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John Bencini

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'I'll be watching you'

WATCH out – they'll be checking on you from above.

Government will tomorrow launch its latest enforcement strategy from the skies in a bid to ensure no development takes place outside development zones – aerial pictures of every inch of the Maltese islands will be used to compare pictures with different date-lines to keep tabs on all

developments.

Once confirmed, the full force of the enforcement procedures will be unleashed and any new illegality acted upon expeditiously.

Last Monday, the Cabinet gave the green light to the new scheme, captained by Environment Minister George Pullicino, which aims to galvanise the Mal-



ta Environment and Planning Authority's enforcement arm.

The new scheme is bad news for those who think they can get away with illegal constructions from now on: whether it's cementing over a garden, the illegal construction of a swimming pool, or building a small room in a field, the new aerial photos will catch any

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Auditor reappointed in last-minute decision

MATTHEW VELLA

AUDITOR General Joseph G. Galea's tenure was yesterday extended within just an hour of MaltaToday's enquiries with the Office of the Prime Minister over the finalisation of one of the National Audit Office's most politically charged of audits.

At 5.42 pm yesterday, the OPM decided Galea would continue reporting for work after MaltaToday confirmed the outgoing Galea would not be presenting Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi with the crucial audit on the procurement of air tickets by government ministries – as yet unfinished on Galea's last day of work.

The audit was believed to be an "investigation" of John Dalli's operation at the foreign ministry prior to his resignation in 2004, before MaltaToday confirmed it was actually a comprehensive analysis of all the ministries' purchasing procedures.

Joseph G. Galea will continue in his role as Auditor General until a successor is found to head the NAO, whose mandate includes the annual financial audit of all government offices and public entities.

Three years since Dalli first suggested the audit in his resignation letter, the report is allegedly in its "final stages".

Believed to have been the basis upon which Gonzi accepted John Dalli's resignation, the former minister has recently stated that the purchase of Lm40,000 in air tickets from Tourist Resources Ltd had been "the excuse used by the prime minister to accept my resignation, short of not being accused of any wrongdoing."

The impression that the former

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Close call as Mifsud re-elected by a measly three votes

GERALD FENECH

THE tension was palpable at the Malta Football Association's headquarters as association vice-president Carmelo Bartolo counted the votes for the two contestants for the post of MFA president.

As the votes swayed between the two rival candidates, the monotone call of 'Darmanin Demajo' and 'Dr Mifsud' were the only words that mattered as delegates and journalists feverishly ticked away on the counting sheet.

At one point, challenger Norman Darmanin Demajo, once the association's treasurer before falling out with incumbent and long-standing president Joe Mifsud, found himself eight votes clear of Mifsud. Much akin to



Joe Mifsud: Phew, I made it again

Photo by Gilbert Calleja

a fever-pitched general election, the contest peaked when both candidates reached 48 votes each until Mifsud's clout won him the final three votes, much to the jubilation of his numerous supporters who erupted into a roar of jubilation once the 51-vote mark was passed.

The final result was 52 votes for Joe Mifsud and 49 votes for Norman Darmanin Demajo, a much closer shave than what Mifsud's supporters were expecting. The crestfallen expressions on the faces of Darmanin Demajo's supporters, especially San Gwann delegate Bjorn Vassallo, showed the extent of their disappointment.

Delegates who spoke to MaltaToday after the vote said that Darmanin Demajo had a much stronger showing amongst

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Agreement signed with investigated importer

KARL SCHEMBRI
CHARLOT ZAHRA

THE Prime Minister yesterday finally signed the Pharmacy of Your Choice agreement with a pharmacy owners' representative who is under investigation for allegedly importing fake drugs.

GRTU Vice-President Mario Debono and head of the pharmacy owners' section was in Castile yesterday morning together with the Chamber of Pharmacists President Mary Ann Sant Fournier, to sign the agreement after months of negotiations with government.

Debono has been under police investigation and the subject of a

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LIBYA: A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY - JOHN DALLI, SEE PAGE 17

EMMANUEL MICALLEF WOODED BY MLP - SEE PAGE 3

'TERRINU' ETTORE BONO - SAVIOUR BALZAN, SEE OPINION PAGE 15

THREE POLICE OFFICERS IN MMA SCANDAL - PAGE 6

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