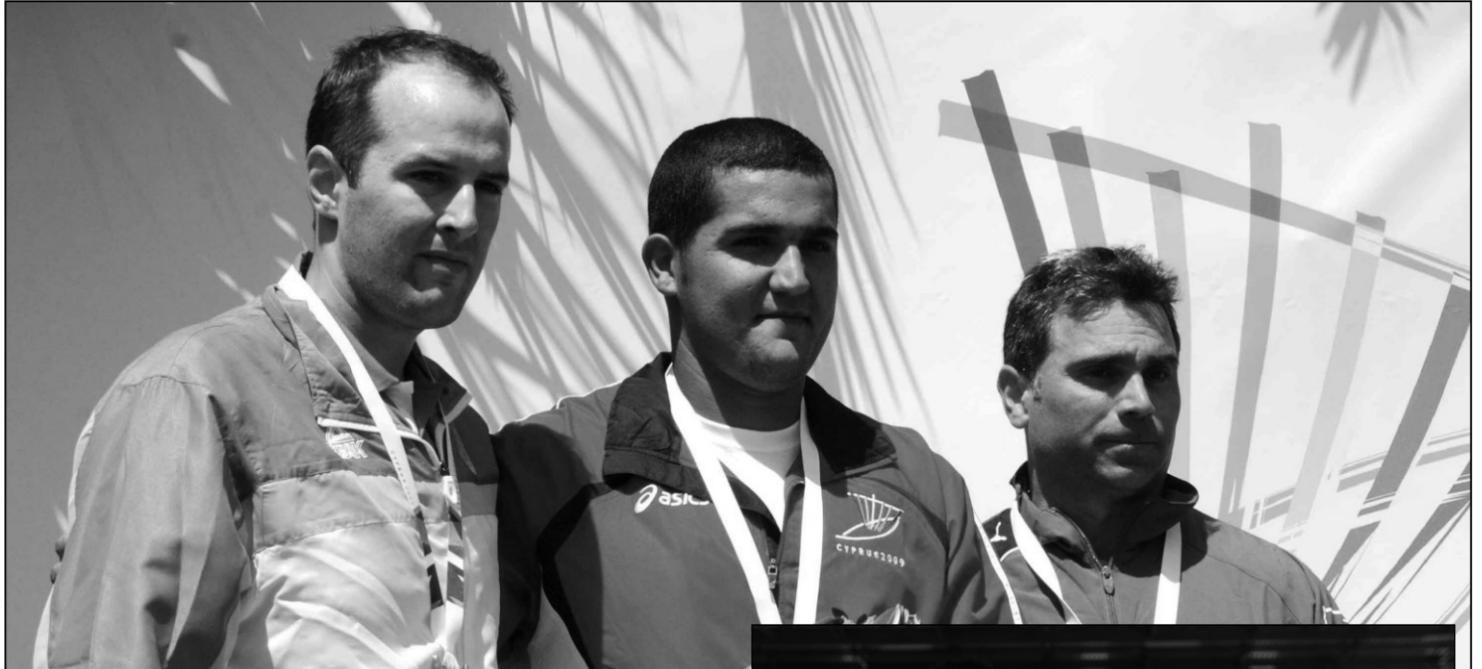
THE Maltese contingent to the Small Nations Games had a successful day yesterday in Cyprus, with William Chetcuti winning a gold medal in the Double Trap.

The women's basketball team beat Iceland 69-53 in their opening match, whilst Kirsty Caruana, Nicole Pace and Adreana Zammit won Malta's first ever medal in women's gymnastics after they took the bronze in the women's team competition.

In skeet-shooting Clive Farrugia finished the day in third place with 66 points, and Paul Vella in fifth position with 62 points. In air-rifle, William Vella took bronze.

Nicole Cremona and Nicky Muscat managed to win a place in the final of the 200m backstroke. In the 100m freestyle event, neither Talica Pace nor Melinda Sue Micallef managed to qualify for the finals. Davinia Mangion placed fifth in the Women LC 200m Butterfly.

In the men's tennis singles Mathew Ascias was knocked out of the men's singles by Icelandic player Arnar Sigurdsson. Daniel Ceros was eliminated by Benjamin Balleret of Monaco. In the ladies' singles Elaine Genovese made it through the first round and will play against Mandy Minella of



William Chetcuti (middle) on the podium

Luxembourg in the second round today. Also today, Kimberly Casar and Elaine Genovese will be playing in the ladies' doubles tournament against Cyprus.

Malta's table-tennis men's team was eliminated by Iceland 3-1 and 3-0 by San Marino. Suzannah Vella finished the day off in fifth place in the qualifying round of Judo. Marcon Bezzina and Brent

Law both got bronze in judo.

The beach volleyball men's team was beaten 2-0 by San Marino and 2-0 by Cyprus.

No sailing events took place due to lack of wind.

In athletics Lara Scerri placed third in Heat 1 in the 100m Women category and Diane Borg placed third in Heat 2.

In the 400m men's heats 2, James Dalfonso placed second. The 800m men's had Mark Herrera place seventh and Mario Debono placed ninth. Caroline Mangion placed seventh in the 800m women's.

In track, Carol Walsh took bronze in the 10,000 metres final.



Brent Law and Marcon Bezzina

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Louis Grech was elected to the European Parliament on the Labour Party ticket in 2004. He has been Head of the Delegation of Labour MEPs, in which capacity he was also a member of the Bureau of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament.

## Louis Grech's work in favour of the Environment

Louis Grech proposed that the Union create a specific fund to invest millions of Euros each year on projects in favour of the climate, within the context of an integrated strategy.

- The Maltese Government's proposal for the building of a new road at Ghadira was raised in the European Parliament by Louis on behalf of non-governmental organizations which complained that this road would impinge on unique rural areas that form part of Foresta 2000. He insisted that the European Commission ensure that projects financed by the Union meet all the directives and criteria applicable to protection of the environment.
- Louis organized meetings about the project for the development of the Recycling Plant at Sant'Antnin, including with the Commissioner for the Environment Stavros Dimas.
- Louis also submitted a Parliamentary Question about the proposed solid waste incinerator at Marsaxlokk, and raised various issues relating, especially, to the health of local residents.



**MEPs approve Louis Grech's proposal for Climate Change Fund**



**It-Triq ta' l-Ghadira**

Wieded mid-dmirtijiet li għandna alina l-Membri tal-Parlament Ewropew hawnha li naghmlu domanda lill-Ewropa b'isem il-komunita' ta' Malta. Fost id-domandi oħrajn li jien għamilt, fuq-sahar ta' Dicembru jiena staqsej lill-Kummissjoni Ewropea dwar il-konstruzzjoni ta' triq ta' Ghadira. F-Ghadira għandna ambjent ta' natura unika u għaliex tinfexx għi muntana ta' Malta li qiegħed jgħi mtejjed minnha l-proposta ta' konstruzzjoni ta' triq ko-

## Louis Grech and Consumer Rights

In 2007 Louis Grech raised the issue of the payment of VAT on the car registration tax and insisted that this tax was in breach of community law.

- He presented a proposal that there should be no VAT on financial services, including insurance.
- He spoke about the need for controls on commercial operators, be they private or governmental (such as the banks, Enemalta, and Malta International Airport), who might abuse their dominant position in the Maltese economy.
- He spoke against the exaggerated increases in the water and electricity tariffs imposed by the Nationalist Government, as well as about the rising cost of living which is resulting in a new type of poverty for many families.



**Min hallas zejjed irid jithallas lura**

**Trattament ugwali fid-dinja tax-xogħol**



Go to The Times

**Louis Grech named best Maltese MEP**

Louis Grech has been voted as the best Maltese Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the year 2006 by the European League of Geneva, an international think-tank based in Geneva. This was announced recently in the European weekly publication New Europe.

## Other Work by Louis Grech

Louis Grech has spoken about, and done work in connection with, several other issues in the European Parliament, amongst which:

- Poverty
- Workers' rights
- Gender mainstreaming
- Abuses against children
- Mental health
- Obesity and physical health
- Discrimination at the place of work
- Minority rights
- The Treaty of Lisbon
- Noise pollution in certain localities in Malta
- Relations between the EU and Mediterranean regions
- The free movement of on-line service companies
- The Solvency Directives and their impact on the insurance industry
- Louis was also vice-president of the European Parliament's delegations to the Korean Peninsula and member of the Euromed parliament.

