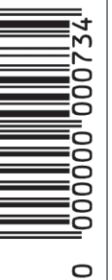




**INTERVIEW**  
**ERIC GERMAN PGS 12-13**

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Sunday, 24 August 2008 – issue 459

## Dalli tells sex health expert to 'zip up'



Gagged: Dr Philip Carabot has been silenced by the health ministry

**RAPHAEL VASSALLO**

DR Philip Carabot – head of the genito-urinary clinic at the Boffa Hospital, and an outspoken advocate for a national policy on sexual health – has been prevented by Social Policy Minister John Dalli from giving media interviews or talking to the press.

When contacted, Dr Carabot confirmed that he was officially “still awaiting a reply” to two separate requests for media interviews in recent weeks: one with It-Torca, and the other with Sunday Circle. With no reply forthcoming from the ministry, both interviews have had to be cancelled.

“I have since found out in a roundabout way that permission was withheld,” Dr Carabot

said, adding that while it was understandable that some form of official clearance would be required, the procedure appears to have changed for the more complicated in recent months.

“As things stand now I have to first go through a three-tiered permission procedure,” he explained. “First I apply to the chairman of the Dermatology Department, Dr Lawrence Scerri. He then applies to the Director-General of Hospitals, Dr John Cachia, who in turns forwards the request to the Health Ministry’s communications co-ordinator for final clearance.”

Theoretically banned from communicating with the press, Dr Carabot was reluctant to give this newspaper any further details. However, he did express his own personal disappointment at the decision.

pg 15 >

**Fishy business indeed – PAGES 8-9**

**Tracing a tragedy – PAGES 10-11**

## How Smart is the City?

**JAMES DEBONO**

MALTA'S heritage watchdogs, the Superintendence of Fortifications and the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage are up in arms against the obliteration of St Peter's Battery, a unique World War II relic, to make way for 77 townhouses in the Smart City project.

The heritage guardians are also concerned that another 50 villas, to be constructed near Fort St Rocco, will affect the integrity of the site.

The developers reacted to the objection by slightly modifying their plans for the construction

of villas beneath Fort St Rocco and the St Peter's area. But in his written reaction to the Environmental Impact Study, commissioned by the developers, Superintendent for Fortifications Stephen C. Spiteri did not mince his words in exposing the developers' complete disregard for the country's cultural heritage.

“Hardly any attempt whatsoever has been made by the designers of the said project to incorporate any of the historical military features, together with their setting, within the overall design and layout of the proposed Smart City,” wrote Spiteri in his comments on the EIS.

pg 7 >

## Daphne faces court libel for calling Joseph Muscat a 'vagina'



EVER thought of the link between female genitalia and politics? If not, you surely have not read Daphne Caruana Galizia's blog yet.

The acerbic columnist went as far as describing the Labour leader as a “vagina” - using the highly obscene Maltese Semitic version, albeit crudely misspelt - on her online blog, in an article about the GWU rally for shipyard workers.

It is not the first time she has used highly insulting adjectives to describe Labourites, but this time she will be facing the wrath of MLP deputy leader Toni Abela in court.

Writing last Tuesday on l-orizzont under the heading “This ‘woman,’” (the latter word in inverted commas) Abela expressed his incredulity at how the columnist could get away with all her

verbal abuse, when any other columnist would be “grilled in hell” if he or she had to describe a Nationalist leader in the same vein.

Challenging her to a debate about her prejudices “even in English, just in case she doesn't know Maltese,” Abela said he has collected a handful of her articles that were “clearly libellous”, to sue her in court.

“Thank you Daphne, because if I have not yet cooled off when I return to work, you will probably be paying my next holiday, and the subsequent ones,” the deputy leader wrote.

Asked whether he had cooled off since Tuesday, Abela hinted he hadn't.

In the same article, Caruana Galizia described Sammy Meilaq as “an ugly bastard”, and Man-

wel Cuschieri as having the “face and personality” of Frankenstein's monster.

In other recent comments on blogs, she hinted that males who approved of the new Labour leader were closet homosexuals, and even speculated openly about the colour of Joseph Muscat's pubic hair.

And yet, just last February the same Daphne Caruana Galizia complained of “unfair reporting” by Super One, when her son had told a station's cameraman to “f\*\*\* off” during the debate between political leaders on campus before the election.

Read also Saviour Balzan's opinion page 21



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