



Priceclub creditors call for criminal action

MATTHEW VELLA

AT a meeting held yesterday for the creditors of the former Priceclub supermarket chain, some 100 business representatives demanded that liquidator Andrew Borg Cardona write a letter to the Commissioner of Police to order criminal action

to be taken against the Priceclub directors.

Accompanied by lawyers and accountants, over 300 people packed the Chamber of Commerce for a meeting called by Borg Cardona, who will be embarking on a 'hunt' for any assets left over from Priceclub and its directors, for partitioning ▶ **page 8**



Victor Zammit, the former Priceclub director and shareholder

Arbitration centre in limbo after judge rules tribunal to be 'unconstitutional'

Government to appeal judgement - Mifsud Bonnici

THE government is expected to appeal against a judgement by the First Hall of the Civil Court, which last week declared the Arbitration Centre's composition to be "unconstitutional".

Legal sources claim the decision effectively offers a recourse to stop cases from being heard before the arbitration tribunal, where parties can choose their own arbitrators and when to hold court sittings on cases of motor collisions or insurance claims be-

low Lm5,000.

But the parliamentary secretary in the Ministry for Home Affairs and Justice, Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici yesterday expressed his disagreement with Mr Justice Tonio Mallia's judgement, defending the set-up of the Malta Arbitration Centre.

Judge Mallia, himself a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of the UK, declared that mandatory arbitration was neither independent nor impartial because its adju-

dicators did not enjoy security of tenure, nor independence from the executive.

The case concerned a claim filed in the Small Claims Tribunal by Anthony Grech against Claire Calleja to pay Lm404.70 in damages sustained in a car crash.

Calleja pleaded that the action was null and void as all matters concerning motor vehicle collisions had to be referred to the Arbitration Centre for mandatory arbitration. The case ▶ **page 7**

THE TRAGEDY OF OUR EMPTY HOMES

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How Malta's empty houses exploded by 17,000 to a massive 53,126 in just 10 years



BONDI BLUES - No love lost between Labour secretary-general Jason Micallef and Bondiplus presenter Lou Bondi after last Monday's change of programme schedule

Micallef claims Lou Bondi is 'not impartial'

KARL SCHEMBRI

LASHING out at TV presenter Lou Bondi for his "impossibility of ever being impartial with Labour", MLP secretary general Jason Micallef yesterday defended his party's decision to veto last Monday's Bondiplus.

Micallef complained to the Broadcasting Authority last Friday, urging the television watchdog to intervene and stop Bondi from holding an analysis of Alfred Sant's budget reply, despite deputy leader Charles

Mangion's earlier confirmation that he would attend for the programme.

The authority ordered the presenter not to go ahead with the programme, unleashing his outrage at the power granted by the BA to the opposition in getting a programme scrapped just by virtue pulling out of a programme.

"This is unheard of," Bondi said on his programme last Monday, hitting out at the BA and comparing it to an authority straight from Zimbabwe in what he described as a protest programme. "Now ▶ **page 7**



JUVE IN MALTA

The Old Lady of Italian football to play Valletta FC in January - see page 3

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