### Breaking The Barriers

**Breaking The Barriers**

In 2007 Louis Grech was voted the **Best Maltese Member of the European Parliament** for 2006, by the international organization *European League of Geneva*, according to the criterion of the quality of his work in the interests of his country of origin.



Archive Books Business Stocks Lifestyle Showtime i-Tech Motoring

Go to The Times

# LOUIS GRECH

HEAD OF THE LABOUR DELEGATION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## il-ħidma tkompli

Opinion

# The Grand Finales

**MARK STRIJBOSCH**

SADLY for all of us football fanatics, the final whistle was blown and the curtains drawn on all of Europe's top leagues. We have seen the beautiful Barcelona secure the treble, Inter and Manchester United retain the league for a third consecutive season, Hibernians pip Valletta to the local league, a whole bunch of teams relegated, others promoted, and three fascinating cup finals over the last week.

Our first cup final was the prestigious Champions League final between United and Barcelona. The clash of the giants, where beautiful was promised and goals were virtually guaranteed. The final failed to live up to all the hype, and turned to be a one-sided private lesson in the beautiful game.

Manchester United were owned by the Catalan giants who went on to secure a 2-0 victory. If we all agreed that Messi and Ronaldo were the world's two greatest players, then we were also taught a valuable lesson. Messi and Ronaldo are

both great, however this season one man stood out from all the pack: Barcelona's midfield motor Iniesta.

The Spanish maestro is arguably the world's most underrated footballer, and can be pinpointed as the reason why Barcelona and Spain have been so terrific this season. Messi might have stolen the headlines in Rome, but Barca will not be in their high pedestal if it wasn't for their very own Iniesta.

My vote for 2008/2009's player of the year award is definitely Iniesta. What a player! He bosses the midfield and controls the tempo of Barca's game... oh, and did I mention he was the reason Barca reached the semi's after his last ditch strike against Chelsea?

Barca's only shot at goal, but boy did he make it count!

**The other finals**

The second massive final was the FA Cup final in England between underdogs Everton and Chelsea. The bookies backed the Blues, however every neutral fan was rooting for Everton, the people's club.

A club with virtually no budget

were taking on Abramovic's live version of Football Manager. A clash between the rich and the poor. Everton are a hardworking bunch of honest players, and it was they who took the early lead with the fastest goal ever in an FA Cup final, after just 25 seconds. Their honesty and inexperience eventually shone through, and Chelsea took the game by the scruff of the neck and went on to win 2-1. Sadly for the Toffees no one remembers the losing side, but I highly doubt anyone will forget Everton. David Moyes deserved his place in the final, and his side will have learnt more from defeat than victory, and the people's club will bounce back, and despite being on a tight transfer budget, Everton will surely be pushing to break into the big four group next season. Best of luck to the good and honest Toffees!

The third and perhaps most interesting cup final of the week was the local clash between Valletta and Sliema. Everyone's money was on City, however the Blues were no pushover. It was a game which had everything: red cards, a penalty, six goals and a

penalty shoot out. This game made the Champions League final look like a street kick-about, and anyone who visited Ta' Qali were in for a treat.

Sadly, despite the high numbers in last week's Premier League decider, many sections of the stadium were empty. The other shame was the sending off. Referees should try their best to keep as many players on the field as possible, as it's in the sports best interest to ensure teams are fairly balanced. Sending off a player for a leg breaking, knee-high karate kit is one thing, but issuing a second yellow for a player lifting his shirt over his head is another. Refs need to be more lenient, and this point was also proved in the Champions League semi finals.

Sliema won the game on penalties, but massive credit goes out to Valletta City, who despite being inferior in quantity, still fought their way throughout the game ensuring the Blues got a run for their money, and a few heart scares in the meantime.

Well done to Sliema as they bagged their 20th trophy, but Valletta's heads can remain high, just like Everton's and



**Iniesta is arguably the world's most underrated footballer, and the reason Barcelona and Spain have been so terrific**

United's. The winners may be remembered, but the losing sides will have taken the best footballing lessons available. In some situations, winning is not everything.

## Pursuits

5				4	9	6		2
	7			5		4		
	9	1			7	5		
2		7	3	8	4	1	6	9
	6							
8				6				7
							8	5
	8			3	1	9	2	
9	2	6	5		8			

**Sudoku**

7	3	1	6	2	5	8	4	9
9	8	4	7	3	1	2	5	6
6	2	5	9	8	4	3	1	7
1	7	2	5	6	8	9	3	4
4	9	3	1	7	2	6	8	5
5	6	8	4	9	3	7	2	1
2	1	6	8	5	9	4	7	3
3	4	7	2	1	6	5	9	8
8	5	9	3	4	7	1	6	2

Sudoku rules are extremely easy: Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 9x9 box.

Last week's solution

**Chess**

White to play and mate in two moves

White had to play and mate in two moves:

1. Qxg5+ Kf7
2. Qg6++

Answers to the MaltaToday crossword will be published next Wednesday

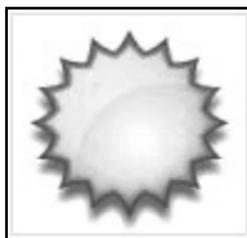
**Across**

1. Lazy (13)
8. Division of a book (7)
10. Living room (7)
12. Subsidised (6)
13. Frozen dessert (3,5)
15. Numerical fact (9)
18. Medium of exchange (5)
21. Leash (5)
22. Exciting experience (9)
27. Set free (8)
29. One or the other of two (6)
30. Blunder (7)
31. Garden vegetable (7)
33. State in SE Australia (3,5,5)

**Down**

2. State of USA (7)
3. Equipment (3)
4. Person who skates (6)
5. Got up (5)
6. Vast seas (6)
7. Grouchy (6)
9. First-born (6)
11. High fidelity (2-2)
14. Perch (5)
16. Small child (3)
17. Commerce (5)
19. Organ of hearing (3)
20. Swiss city (6)
21. Join together (6)
23. Low in pitch (4)
24. Lift up (7)
25. Weirder (6)
26. Makeshift (4,2)
28. Courageous (5)
32. Bleat of a sheep (3)

**Today's Weather**



**SUNNY**

**25 °C / 18 °C**  
**UV INDEX: 8**

**WEATHER:** Fine  
**VISIBILITY:** Good  
**WIND:** Moderate to rather strong West Northwest locally rather strong to strong to the Northeast of area (force 4 to 5 locally force 5 to 6) becoming rather strong Northwest in the afternoon (force 5) and moderate North Northwest overnight (force 4)

# voting for?



on June 6 make our water and electricity bills easier to bear? Voting PN will not affect them either. Still, it is understandable that the paying public raises this issue, while so many candidates are vying for election to a salary amounting to hundreds of thousands of euros.

The state of the economy per se is a worry for 7% of the voting public, and this is no wonder. For months now we have

had bad news getting worse combined with unbelievable scandals in connection with the global financial crisis. Pumping hundreds of billions of dollars and euros into the mess has not provided us with any sure fix.

What does it really mean when people respond in a survey that their top priority is the economy? How do they express that choice in their vote? Does it mean that this 7% will be vot-

ing Edward Scicluna as the only economist on offer or Vince Farrugia as a veteran warrior for the small and medium enterprise? Will it disadvantage candidates considered alien to economic issues?

### The environment

By lumping all economic issues together we can count on the environment to take third place in people's minds. In a country where even the global financial crisis manages to arrive late, it should be no surprise that there seems to be very little concern on the issue of climate change. This epochal threat undercuts every other issue and is clearly an appropriate criterion for choosing our representatives in the EP, where it can best be addressed.

But barely one in 20 (4.3%) of those surveyed placed the environment at the top of their list but again what does the environment mean to them? Is it a matter of too much litter in the streets or a concern about pollution, food quality and the challenges of bio-engineering? How does all this translate into votes? Will all 4.3% necessarily vote Green? What

### Main issues

Main issues	%
Irregular Immigration	36
Employment	10
Cost of Living	9.3
Economy	7.0
Environment	4.3
Hunting and Trapping	3.3
Car Registration Tax	2.7

Source: MaltaToday survey

effect will the candidatures of Alan Deidun and Steve Borg have in deviating Green votes towards the PN and PL respectively? Any at all?

