

**SKY Virtual PBX**  
 Now with fixed lines on your mobile.  
**€4.50** a month  
 ... Built For Business  
 www.sky.com.mt



## PN backbencher speaks out on Gonzi's 'preferential' treatment for Franco Debono



**PHILIP MIFSUD: 'Dangerous precedent subjects Lawrence Gonzi to blackmail'**

PRIME Minister Lawrence Gonzi is facing further unrest in his parliamentary backbench, as appealing MP Franco Debono has irked other MPs who claim Gonzi has set a precedent for "preferential" treatment.

Accommodating Debono after his stunt in which he missed out on a parliamentary vote in December, forcing the Speaker to cast his vote, has triggered more discontent on the backbench, to the extent that even the most lamblike of MPs are now speaking out.

Zebbug MP Philip Mifsud has come out to publicly question Gonzi's wisdom in taking the Franco Debono issue "so lightly" and giving him the limelight and attention he was looking for.

"This is a very dangerous precedent. God forbid this attitude continues to spread among the rest of us, because MPs will simply start to subject government and the Prime Minister to blackmail, which is totally unacceptable," Mifsud said.

**page 5**

INTERVIEW 14-15



**DOUGLAS KMIEC**  
US Ambassador

NEWS 2-13



**Back to black - job seeking in Marsa**

OPINION 17-23



**Saviour Balzan**  
pg19  
**How flying saucers provoked hysteria**

OPINION 17-23



**Raphael Vassallo**  
pg15  
**TV listings pgs 34-35**

## Insider reveals change in policy at Contracts Dept.

**MATTHEW VELLA**

THE Department of Contracts relaxed a policy that previously disqualified tenderers whose accounts were not filed with the financial services authority (MFSA), to make them eligible to tender for government and

**'Tenderers don't need to have accounts in order to qualify for public or EU funded tenders'**

EU-funded contracts.

An insider to the adjudicating process has revealed with MaltaToday that complaints received by firms with overdue annual returns, had forced the hand of the contracts department into relenting on its strict policy.

**page 4**



### Your new one-stop shop in Birkirkara

Visit our newly opened and centrally located offices in **Birkirkara**. We're located at the very beginning of Psaila Street, just opposite the bus terminus. Come by and see what we can do for you!

Three companies - one address: 1, Psaila Street, B'Kara BKR 9070

Atlas Insurance PCC

Tel: 21 49 20 00

Atlas Investment Services

Tel: 23 26 56 90

Jesmond Mizzi Financial Services

Tel: 21 22 44 10

[atlas.com.mt](http://atlas.com.mt) [jmfs.net](http://jmfs.net)

Atlas Insurance PCC Limited is a cell company licensed by the Malta Financial Services Authority to carry on general insurance business. The non-cellular assets of the company may be used to meet losses incurred by the cells in excess of their assets. Atlas Investment Services Limited (AISL) and Jesmond Mizzi Financial Services Limited who have agreed to merge are licensed to conduct Investment Services business by the Malta Financial Services Authority. AISL is a Member Firm of the Malta Stock Exchange.