



'BI PJACIR'

A small turnkey firm is told their work at finance minister's house is in return for brokering the Jerma hotel sale.

Tonio Fenech denies all allegations. Turnkey firm insists it is still owed money for works.

JPM Brothers, owners of the Jerma, were trying to sell it off to the Gasan and Tumas magnates.

FINANCE Minister Tonio Fenech may have landed himself in the soup once again, over a serious altercation with a small contracting company that carried out renovation works at his new semi-detached villa in Balzan.

MaltaToday is in a position to reveal how the minister used the services of building speculators JPM Brothers (Montebello), owners of the Jerma Palace Hotel, to renovate his house.

But the sub-contractors engaged by Peter Montebello to do the works, have told this newspaper that Montebello told them they were working for the minister,

as a favour ("bi pjacir") in return for his intervention in the sale of the Jerma hotel to entrepreneurs George Fenech and Joe Gasan: with whom the minister travelled aboard George Fenech's private jet to watch Arsenal play in Spain back in April 2009.

"Peter Montebello said the works were 'bi pjacir', a favour for the minister to help him sell off the Jerma to Gasan and Fenech," Charles Magro – one of the directors of Rainbow Turnkey Projects – told this newspaper.

Magro insisted that this was also told to him personally by Tonio Fenech himself.

But the Jerma deal never took place, and with JPM finding itself in serious financial difficulty during the summer, Rainbow Projects had to turn directly to Tonio Fenech for their payment.

The pending matter was brought to the attention of the Prime Minister's personal secretary Edgar Galea Curmi by the turnkey operators themselves. No action has been taken as yet.

Finance Minister Tonio Fenech is vehemently denying allegations that JPM carried out the works in return for his intervention on a business deal.

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