As things stand, environmental issues entered the campaign through the back door. The extension of the Delimara power station, with its controversial contract awarded amid accusations of foul play, has

Both Labour and AD have slammed the decision to go for a heavy fuel oil turbine at a time when

### Hunting & Trapping

Closely related to the environment but only in a confusing way, the hunting issue registers at the top of the list with 3.3% of those polled. Here, too, analysis is perplexing. One must assume that the bulk of that 3.3% consists in irate hunters and trappers, but a significant fraction will also number their adversaries, the equally incensed birders.

The inclusion of Edward Demicoli among the PN's candidates causes embarrassment for candidates determined to woo the hunters by performing the necessary contortions to argue the case for ending Spring hunting, while fighting

tooth and nail for its reopening in Brussels.

The PL is in the same predicament, with Joseph Muscat holding meetings with the hunters' lobby, while fielding Steve Borg as his Red-Green candidate.

Although this is supremely European issue because it arises as a consequence of the implementation of EU Directives, chances are that it will be an electoral irrelevance. The confusion is likely to lead both hunters and ornithologists to follow their party leanings rather than their feelings on this issue: among birders and hunters there will be red as well as blue. It is fair to assume that there will be significant abstentions among hunters who feel that they have been taken for a ride by everybody concerned, and particularly among the blue hunters who have good reason to believe that their own PN is responsible for their woes.

### Car registration VAT

The question of refunds on VAT paid on car registration featured spectacularly in the run up to this election with 2.7% in our survey saying that this is their top issue. Here a clear Government – Opposition divide exists but has the issue already faded? Whether even a fraction of a percentage point of the 6th June vote will be determined by this issue remains to be seen, but so far the only candidate to have spoken out about the issue is Roberta Metsola Tedesco Triccas. This caused some embarrassment to the PN, but nonetheless the young lawyer appears to enjoy some backing within party circles.



# What's the big deal?

So Joseph Muscat and his wife have two cars worth €60,000, paid from their own pockets! What's the big deal about Bondiplus telling us last Monday that MEPs, if they spend their money correctly, get €90,000 net per year? At least Muscat paid the car from his own money and if he is getting the allowance from the State, he is getting it for being a leader of the Opposition, for which he is entitled to by law... just as any President Emeritus continues to have his driver and car paid by the State for



Anna Mallia

are still directors of companies and of groups of companies, and the citizens have a right to this information. I am not sure if their code of ethics allows this, but nowadays the only place for codes of ethics is in the dustbin. Politics has corrupted this country.

The big deal is how unemployed persons can afford more expensive cars than Joseph Muscat and his wife, and how nothing is done by the State about this. How unemployed persons continue to conduct their business but register com-

in this country are more sacred than corruption. Once upon a time Dr Frank Portelli pointed out what was happening at Mater Dei and the squandering of money taking place over there; but now the matter is buried under the ground and the rich got richer and the poor got poorer.

The big deal is how the tender for a 100MW power generating plant at Delimara was signed without any fanfare made by the government. It is obvious that the public sees this quite as a strange occurrence, when our politicians are known to call the press for



The big deal is how the tender for a 100MW power generating plant at Delimara was signed without any fanfare made by the government



the rest of his life.

The big deal is not that. The big deal is how can our ministers and parliamentary secretaries survive on their meagre salaries when their invitations account for most of their salary? If the President of Malta gets a salary of €50,906 for the year 2000, that is only Lm21,000 – it means the Prime Minister gets less, the ministers get even less and the parliamentary secretaries get even less. But in their

case their euro is not equivalent to our euro, and they never complain about the bills and the increase in their cost of living. Their lifestyle flourishes.

The big deal is how our Cabinet no longer publishes their sources of income any more. It is true that when in previous years they were obliged to do so, they all took us for a ride – but at least we could tell how low they could go. We know there are members of Cabinet who

commercial companies, speculate in property, or drive bowsers and scammels with their private telephone numbers printed across them, or get loans from our banks when in the eyes of the law they are unemployed. Sometimes they are even given social assistance.

It is neither a big deal for employment agencies, most of them without a licence from the ETC, to employ Maltese on oil rigs without registering their employment; so that in the eyes of the law they are unemployed.

The big deal is how corruption in this country does not have the same definition as in the other countries. How our funny Permanent Commission Against Corruption is without resources, and is expected to find any trace of corruption. How this country is a haven for politicians' fouls and tax evasion. Connections

trivial things. This has raised many suspicions in the mind of the man in the street.

What the press has failed to question so far is who the Maltese entrepreneurs are, if any, involved in the BWSC tender because I find it strange that this company has no Maltese counterparts. Nor any mention is made as to who the lawyers representing BWSC in Malta are.

We all know how many law firms have flourished: many of them are making money because of their connections with politicians. We also know how certain firms get the contracts associated with one particular ministry because of their connections with that ministry. We all have eyes to see!

Nor is it a big deal that the European Court of Human Rights does not want any of the judges

HOW HAVE MALTA'S MEPs VOTED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS ON PRO-LIFE ISSUES?

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gift of life  
[www.lifemalta.org](http://www.lifemalta.org)  
[info@lifemalta.org](mailto:info@lifemalta.org)

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION CLOSING OF THE IDENTITY CARDS OFFICE

The Electoral Commission notifies that owing to work in connection with elections the identity cards offices in Valletta and Rabat, Gozo shall be **CLOSED** from Friday 5th to Tuesday 9th June, 2009. The offices shall re-open on Wednesday 10th June, 2009.

[www.electoral.gov.mt](http://www.electoral.gov.mt)

# What are we

A MediaToday survey of the priorities of voters conducted last March allows us an indication of what weighs most heavy on our collective mind. How that will determine the results in the June 6 election, however, remains a mystery.

By HARRY VASSALLO

## Irregular immigration

Unsurprisingly, immigration looms largest at 36%. There can be little doubt that at all that vast segment wants the issue addressed as soon as possible. The question is: what exactly is it that all these people want, and who can best give it to them?

We are all agreed that Malta cannot possibly take even a significant fraction of the human tide currently crossing the Mediterranean. Between them, Labour and PN – with the help of the Lega Nord – have succeeded in raising tension to fever pitch.

Labour entered the field first, earning the Nationalist accusation of exploiting a national issue in a partisan manner. Significantly, the PN is now reminding the electorate that “not even Alfred Sant” had resorted to making mileage out of the issue.

As far as the EP elections go, we can rest assured that both PN and PL candidates will be elected and apart from calling each other names, they can be relied on to appear to be doing all they can to please the public on this issue with very little difference in the positions each side takes.

Beyond that, for those who are concerned that the general panic does not lead us down the



slippery path to human rights violations, only the Greens have had a courageous if unpopular position upholding basic European and human rights values in dealing with the problem.

After a fiery declamation two months ago by leader Josie Muscat - who nailed his “10 Immigration Commandments” to the Cathedral door, only to discover that eight of

them were actually illegal - Azzjonali Nazzjonali appear to have backpedalled on this issue with a low-key campaign. This leaves the more radical statements to Imperium Europa's Norman Lowell, who is contesting in spite of a suspended sentence for incitement to racial hatred.

Lowell remains the dark horse in this electoral, and though

few dare mention this out loud, all parties will be keen to see how many votes he will succeed in racking up on the strength of their own inability to inspire confidence among an exasperated and at times belligerently xenophobic electorate.

The likelihood is that he will improve on his dismal 2004 tally; by what degree, however, is difficult to say.

## The economy

Economic issues tag close behind with a combined weight of 26.3% of those polled picking them first.

Of these, employment comes first with one of 10 people polled citing job security as the major concern. Several manufacturing enterprises have had to put their workforce on a four-day working week in response to a drop in demand for their products. The uncertainty this causes is not limited only to those directly affected.

In response to such concerns the political parties have “sloganised” the issue with the PL simplistically totting up the whole and finding the PN Government wanting, while the PN responds by promising “employment for you” as the major item in its campaign.

But exactly how Nationalist MEPs expect to create more Maltese jobs from distant Brussels remains unclear... just as the PL accusing finger does not quite make it stick that the PN is to blame for the entire global financial crisis.

For 9.3% of us it appears that the cost of living – that old staple of political wars and battles – is what needs to be seen to first. But how are MEPs to see to that? Will voting Labour



being recommended by the government. Cut the crap about women judges and be honest with us: tell us why none of the three judges have been accepted by Strasbourg. Not only that, but the insult we received from the Court lately in suggesting that we have a judge from another country representing Malta – at least this is what was reported in the press. Can't our journalists investigate as to what is going on really and what is the real reason none of our judges have made it to Strasbourg yet? Why are we taking the government's explanations as the gospel truth when there is more to it than that?

