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Austin Gatt pages 12-13

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61% of inmates serve for a second time

James Debono
 WITH 61 per cent of Corradino's 232 inmates having served more than one term in prison, the Correctional Facility may well be called a "university of crime".
 Further proof that prison is failing in its correctional mission is that 44 per cent of prisoners have served more than three

terms in prison.
 And if prison is serving as a university of crime, 26 hardcore inmates deserve a doctorate: they have entered prison at least seven times.
 The figures released in parliament raise serious questions on whether prison is indeed succeeding in rehabilitating inmates. Prisoner rights activist

Mark Montebello described the situation as "shameful" and proof that the prison system does not offer any rehabilitation at all.
 But the figures do not seem to do justice to the work conducted by the prison authorities to help prisoners reform. Speaking to MaltaToday, Corradino prison director Sandro Gatt gives concrete ▶ page 7



University of crime: 44 per cent of prisoners have served more than three terms in prison

Cabinet reshuffle: 66% agree

James Debono
 TWO-THIRDS OF respondents in MaltaToday's October survey want a government reshuffle but an

absolute majority found themselves in great difficulty when asked who should exit and who should enter the Cabinet.
 When asked which Nationalist

backbencher or parliamentary secretary deserves a promotion to the Cabinet, respondents were at a greater loss with 71.5 per cent unable to mention a single name. ▶ page 8



Kim Jong Il - See page 11 Alfred Sant - See page 14 Bertu Mizzi - See page 7

PN's Independence slogan was not smart – Minister Austin Gatt

THE ARCHITECT of Malta's internet village, Smart City has declared he disagreed with his party's coining of the slogan "Int@SmartMalta" as the theme for its Independent Day festivities last September.
 Investments Minister Austin Gatt responded with a resounding no at being asked by MaltaToday whether it was wise for the PN to use the buzzword "smart" at a time when negotiations with Dubai's Tecom were still ongoing.

PN secretary-general Joe Saliba had denied any link between Smart City and the party's Independence Day slogan, claiming it simply underlined the PN's intention of "making Malta elegant".
 Gatt was also definitely not one of the "group of people" who according to Saliba chose the slogan, telling MaltaToday in an interview that he only got to know about the slogan from newspapers.
 Gatt has also said that although the project is very close to his heart he

is not willing to do it at all costs. He revealed that when setting the ground rent for the different components of the project the government will be distinguishing between land earmarked for IT purposes, and land for tourism and real estate purposes.
 He also revealed that no change of use from hotels to apartments will be allowed without the consent of the Maltese government.
 See interview pages 12-13

HSBC field candidate for BOV board of directors

Matthew Vella
 SHAUN WALLIS, the chief executive of HSBC Malta, has

seconded the nomination of a board director at its rival Bank of Valletta in a highly unexpected move for BOV, this newspaper can confirm –

leaving astounded BOV shareholders who are aware of this nomination seriously concerned over the news. ▶ page 10

L-Istrina beneficiaries apply to present L-Istrina

Karl Schembri
 THE ANNUAL PBS charity telethon I-Istrina held on Boxing Day is bound to end up being organised by one of the recipients of parts of the funds usually raised, as the only two tenders last Friday were submitted by Razzett tal-Hbiberija, and a joint collaboration by the Eden Foundation and Sign It, called the Charity Consortium.
 The national station took the decision to issue a call for tenders for the charity event after its long-standing presenter and Where's

Everybody's director Peppi Azzopardi decided to call it a day last year. Observers commented that it is already very late in the day for any of the two bidders to live up to expectations and organise the massive event that usually includes prizes given away to donors every minute.
 Even more controversial is the station's decision to issue a call for tenders in what looks like a commercial venture despite the charity cause of I-Istrina, including a request for bank guarantees. ▶ page 5

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