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Caqnu: I built Super One roof



Stone Age donations: Charles Polidano 'ic-Caqnu' supplies free truckloads of stone to Nationalists while building Labour's roof for free

JULIA FARRUGIA

FOUR out of six of Malta's top entrepreneurs and building contractors have openly admitted to making contributions, either in cash or in kind, to the two main political parties.

Days after PN secretary general Joe Saliba revealed in a newspaper interview that his party accepts secret donations from building contractors, MaltaToday Midweek contacted Malta's leading construction magnates and asked them if they finance the two political parties.

Nazzareno Vassallo – the contractor currently building the PN headquarters in Pietà, and on whose private yacht Joe Saliba went on a controversial Mediterranean cruise last week – gruffly told us that what he does with his money remains his affair. But he stopped short of denying the rumours, fuelled by Saliba's candid remarks to The Times on Saturday, that he finances the PN and/or MLP.

"I don't want to tell you what I do with my money and how I use

it," he snapped over the phone. "It is simply up to me what I do with my cash."

However, other leading contractors were more forthcoming in their replies. Charles Polidano, Anglu Xuereb and Karmenu Penza all openly declared that they have financed the two parties on various occasions, although only Xuereb was willing to reveal the amounts of his contributions, claiming that these amounted to around Lm1,000 each.

"My last donations were about two years ago, if I remember correctly," Xuereb said. But now that he has himself entered politics with the newly formed Azzjoni Nazzjonali, he added that his days as a party financier are now behind him.

For his part, Polidano denied making any cash donations to parties, but nonetheless admitted to carrying out construction work free of charge for both parties.

"Now and again I give them truckloads of stone, free of charge," he said with specific reference to the building of the PN

MORE ON POLITICAL PARTY FINANCING

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headquarters. Polidano also built the screed shuttering (kontrabett) of the Super One premises in Marsa.

Sandro Chetcuti of Sandro Estates also confirmed that he has "helped the PN with reasonable amounts" in the past... although he also hinted that nowadays, the big parties seem to no longer appreciate "reasonable" donations such as Lm100. **▶ page 6**

CONTRACTORS SPILL BEANS ON PARTY DONATIONS Pages 6-7 ▶



Zaren Vassallo

"What I do with my money is none of your business"



Anglu Xuereb

"I gave to both parties and kept the receipts"



George Muscat

"I am a floating voter: 100 per cent no funding"



Karmenu Penza

"Everyone knows I built the Super One complex"



Sandro Chetcuti

"I give to Opposition parties to strengthen democracy"



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