Is it not also a big deal in not being provided with audited accounts as to where these millions of euros supposedly coming from the EU are going. They tell us how many millions came and are still coming, but we do not see any improvement in our way of life, in our roads, in our lifestyle. Can Brussels tell us where the money it sends to Malta is being spent? Because so far, when we look around, we cannot account for this money. If the government is failing to provide us with this information, it is Brussels's duty to do so as after all it is our money.

Isn't it a big deal that our pharmacies are not selling medicines but cosmetics? Nor is the increase in the cost of living a big deal... just as the long waiting lists at Mater Dei for appointments and operations are a big deal. Nor do they care that 5% VAT is still being charged on certain medicines. Muscat mentioned the vaccinations, but this is only one item. My chemist tells me that even gauzes are still being charged 5% VAT. But this is no big deal for them. What do they care? They're alright, they jump the queue, and if you're alright, then f\*\*\* you Jack.

So what we want to know instead... is not that Joseph Muscat and his wife spent €60,000 on two cars: we want to know how do the Prime Minister, the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries make their salaries last and why they have become so indifferent to the people's needs and expectations.

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## POINTS OF VIEW

MaltaToday asks prominent personalities and opinion formers to comment on the campaign themes



### Tolga Temuge BirdLife Malta



The European Union has been one of the leading powers in the world on the environmental front for many years. Thanks to some of the members of the European Parliament, who had a clear vision on policies to restore ecosystems and reduce the EU's dependence on a carbon economy, the Union currently has some of the best nature conservation directives in the world.

However despite this, the EU will comprehensively fail to meet its own target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. One of the main reasons for this failure is that other EU policies are working counter to the nature conservation directives, with the result that they are accelerating the loss. This is simply because certain politicians remain oblivious to the fact that many economic problems are closely linked to the environment and vice

versa. It is therefore imperative that the new members of the European Parliament represent a different culture and vision from the past and work towards a greater sustainability and resource efficiency.

The Maltese MEPs have an obvious responsibility in sharing this vision and working towards protecting and restoring Europe's common natural heritage, which is clearly linked to the sustainable use of resources that in turn affects our economies. BirdLife expects the Maltese MEPs not only to build on the EU nature conservation poli-

cies such as the Natura 2000 network and the Birds and Habitats Directives but also to strengthen them.

Yet, it is very clear that some of the candidates for the European Union still lack this modern vision and continue to make promises to certain interest groups with the hope of gaining a few votes. This "village politics" approach is one of the biggest obstacles to progress in the EU where EU citizens seek strong leadership and positive change on the issue of environmental protection.

BirdLife calls on the members of the European Parliament to adopt a target for 2020 that goes beyond halting the loss of biodiversity and actively seeks to promote the recovery of habitats and species in the EU. Furthermore the MEPs should press for a strong climate change agreement at the Copenhagen climate summit at the end of this year and also ensure that the EU's 2020 target of 20% renewable energy is reached without harming the environ-



**BirdLife calls on MEPs adopt a target for 2020 that goes beyond halting the loss of biodiversity**

ment upon which the EU's citizens and economy depend. The Maltese MEPs also should play a leading role in the completion of marine protected areas in order to protect marine wildlife.

For the new European Parliament to overcome the current environmental and economic crisis, the EU citizens need representatives who share a new vision and are not afraid of breaking the status quo that has been causing the current crisis – a crisis that has in a way been imposed on us by narrow minded and short sighted politicians. The solution ultimately lies with the EU citizens who not only have the power to elect the new Parliament but who can also make sure that their elected representatives are held accountable for their failures in bringing about this change.

*Tolga Temuge is BirdLife Malta Executive Director*

### Joe Perici Calascione Federation of Hunters and Trappers (FKNK)



As a player and stakeholder in the local environment field and as representative organ of over 10% of the adult Maltese and Gozitan population the Federation for Hunting & Conservation – Malta (FKNK) feels that the elected MEPs have an important role to play that goes beyond partisan politics.

Whilst political principles will dictate certain approaches to various issues, there has to be a common goal that places the Maltese citizen's interest above everything else. This corroborates the fact that in each and every sector we have to feel at par with our European counterparts. Wherever the Union applies two weights, two measures on any single issue, our MEPs have to be there

without reservation and have to be prepared to fight tooth and nail for our rights.

On the backcloth of the above, each elected MEP has to harbour the core principles that make us Maltese and strive to safeguard what is engrained in our being and defend, at all quarters, our socio-cultural and traditional passions and way of life that have been passed onto us by our forefathers. It is these practices that identify us from the rest of the world and these practices that have moulded us accordingly. Our MEPs should agree to the principle of Union Yes but Uniformity

Never.

Based on the Manifesto published by our European counterpart Federation FACE, elected MEPs can make a difference if they:

- declare support for hunting and conservation;
- support legislation based on the best available scientific evidence and not on emotion and perception;
- liaise and consult with concerned stakeholders;
- consider that regulations should be adapted to national and local situations, particularly for the countryside;
- actively join the Sustainable Hunting Intergroup.

The MEP is expected to delve into the various committees that directly interest his co-nationals.

The MEP is expected to listen to all the complaints made by local individuals or organisations and should ensure that he assists in explaining how the application of Union regulations and directives can affect one's life.

The MEP should never be al-

ienated from the daily lives of his electorate and throughout his term, should hold regular meetings locally involving various sectors of society and not just become obvious on the eve of elections.

The MEP should put his country's interest first and should never betray such trust of the electorate and should give such interest his unre-served support despite maybe going beyond his party's politics.

Finally the FKNK wishes to point out that in any and every scenario, our MEPs have to fight to ensure that we are not treated as 2nd Class European Citizens and that we obtain our equal rights whenever these are jeopardized unjustly.

Our MEPs have to ensure that any decision they take has to be based on solid legal facts and scientific data and leave out any emotion or perception.

*Joe Perici Calascione is public relations officer of the FKNK*



**Each elected MEP has to harbour the core principles that make us Maltese**



We all know JAM is flamboyant and bohemian, yes... but a gardener and an artist? Please, no... And since when does one proudly boast about travelling as a good enough reason to send someone off to Brussels for a five-year holiday?

# JAMMIN'

Saviour Balzan is amused by JAM's latest promo and ponders on what might happen next Saturday

If there is one candidate who leaves me gobsmacked, it has got to be John Attard Montalto. Mike Jagger lips and a permanent smile (that, I could do with myself), he epitomises everything that Labour should not stand for.

"JAM", as his number plate on his Mercedes coupé once proudly announced, this very week spelt out in an advertisement the reason to vote for him.

He said he was a gardener, an artist, a voyager... and then a politician.

Really, we all laughed so hard in the newsroom that we were in need of medical attention for sudden choking. JAM is flamboyant and bohemian, yes... but a gardener and an artist? Please, no. And since when does one proudly boast about travelling as a good enough reason to send someone off to Brussels for a five-year holiday?

Needless to say, JAM has no qualms about showing off what he likes most when not playing the role of a Europolitician.

And yet again, if JAM succeeds in getting himself elected, it will not be because he has convinced us of his evident unclear contribution as a European parliamentarian. There is little doubt in my mind that it would have been his excessive election budget and spending spree during this campaign, that enticed some voters to go for him.

For this very campaign underlines the serious problem supposedly facing the Electoral Commission when it comes to controlling spending by candidates.

Indeed, the first problem is that the Electoral Commission does not consider spending to be a problem.

Which otherwise leaves many potentially ideal candidates racing to compete with the

excesses of Sharon Ellul Bonici and Simon Busuttill.

The former has a budget that surely should have raised a few eyebrows at Mile End at the Electoral Commission. But no, everything is perfectly all right if an individual spends thousands and refuses to disclose the origin of these funds.

Meanwhile, Simon – who as we all know will soon be competing with Mother Theresa for beatification – has helped himself to the role of unofficial campaign manager of the Nationalist party, when he himself is a candidate. Just in case he does not get enough exposure, he also serves as the Prime Minister's compere during his press conferences.

No wonder everyone falls in love with this guy, and that is why he is expected to reap thousands more first-count votes this time.

