

# maltatoday

**CLASSIFIEDS**

See page 40 ▶

**THIS WEEK**

See page 31 ▶

**CINEMA / TV**

See page 35 ▶

Sunday, 13 January 2008 – issue 427

www.maltatoday.com.mt

## After the storm, Galea is asked to resign

Pullicino deems position of MEPA Deputy Chairman Catherine Galea 'untenable' after MaltaToday investigation

**KARL SCHEMBRI**

CATHERINE Galea, the deputy chairman at the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, has been asked by the environment minister to resign.

The decision follows MaltaToday's story detailing her involvement in an illegal development on a green area that led to the partial destruction of a valley in Santa Marija Estate, Mellieha. Minister George Pullicino told the deputy chairman her position was "untenable", and the Prime Minister is reported to have supported Pullicino in his decision.

The story in last Sunday's MaltaToday led George Pullicino's top officials to look into the matter.

MaltaToday was told that Galea is expected to submit her resignation tomorrow after meeting with George Pullicino earlier this week. "My client will be offering her resignation from the MEPA board," her lawyer told MaltaToday in an email sent Friday evening.

He had written earlier in the week to clarify that MaltaToday had confused Catherine Galea with the namesake applicant of the project on which the deputy chairman was acting as architect.

But the lawyer representing Galea could not divert attention from the central issue that the deputy chairman, acting as architect for a client, had ignored planning procedures and allowed an illegal construction to take place.

▶ pages 10-11



pgs 12-13

**Interview**  
**TONY CASSAR DARIEN**



**analysis** pgs 6-7

**Private affairs: Politics and privacy**



**feature** pg 9

**Voices from the silent Holocaust**

## No amnesties for undeclared cash

PRIME Minister Lawrence Gonzi has told his ministers he is against the issuing of amnesties to those who have undeclared Maltese lira, despite the millions in undeclared cash still hoarded inside Maltese homes and which still need to be converted into euros.

With the present strict money laundering laws in vigour, customers who deposit more than Lm5,000 are obliged to declare

the source of the money.

It is an open secret that undeclared millions, mainly from the sale of undervalued property sales, are the main source of the black money which confirms the extent of tax evasion in Malta over the years.

An official spokesman for the Prime Minister confirmed with MaltaToday that there was immense pressure from 'different quarters' for the Prime Minister,

who also serves as finance minister, to offer an amnesty.

"The Prime Minister has no intention of coming out with an amnesty," the spokesman said.

The news will be welcomed by the vast majority of salaried workers and bona fide taxpayers but will come as a shock to the thousands who still have to register their undeclared thousands in Maltese lira to convert

them into euros.

Money withdrawn or exchanged since the introduction of the euro amounted to €185 million as of last Wednesday, but this is no indication of how much of the undeclared money in Maltese lira was actually converted. The process to determine how much undeclared cash actually entered into the banking system is expected to take years.



**Hail the Euro!**

**news** pg 5

## Top MLP official leaked Sant's confidential health info

A senior, elected Labour official is being named by government sources as the mole behind the leak to the Sunday Times on the state of health of Labour leader Alfred Sant.

Sant had a growth in his colon removed in a major operation, but the Sunday Times reported the growth to be malignant, even though medical bulletins issued by the MLP and surgeon Anthony Zammit had never confirmed this information.

"I can assure you we would not tolerate such spin or gossiping on such a very personal matter," a government source said yesterday.

"Furthermore, the medical team consisted of three top consultants who are all respected and known for their Labour sympathies, as were the paramedics who served on the team. It was next to impossible for the personal medical history to have been divulged by any of this team.

"I am sorry, but the real source of Dr Sant's condition was divulged by one of his closest collaborators who spoke directly to journalists, an individual well known for his leadership ambitions."

The sources were reacting to last week's story in MaltaToday on Sunday, quoting a senior Labour official, and a Sant acolyte, insisting that confidential information on Sant had been divulged by Mater Dei staff.

But government sources hit back saying they remained tight-lipped when approached by journalists enquiring on Sant's state of health, even though they were aware of certain details. Everyone from Mater Dei superintendent Dr Frank Bartolo, to top government officials were expressly told not to talk to the press. "On such serious matters we have no intention of scoring political points," MaltaToday was told.

Malta's finest.

VICTOR ZAMMIT | Valletta Baker | One bakery, three generations and two hundred years of Maltese bread. TABLE: London, by Colico

The January Select Sale Event

Special offers on selected showroom items.

**fino**<sup>®</sup>  
www.fino.com.mt