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The men who sold Victor Scerri his land

Eliza Company owners were charged with art theft and tried to evict farmers from land

**David Darmanin
Matthew Vella**

PN president Victor Scerri has confirmed that he bought his land in Bahrija from a company owned by two men, who in 1999 were charged with the theft of 15 paintings from Villa Fiorentina in Attard.

Scerri applied for a MEPA permit for his land soon after in 2000.

Norman Zammit, 56, a former Metco chairman, and Generoso Sammut, 55, were accused of stealing paintings, furniture and other items from Villa Fiorentina in Attard. They were later acquitted of the theft due to "lack of evidence".

They are two of the nine shareholders in Eliza Company Ltd, which purchased the land in



Victor Scerri

Bahrija for €2.5 million from Salvatore Consoli-Palermo-Navarra.

However, Zammit has been ordered by a court to pay back Bank of Valletta a €1.9 million loan taken out to buy the land.

Scerri confirmed with MaltaToday that he purchased the land from Eliza. "Yes... I think so, but it was a while ago and I have to check."

When asked about the involvement of Norman Zammit in the sale of the land, Scerri replied: "Yes, as far as I know, he is one of the shareholders."

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How Scerri got his permit and the spin behind Bahrija

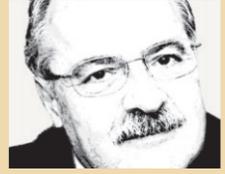
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