But back to JAM. JAM is indeed a more problematic candidate for the Labour party than, for example, Edward Scicluna.

Yesterday's hate mail addressed to some Labour delegates by an anonymous letter writer about the MLP's prime candidate Edward Scicluna – came with a special aroma. An aroma that takes anyone with a nose to the Stamperija in Our Lady of Sorrows Street, Pieta.

This is the kind of Machiavellian scaremongering that you find brewing in Nationalists circles when the walls of Jericho start to crumble.

I have been there, I know.

Which brings us back to the campaigns and the superficiality in the line of arguments presented to the public. Surely, the Labour campaign is more on the ball, more focused and effective... but like many electoral campaigns it does not draw up clear solutions to the fundamental theme issues which are,



SAVIOUR BALZAN

immigration, high utility tariffs and free health.

Most of the time Labour says the government is wrong, it does not come up with hard-nosed solutions.

The PN, on the other hand, is reactive and inspired by the two polite gentlemen, Simon Busuttill and Stefano Mallia: two great minds who believe that their focus on who presses the right button is going to shock the Maltese electorate not to vote for Labour.

Even the PN portal Mal-taright.now, and of course other friendly presses, have little to say other than emphasising the peripheral issues such as the fact that Muscat arrived half and an hour late for a TV appearance on one of those bloody boring BA debates.

Of course, no one would have commented if the latecomer were Guido DeMarco. With

the DeMarcos you are guaranteed to wait for hours before they show up with a big smile on their face and outstretched hand for a handshake.

But then DeMarco is not Muscat, and...

Politics is all about perception and emotions, as one Maltese old hat told me. And this is exactly what favours Muscat over Gonzi.

The other question is what does Muscat really need if he is to blow his bugle on Sunday night? He definitely needs an absolute majority. Anything below that would be a victory for Gonzi.

If Gonzi does suffer a defeat which translates into an absolute majority for Muscat, it will spell out a few home truths:

- That GonziPN has failed;
- That those in his campaign team are to be held responsible for this and this includes the one and only Simon Busuttill and Richard Cachia Caruana;
- That the shit has hit the fan.

If Gonzi believes that he can entertain a reshuffle then he had better think twice. What the people want to see and hear are the following:

- A government based on meritocracy;
- A government that opens up its doors to civil society;
- A reform at PBS;
- A reform at Mepa;
- Not appointing The Cardinal as Commissioner;
- A new electoral law;
- A law on party financing;
- A revamped Broadcasting Authority and Electoral Commission.

If on the other hand Gonzi does not suffer such a major defeat, then he can keep on doing what he has been doing... in other words, imposing political apartheid and taking the wrong decisions. As for Muscat...

Well, he had better start thinking whether it was such a



**What does Muscat really need if he is to blow his bugle on Sunday night? He definitely needs an absolute majority. Anything below that will be a victory for Gonzi.**

good idea to leave the European Parliament and head the Labour Party here in Malta, or better still enjoy his two daughters, the star and the sun, and get on with life.

**Tomorrow Saviour Balzan asks what it takes to be a candidate and what he plans to do on Saturday 6 to get away from the great temptation of casting his vote.**

Check out Saviour Balzan's blog on [www.maltatoday.com.mt](http://www.maltatoday.com.mt)



**European Elections**  
**Saviour Balzan's Blog**  
[www.maltatoday.com.mt/eu\\_blog.html](http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/eu_blog.html)



# Gonzi – ‘Whatever the result, jobs will be priority’

KARL STAGNO-NAVARRA

PRIME Minister Lawrence Gonzi last night insisted that whatever the result will be next Monday in the upcoming European Parliament elections, the continuation of his government's efforts to safeguard jobs will be top priority on his agenda.

Addressing a televised debate on TVM last night with Opposition leader Joseph Muscat, the Prime Minister resorted to speak about national issues more than matters related to the European Union, in an inevitable bid to counter the onslaught from his young opponent, who constantly has appealed for the electorate to send a clear message to government over broken promises and the utility tariffs.

Lawrence Gonzi dwelt on his government's commitment to combat inflation and challenges the country faces in the wake of an international economic crisis.

“We want this country to be competitive and serious,” he said, adding that investing in education will continue to be among the priorities.

He stressed that for the past three years, government had reduced taxes and a rough estimate shows that €152 million have remained in the pockets of Maltese, while children's allowance was granted to all children.

Impeccably dressed in a navy blue suit, clear white shirt and wide striped blue and grey tie, Lawrence Gonzi appeared tired but combative and persuasive in his arguments.

While Gonzi was punctual for the recording at 1pm, Labour leader Joseph Muscat was late by almost half an hour, due to last-minute change in the time of the debate, e-mailed to their assistants late last night.

Joseph Muscat intelligently produced a water and electric-



Better late than never - Gonzi and Muscat shake hands before locking horns

ity bill, looked straight at the camera and spoke directly to viewers: “You all have received this, now do you believe the Prime Minister is serious when he speaks? All he has just explained was immediately taken away from you with these bills. I don't need to tell you what to do with your vote next Saturday.”

The points scored by Lawrence Gonzi were demolished with this gesture, and were further thwarted when Joseph Muscat produced copies of emails and personalised letters that were sent to workers in various sectors before last year's general election.

“Lawrence Gonzi cannot be trusted,” Joseph Muscat said, adding that people are fed up of facing a situation where

government is weak with the strong and strong with the weak.

He used the VAT department fraud scandal as an example, insisting that the electorate is demanding who is to carry the political responsibility for what happened, while hundreds of honest self-employed were confronted by fines and interest for filling in wrong VAT forms or technical absurdities.

Joseph Muscat hit hard at the Prime Minister, who on his part argued against Labour's political opportunism to derail the consensus on illegal immigration and turn it into a divisive issue.

“We are not ashamed nor irritated if he (the Prime Minister) accuses us of turning the issue into political football,” he stressed, adding that Labour will keep on talking of the is-

sues people are talking about and of concern to them.

Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi expressed satisfaction at Joseph Muscat's words on the PL's intent to work closely with government on issues of national interest, and asked how credible Muscat was when saying this.

“It is nice to hear him speak that way, but facts show us another Joseph Muscat,” he said, while explaining that on illegal immigration, he had ordered all the ministries concerned to give Muscat a detailed briefing on the situation.

“He attended the briefing, but now he conveniently divided the nation on the issue,” the Prime Minister said, receiving an immediate reply from Joseph Muscat who insisted that Lawrence Gonzi signed the Pact on Immigration and Asylum when he knew that the voluntary burden sharing clause was a definite non-starter.

Both leaders exchanged sal-

vos over the Delimara power station extension contract, with Gonzi defending his government's decision to award the contract to a company that will supply diesel turbines to generate electricity.

Gonzi asked “why the fuss?”, stating that the chosen technology has been sold to Corsica and other islands, but Joseph Muscat charged that the technology is “old” and highly polluting to the extent that it will produce between 40 to 60 tonnes of toxic waste per day.

Both politicians crossed swords over the best choice of candidates for next Saturday's elections, with Prime Minister Gonzi closing the debate by stating that the electorate must look at the PN list of candidates as the best “morally” prepared politicians.

“Invest your vote with candidates who have sound moral values, who have respect for life, family and solidarity,” he said.

**MSIDA**  
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Abela Emanuel

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Demarco Joseph

Falzon Raymond

Grima Clifton

Msida Labour Centre, Ġużè Ellul Mercer House, Conception Str., Msida T 2134 2783 E info@mlpmsida.com

06.06.09 >>> **LABOUR**



# Bil-kliem tibni triq fil-baħar

[Words can build a road in the sea]

## Iżda bejn il-kliem u l-fatti hemm il-baħar jikkumbatti

[But between words and action there is an ocean]

# X'jiswa l-kliem mingħajr **AZZJONI?**

[What are words without ACTION?]



### 1998

Sharon joins the Labour Party and volunteers to help in the 1998 election campaign. She also starts writing a regular EU-related column in TMI.

### 2001

Former PM Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici asks Sharon to join the Campaign for National Independence (CNI).

### 2002

Sharon launches the 'No2EU' info campaign



### 2003

Elected secretary general of TEAM (The European Alliance of EU-critical Movements).

Contests the general elections on a Labour ticket in the 2nd and 4th Districts.

