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Sunday, 2 August 2009 – issue 508 • www.maltatoday.com.mt

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Valletta local plan to be re-written for Piano

Matthew Vella

LAWRENCE Gonzi will rubber-stamp new planning rules for Valletta, tailor-made for Renzo Piano's design for the capital city if the City Gate project is to be approved by MEPA.

MEPA chairman Austin Walker told MaltaToday that "it would be a great loss" if Piano's project had to be hindered by local plans that could not be changed. "National projects of a certain scale, just like Smart City, require changes to local plans."

Despite slating his much maligned idea to take planning policy in his hands, Gonzi will still have to rewrite Valletta's planning rules just so Piano's designs can get the green light from MEPA. Issues concerning the architectural compatibility of Piano's designs with Valletta's urban conservation



area make it likely that Structure Plan policies will have to change.

But Walker specified that no changes will take place before MEPA receives the application for Piano's project.

"The possibility of changes to Vallet-

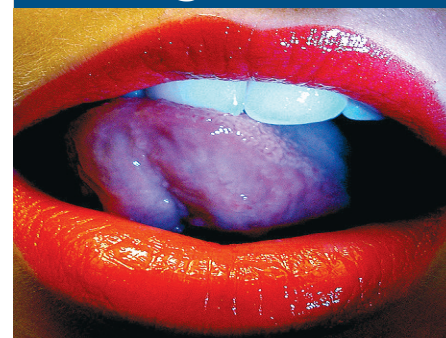
ta's traffic management plan are being studied, but this will be decided upon receiving the application," Walker said, hazarding that any changes would be solely related to traffic issues.

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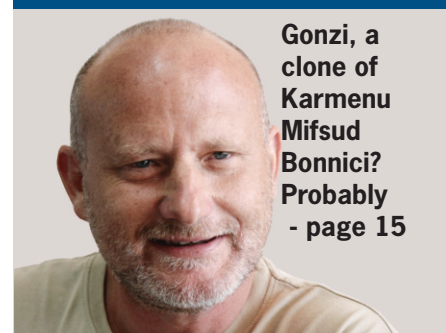
Vella advises Joseph Muscat 'to avoid confrontation' page 4 ▶

Porn again



Avid lovers of online porn? How the Maltese rank on the internet porn stats - page 12

Saviour Balzan



Gonzi, a clone of Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici? Probably - page 15

Interview



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