

# THE SUNDAY TIMES

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FA Cup third round

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## Community Chest Fund

# NGO chief threatens to resign if he is 'undermined'

Ariadne Massa

Voluntary Organisations' Commissioner Kenneth Wain cannot comprehend why the Malta Community Chest Fund (MCCF) is refusing to enrol with his office and has threatened to resign if his authority continues to be undermined.

"The years 2008 and 2009 were a struggle on my part to get the government on board to buy into its own law. If things don't change in 2010 and I reach the conclusion

**"I don't take decisions based on whims; I work with the law"**

there is no way forward, then the honourable way for me would be not to continue as a commissioner," Prof. Wain told *The Sunday Times*.

His comments come a day after the MCCF, chaired by President George Abela, said it was not pre-

pared to enrol as a voluntary organisation "just to satisfy the whim of whoever has a different opinion".

Reacting, Prof. Wain said: "I'm the commissioner and I take my role very, very seriously. I don't take decisions based on whims; I work with the law."

Last Thursday, *The Times* reported complaints by enrolled organisations in the Council for the Voluntary Sector, which said the MCCF had received preferential treatment since it had been allowed to raise funds during the marathon *L-Istrina* even though it had not registered with the commissioner.

The MCCF had failed to reply to questions from the newspaper before the story went to print, but the following day invoked a right of reply under the Press Act insisting it had utter respect for the law and had not registered because the Attorney General's office advised it was not dutybound to enrol.

However, Prof. Wain said this had never been an issue because the AG was right when he said the MCCF could choose whether to enrol or not.

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## Chambray cracks



The Fort Chambray project developers have defended restoration works despite worrying cracks around the historic fort. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli » See story on page 5

## New water, electricity rates could 'jeopardise ST's future'

Mark Micallef

The new water and electricity bills could jeopardise the future of giant microchip maker ST Microelectronics in Malta, the government was told during high level talks.

Discussions on the future of the Franco-Italian microchip maker have been ongoing for the past two years. However, in the past weeks they have been concentrated on the new water and electricity bills, which, one industry source said could go up by as much as 65 per cent for the Kirkop-based factory.

The plant is eligible for the new reduced night tariff, introduced with the new bills approved by the energy regulator just under three weeks ago. However, the full hike was extended on commercial accounts unlike the changes in October 2008, when the bills were raised to more or less current levels.

The company's management has produced an index table for the government which shows that the energy costs in Malta under the new tariffs will be among the highest in all of its plants across the world.

An industry source said: "The government has been told that the current bills could jeopardise the company's future here... the management said their presentation was being evaluated."

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE FOR FILING OF MISSING RETURNS

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