Ta' Qali, after the 'Yes' victory



With former PM Alfred Sant at the launching of his book, "Confessions of a European Maltese"

Former PM Dom Mintoff supports Sharon in the 2003 elections



### 2004

With EU membership, Sharon moves to Brussels to work in the European Parliament. Here she is involved in political campaigns with various MEPs from different groups, including the centre-right/centre-left ID group, which favour a less centralised EU.



### 2005

Co-founds EUDemocrats (EUD), a European political party with a centre-left faction of MEPs supporting EU democracy and transparency. Elected EUD secretary general.

### 2006

Elected EUD vice president, until relinquishing her post in June 2008 in order to pursue her work closer to the Labour Party.



Launches the 'Plan D Campaign - for Democracy, Dialogue & Debate', including the 'Plan D Bus Tour' from Brussels to Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Slovenia, Greece & Portugal



### 2006

At an EUD-DLR conference in Paris

At an EUD-PND Conference in Lisbon

Addressing a conference in London

### 2007

Organises the "Fair Chair" campaign for the election of the European Parliament president

Organises an MEP protest in the European Parliament in support of referendums on the Lisbon treaty in all EU member states



### 2008

Organises the X09 Referendum campaign

In Dublin, Ireland, before the Lisbon treaty referendum

Organises the campaign "Respect the Irish Vote" after the Irish 'No' in the June 2008 referendum

During a group meeting at the European Parliament

### 2009

Labour Party MEP candidate

With Martin Schulz, President, PSE group

Sharon launches her campaign: Joseph Muscat



PL Candidate For European Elections 2009

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## Letters

Send your letters to:

The Editor, MaltaToday Midweek, MediaToday Ltd. Vjal ir-Rihan, San Gwann SGN 9016 / Fax: (356) 21 385075  
E-mail: midweek@mediatoday.com.mt. Letters to the Editor should be concise. No pen names are accepted.

## Failed bidders carrying out 'mud-slinging' campaign

REFERENCE is made to the article 'Failed bidders not giving up without a fight', published last Wednesday in your paper.

The award of the Contract for the new generating plant to BWSC was publicly notified by the Department of Contracts through a notice on their notice board and website. This is in accordance with the established procedure applicable to all public tenders and which all tenderers (and their local agents) know about.

The implication that Bateman were not notified and had no opportunity to appeal is unfounded. They were notified as were all the other bidders and interested parties including Enemalta Corporation through this public notice, and if, as they are claiming, they only found out about the award after enquiring with Enemalta, this reflects a disappointing lack of attention on their part or the part of their local agent.

The article implies that the CCGT plant proposed by Bateman would emit considerably lower amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> than the selected plant. This is not backed by the performance data guaranteed by the bidders in their bids. The CCGT plant emits marginally less CO<sub>2</sub>, and

in fact the difference between the two technologies, based on the stipulated operating regime, is less than 10% of the overall CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction from the new plant compared to the existing plant that it will replace.

The comparison of the operating costs was carried out as clearly stated in the tender, based on the actual fuels available for operation. Any comparison of the costs of operation of the CCGT plant on gas are totally fictitious as gas is not available and would not be available before 2016 at the earliest.

The financial analysis was based on conversion of the diesel engines in that year, and took into account the costs of this conversion. However despite what Bateman may claim, the massive additional cost of operation of their gas turbines on gasoil (diesel) for the period between 2012 and 2016 far outweighs any advantage gained by the change of fuel to gas, as the diesel engines would similarly use gas (if and when this becomes available).

Bateman are trying to imply that the costs of operation of the diesel engine plant are higher than their proposed plant, but this is not borne

out by the facts, as when all the costs are considered, as was the case for the evaluation, the diesel engines are less expensive to operate and conform to the emission limits stipulated by use of best available technology.

The operating and maintenance costs of the plant including the emissions reduction equipment have all been taken into account in the financial analysis, and Enemalta once again reiterates that the emission levels stipulated in the tender were mandatory conditions to which all bidders complied.

The article claims that the diesel engine plant will take up so much space that there will not be space for future expansion. This is not true. The Bateman plant will take up about 4000m<sup>3</sup> of the main site, whilst the BWSC plant will take up about 4900m<sup>3</sup> also on the main site leaving 6600m<sup>3</sup> for future phases. Similarly it is stated that the BWSC plant will produce 90 tonnes of solid and hazardous waste. Again this is not true, the amount produced is expected to be about 28 tonnes and is mostly gypsum and particulates from fuel combustion. These particulates are the same as those produced by all combustion plants, includ-

ing the existing boilers, and gas turbines and road vehicles, and are being collected by dust filters.

Bateman are alleging some improper act in their so-called 'leaked Enemalta email'. This is completely false, as Enemalta had every right in terms of the conditions of the published tender, of which all the bidders were aware of, to short list the bidders based on an evaluation of the bids, and to negotiate with the short listed bidders with the aim of reaching agreement on the technical and commercial terms of the bid. In fact had the rest of the email been quoted, this would have become apparent, as would have been the fact that none of the bids had been rejected, but of course this would have been counter to Bateman's statement. It is also misleading to state even now that Bateman's bid was rejected. It was not rejected, it was quite simply not competitive and its overall ranking, based on the award criteria published with the tender, was the lowest of the three bidders which were evaluated as being technically compliant. The award was made to the bid obtaining the highest ranking.

The article makes the point

that Bateman have finally registered a judicial protest, however had they felt that the tender specification or the evaluation criteria were biased against them, they could have objected at any time during the process since November 2007. They could have objected after the results of the technical evaluation report were published on the Department of Contracts notice board in December 2008, and any time before they submitted their final offer in February 2009, apart from the legally stipulated ten days following public notification of the award on the Department of Contracts notice board. The fact that they choose not to take up any of these opportunities to object or appeal the decisions taken, which the law provides, does not of course preclude any other legal action, but does tend to cast doubt on the integrity of their position and statements.

It is an undeniable fact that in any contest such as a public tender, there will be a winner and losers, and it is unfortunate that losers tend in some cases to carry out a public mud-slinging campaign rather than accept defeat.

Ian Vella  
PRO  
Enemalta

# 14 MONTHS AGO AZZJONI NAZZJONALI SPOKE ABOUT:

THE HUGE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION PROBLEM • ENEMALTA'S DEEP FINANCIAL CRISIS FOR WHICH YOU HAVE TO PAY • THE DIRE LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY • THE LACK OF DETAILED ACCOUNTS VIS-À-VIS PUBLIC FUNDS EXPENDITURE • NOW WE LEARN THAT SOME OF OUR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE EITHER ABSENT, ASLEEP OR NOT AWARE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING.

**VOTE INTO EUROPE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SINCERE AND TRUE TO YOU.**



MUSCAT JOSEPH



SEYCHELL MALCOLM



SPITERI GINGELL JOHN

**YOUR OBVIOUS CHOICE!**



A giant plume of smoke sweeps over St Julian's, as a fire broke out yesterday on the construction site of Pender Place  
(Photos: Ray Attard)



PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAY ATTARD

# Fire breaks out at Pender Place

**DAVID DARMANIN**

FIREMEN battled with flames for about two hours yesterday afternoon, at the Pender Place construction site in St Julian's after concrete shutters caught fire, spreading the blaze to an entire storey and other parts of the building.

Security personnel and police officers on site would not give out any details to the press, although a Penderville employee said that every person on site was evacuated and nobody suffered injuries. A Civil Protection medic was seen assisting a person.

The fire broke out after the concrete shutters – the plywood moulds used to build concrete structures – caught

on fire at about 4pm. The reason why the shutters caught fire is still unknown.

Sources told this newspaper that although an inquiry would determine the cause of the fire, it could be possible that the culprit was a blowtorch used while laying out membrane. "This happens, although on very rare occasions," a civil engineer said. "Further investigations would of course shed light on how the fire spread so extensively and over what time period."

Neighbours said they heard no explosions, and only learnt about the incident upon hearing the commotion of the police, ambulances and civil protection.

The fires were extinguished by 6pm.



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# AN calls for company tax to be reduced to five per cent

DAVID DARMANIN

AT a press event held at the Vittoriosa market yesterday morning, Azzjoni Nazzjonali leader Josie Muscat said "the only way to curb cost of living is by decreasing taxation," suggesting a company tax cut to 5% across the board, down by 30% from the current standard rate."

"In the run-up to 6 June elections, other parties shifted their focus on local issues without responding to what Malta can do in the EU," Muscat said.

"We must however elect people who can exploit the EU in order to tackle the cost of living issue in Malta."

Muscat said "there will be no victory" on 6 June, because "the party in government will remain in government and the party in opposition will remain in opposition."

While criticising other parties for bringing up local issues in their campaigns, Muscat said: "The only way this can be done is by increasing wealth, boost exportation and allow salaries to rise. No government has ever managed to decrease cost of living. Figures show that investment in Malta decreased substantially, and so have our exports. This is why our wages are never sufficient."

"Once salaries increase, government funds increase proportionately due to higher revenue from income tax. Once government revenue increases, there will be an opportunity for taxes to go down. One thing leads to the other."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAY ATTARD



Who says AN are xenophobic? Josie Muscat (centre) wants Malta to emulate Canada, Malaysia, Korea and Japan

"Foreign investment is not rising," Muscat complained. "All we hear about is Lufthansa Technik and pharmaceutical companies – but we no longer hear anything about Smart City. If we must decrease the cost of living, we need to create a suitable investment climate in Malta."

"But local investors are disheartened when there is a big flight of capital, as investors are putting their money abroad. Foreign companies pay an annual tax rate of 5%. We are not saying this is wrong,

because such incentives generate employment. But if foreign companies are benefiting out of this privilege, then the same must be offered to local companies. The 35% tax rate for Maltese companies must go down gradually to 5% so as to encourage investment."

Muscat went on to outline the need of further investment in education, specifically in the training and recruitment of academic staff. "Education needs a general re-haul," he said. "We must invest in it in such a way that our students

become creative and flexible – with all the qualities allowing them to change their career paths if the need arises."

Muscat suggested that "if we must imitate", then we should take a leaf out of the book of Canada, Malaysia, Korea and Japan. "Communist countries and emerging economies are investing substantially in education. Europe must take their example if it is to compete with them," he said.

MEP candidate John Spiteri Gingell said AN's economic and educational proposals

outlined in the run-up to the March 8 General elections last year were "revolutionary".

"We suggested a monetary allowance for parents to choose what private school their children should attend," Spiteri Gingell said. "The same goes for health: why should we spend all that money with Mater Dei when the service leaves much to be desired? Why don't we have an allocation for health insurances so we can see to our health needs privately?"

ddarmanin@mediatoday.com.mt

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**TW TV/CINEMA**

**TVM**  
**20:00** L-A barrijiet **20:40**  
 Liquorish **23:00** L-A barrijiet

**NET TV**  
**19:45** NET News **20:35**  
 Taht it-Tinda **21:30** NET  
 News **21:35** Link **22:35**  
 Ekonomija **23:00** NET News  
**23:30** Konferenza Stampa

**ONE TV**  
**19:30** One TV **20:15** TX **21:30** 606  
**22:00** On D Road **23:30** One News

**CANALE 5**  
**20:00** Tg5 **20:31** Striscia la no-  
 tizia **21:11** Non smettere a sognare  
**22:11** TgCom **22:14** Non smet-  
 tere di sognare (cont.) **23:30** Matrix  
**01:30** Tg5 - Notte

**ITALIA 1**  
**18:30** Studio aperto **19:30** I Simp-  
 son **19:50** Camera Café **20:30** La



21:05 - Ghost Whisperer - Italia 1



22:40 - Medium - Rai Tre



22:40 - Evolution - Italia 1

ruota della fortuna **21:10** A testa  
 alta **22:07** TgCom **22:13** A testa  
 alta **22:40** Evolution **23:37** TgCom  
**23:43** Evolution (cont.) **00:40** Stu-  
 dio sport

**RETE 4**  
**19:23** Tg4 - Telegiornale **19:37**  
 Ieri e oggi **19:50** Tempesta d'amore  
**20:30** Nikita **21:10** Qualcosa e'  
 cambiato **22:02** TgCom **22:09**  
 Qualcosa e' cambiato (cont.) **22:52**  
 TgCom **22:59** Qualcosa e' cambiato  
 (cont.) **22:52** TgCom **22:59** Qual-

cosa e' cambiato (cont.) **23:50** I bel-  
 lissimi di R4 **23:55** Il comune senso  
 del pudore **00:55** TgCom

**RAI UNO**  
**20:00** Telegiornale **20:30** Affari Tuoi  
 Gold **21:20** Premio Barocco **23:25**  
 Tg1 **23:30** Porta a Porta **01:05** Tg1  
 Notte

**RAI DUE**  
**20:30** Tg2 20.30 **21:05** Ghost Whis-  
 perer **22:40** Elezioni Europee 2009  
 - Interviste **23:20** Tg2 **23:20** Tg2

Punto Di Vista **23:35** RaiEdu La Sto-  
 ria siamo noi **00:35** XII Round 2089  
**01:05** Reparto Corse **01:35** Al-  
 manacco **01:40** Estrazioni del lotto  
**01:45** Meteo2

**RAI TRE**  
**19:00** Tg3 **20:00** Blob **20:10** Agro-  
 dolce **20:35** Un posto al sole **21:05**  
 Elezioni Europee 2009. Conferenza  
 Stampa **22:35** Tg3 **22:40** Medium  
**23:25** Parla con me **00:10** Tg Re-  
 gione

Films released by KRS Distributors

# 12 Rounds

Finnish director Renny Harlin (Cliffhanger, Die Hard 2) brings first-time screenwriter Daniel Kunka's story to life in the fast-paced action film 12 Rounds. When New Orleans police officer Danny Fisher (WWE wrestler John Cena) apprehends Miles Jackson (Aidan Gillen, The Wire), a villainous Irishman being pursued by the FBI, Jackson's girlfriend is accidentally killed. One year later, Jackson is out of prison and seeking revenge, kidnapping Fisher's girlfriend, Molly (Ashley Scott), and setting up an elaborate game of cat and mouse that traverses the city. Now a detective, Fisher, with the help of the FBI and his fellow officers, has to survive 12 rounds of Jackson's game - each more mentally and physically challenging than the last-if he wants to see Molly alive again. Meanwhile, the roguish Jackson may be seeking more than just retribution. Although the premise is completely implausible, 12 Rounds is a fun thrill ride. Jackson's plan and Fisher's ensuing pursuit leave an un-



imaginable trail of destruction throughout the city, managing to encompass fire engines, buses, a streetcar, and a helicopter, along with fires, explosions, and blackouts, among other things. There isn't a dull mo-

ment as Fisher and the FBI agents, played by Steve Harris and Gonzalo Menendez, try to outwit the seemingly omnipotent villain. Cena, resembling a super-sized Mark Wahlberg, fits the bill for an action hero.

Gillen is a solid nemesis: heartless, stone-faced, and completely out for himself. Brian White plays Hank, Fisher's partner and best friend, and Scott is appealing as Fisher's feisty girlfriend. *Showing from June 10*

# Hunger

Renowned English video artist Steve McQueen's feature film debut, HUNGER, is a cinematic punch to the gut. McQueen brings a visceral intensity to his retelling of the hunger strike instigated by Bobby Sands (Michael Fassbender) and several other detained Irish Republican Army members in the early 1980s, who were determined to live in a Northern Ireland free from British rule. In prison, Sands and other IRA members--including Davy Gillen (Brian Milligan) and Gerry Campbell (Liam

McMahon)--at first protest by refusing to wear the standard



prison garb, but soon, they take their protest dangerously further. McQueen comes from an experimental background, and it shows. He and co-screenwriter, the acclaimed Irish playwright Enda Walsh, blow all the prison movie clichés out of the water. They break their film into three distinct acts. In the first, Gillen and Campbell are tormented by prison guards and made to suffer in a cramped,

feces-smear cell. In the second, Sands and Father Moran (Liam Cunningham) have a startling battle of wits--and emotions--that occurs in a dazzling extended one-take sequence. Lastly, we watch as Sands slowly withers away to nothing. It's impossible not to make a political film out of this furiously political material, but McQueen chooses to concentrate on the more visceral, tactile elements of the story to drive his point home. Hunger is one of the more exciting directorial debuts of recent memory. *Showing from June 10*

## AT CINEMAS TODAY

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**CITY OF MEN (14)**  
 18:30, 21:00

**EMBASSY CINEMA VALLETTA**  
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**ANGELS AND DEMONS (14)**  
 10:00, 12:45, 15:30, 18:15, 21:00  
**CRANK 2: HIGH VOLTAGE (16)**  
 14:15, 16:25, 18:35, 20:45

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2: BATTLE AT THE SMITHSONIAN (U)**  
 10:00, 12:15, 14:30, 16:45, 19:00, 21:15

**TERMINATOR SALVATION (PG)**  
 10:20, 13:45, 16:10, 18:35, 21:00

**STAR TREK (PG)**  
 13:35, 18:25

**X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (12)**  
 16:10, 21:00

**17 AGAIN (PG)**  
 14:20, 16:30, 18:40, 20:50

**EMPIRE CINEMA BUGIBBA**  
 Tel. 21 581 787, 21 581 909

**JONAS BROTHERS THE 3D CONCERT (U)**  
 14:20, 16:25, 18:25, 20:45

**TERMINATOR SALVATION (PG)**  
 15:30, 16:00, 18:30, 20:55

**ANGELS & DEMONS (14)**  
 14:15, 18:00, 21:00

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2: BATTLE AT THE SMITHSONIAN (U)**  
 14:00, 16:20, 18:40, 21:05

**X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (12)**  
 13:55, 16:15, 18:35, 21:10

**GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (14)**  
 14:05, 16:30, 18:45, 21:15

**17 AGAIN (PG)**  
 13:45, 16:00, 18:15, 20:40

**EDEN CINEMAS ST JULIANS**  
 Tel. 23 710 400

**GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (14)**  
 14:00, 16:25, 18:45, 21:05, 23:15

**TRAITOR (12)**  
 14:00, 16:25, 18:45, 21:05, 23:25

**X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (12)**  
 13:55, 16:10, 18:30, 21:15, 23:30

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2: BATTLE AT THE SMITHSONIAN (U)**  
 13:55, 16:05, 18:15, 20:55, 23:05

**HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (U)**  
 13:50, 16:05, 18:15, 20:45, 22:55

**ANGELS AND DEMONS (14)**  
 14:30, 18:10, 21:00, 23:45

**HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (14)**  
 14:15, 18:10, 20:55, 23:25

**BOLT (U)**  
 13:45, 16:00, 18:10, 20:45, 22:55

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (14)**  
 13:45, 16:15, 18:40, 21:10, 23:35

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD (16)**  
 13:50, 16:15, 18:40, 21:10, 23:35

**STAR TREK (PG)**  
 14:10, 18:00, 21:05, 23:35

**CRANK 2: HIGH VOLTAGE (18)**  
 13:55, 16:10, 18:35, 21:15, 23:20

**LESBIAN VAMPIRE KILLERS (16)**  
 14:15, 16:10, 18:20, 21:00, 23:00

**STATE OF PLAY (12)**  
 14:15, 18:20, 21:00, 23:35

**PAUL BLART: MALL COP (U)**  
 14:00, 16:00, 18:05, 20:50, 22:50

**TERMINATOR SALVATION (PG)**  
 13:50, 16:15, 18:45, 21:15, 23:40

**17 AGAIN (PG)**  
 14:10, 16:20, 18:30, 20:50, 23:00

**TW WHAT'S ON**

**NIGHTLIFE**

**JUNE 6**

**Dance Motha Dance**

A night of electro/mesh ups/ indie/bop and disco tunes, as delivered by DJs Jamie De Cesare, Bob and Rusty Cowboy at Poxx Bar, Paceville from 22:00. Entrance is at €5.

**JUNE 20**

**Club Sandwich Summer Session 1**

The alternative music nights will continue at the open-air venue of Zmerc Regatta Club, Marsamxett, Valletta from 21:00. Featuring DJ sets from Bob, Vinc and a guest DJ. Entrance is free.

**JUNE 21**

**Party Bil-Bajd**

Party organized by Pudini at Liquid Club, San Gwann. Featuring Danjeli and Legendary Sound System on decks. Doors open at 22:30. Entrance is at €5.

**MUSIC**

**JUNE 3**

**Areola Treat live at Rookies**

The band will be playing at Rookies Bar, Bugibba as part of Battle of the Bands. Doors open at 21:00.

**JUNE 13**

**X-Vandals CD launch**

The band will be releasing Breach the Silence, their second CD, with a gig at Remedy Rock Club, Paceville. They will be supported by Thy Legion and Victims of Creation. Doors open at 21:30. Entrance at €7 includes a copy of the CD and a free shooter.

**JUNE 26**

**Chasing Pandora at St James**

The band will be performing at the St James Cavalier Music



Areola Treat live at Rookies tonight

**EXHIBITIONS**

**JUNE 5 - 19**

**Strictly Valletta**

Exhibition of paintings by Madeline Gera at The Palace Hotel, High Street, Sliema.

**JUNE 5 - JULY 19**

**Police photography**

Exhibition by Stephen Bussittil at the main hall of St James Cavalier.

**JUNE 5 - JULY 14**

**Olaug Vethal (1946-2007): Drawings and Prints**

Exhibition of paintings and drawings at exhibits at Arti-

sculptures in painted terracotta by Joseph Casha at the School of Art, Old Bakery Street, Valletta.

**JUNE 13 - 27**

**Diversity in Art**

Ir-Razzett tal Markiz Mallia Tabone and L-Ghaqda Filantropika Talent Mosti will be hosting a collective exhibition featuring works by Marie Claire Albanazzo, Ray Azzopardi, William Azzopardi, Terezino Borg, Doriette Gauci Sciortino, Deborah Marmara and Darren Spiteri at the Razzett tal Markiz Mallia Tabone, Mosta. Exhibition is open daily. Meet

Arts, Valletta. Open Monday to Sunday from 09:00 - 17:00 (Last admission 16:30).

**UNTIL JUNE 16**  
**VII**

Collective exhibition by Edukarti at the Upper Galleries of St James Cavalier. The group of seven B.Ed (Hons) will each be tackling one of the Seven Deadly Sins visually.

**THEATRE**

**UNTIL JUNE 7**

**Go Zoo Goes Cabaret**

The Zoo comedy team will be presenting a cabaret themed show at The City Theatre, Old Bakery Street, Valletta. More info: 79790200/21808080. Tickets: Dual Zone in Qormi/Paola, I Centre - Pieta, Britannia Tours - Valletta, Untours - Zabbar and Right Deal - Iklin/Cospicua. Bookings: www.biljetti.com.

**JUNE 5 - 7**

**Truth or Dare**

The latest play by Du Productions will take place at the MITP, St Christopher's Street, Valletta from 20:00. Booking from St. James Cavalier 21223216/200 or boxoffice@sjcav.org

**BELLY DANCING**

**JUNE 23 - AUGUST 27**

**Tribal Belly Dance classes**

Tribal Dance Malta is organising a 10-week belly dance course at Activezone Gym, Msida (next to Junior College). Each course consists of a one-hour class once a week. The Tuesday class starts at 19:30 (except for the first three weeks where it will start at 20:00) and the Thursday class starts

at 21:00 each week. The fee for each course is €80. Availability is limited and booking recommended through tribal-dancemalta@gmail.com.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**THURSDAYS**

**Snoopy's Pub Quiz**

Quiz at Snoopy's Bar and Restaurant, Sliema starts at 20:30. The format of the event follows a typical UK pub quiz format: each table booked is considered to be a team. Quiz packs containing 40 questions on different topics are given out to each team, who would in turn be given an hour's time limit to fill in their answers. After the hour elapses, correct answers will be called out by the quizmaster, after which the winning table is announced. Winners receive a €20 discount off their bill. A free bottle of The Stump Jump (Australia), imported by Bicanter Wines, will be given to the winning table and runners up. Participation is set at €2 per person. Those interested in participating are kindly asked to contact quizmaster David Darmanin on 99458567.



Room from 21:00. Tickets are at €7, including a free copy of their new single Time. Bookings: 21223200, boxoffice@sjcav.org



tude Gallery, 17, Tigne Street, Sliema. Opening hours are 10:00 - 13:00, 16:00 - 19:00, from Tuesdays till Saturdays. More info: artitudgeallerymalta@hotmail.com or 21316708/99844653.

**UNTIL JUNE 12**

**Small is beautiful**

Exhibition of miniature

the artists between 18:00 and 21:00 Monday to Friday and between 10:00 to 12:00 and 18:00 and 21:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

**UNTIL JUNE 14**

**Compositions**

An exhibition of paintings by artist Paul Cassar at the Loggia, National Museum of Fine

