

MMDNA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
30th March, 2011

Closing address by The Hon Chief Justice
Emeritus Professor J.J. Cremona,
Council Chairman.

Both the report of the Chairman of the Board of Management and the Hon. Treasurer's Statement on the Audited Accounts have given us a clear picture of both our performance and our finances in the past year, and I wish once more to thank them on behalf of us, here.

Again it has been another successful year for MMDNA from all angles and more especially from the operational one. It is gratifying to note that it has managed to keep up with the ever increasing workload, year after year.

I note, however, not without regret, that the long awaited contract with the Health Authorities is not yet in operation. Although there has been valid cooperation at cordial meetings and appreciable progress has been made, it still requires to be finalized. As we have heard from the Chairman of the Board of Management, some new clauses have been added by the other side at the last minute, which the Board has felt unable to accept.

On a positive note, I should like to mention the visit of His Excellency the President of Malta Dr George Abela last October. He had very nice words for us and we were all very delighted to welcome him amongst us.

On behalf of you all, I should like to offer my grateful thanks to Ms Helen Muscat who has resigned from the Council for health reasons and I am pleased to note that our Association has forwarded a small but meaningful donation to Mrs Muscat's favourite charity the Action for Breast Cancer Foundation. I have also sent her a personal letter of thanks.

I also wish you to consider this address of mine as a valedictory. I have humbly served MMDNA for many many years – too many perhaps – and it is with heavy heart that I tender my resignation as Chairman of the MMDNA Council to this General Meeting, which represents not only the structural bodies of our Association but also its entire membership.

I have loved MMDNA and I am proud to have offered my small contribution to its well-being and perhaps also, in a small measure, to its success. Whatever guidance I have been able to give it came straight from my heart. But we must all agree that we need new blood.

So my customary final vote of thanks takes a different dimension and has for me a special significance this time, and also comes with perhaps a touch of emotion.

My heartfelt thanks are due to all of you, Major Stanley Clews who has ably steered the Board of Management for this last five years, the gallant Mrs Grace Jaccarini who, apart from being a Council member has now also been attending the monthly meetings of the Board of Management Meetings as its Vice Chairperson while leading the MMDNA delegation in talks with the Health Authorities on the Contract, my colleagues on the Council and members of the Board of Management, as well as our dedicated professional and administrative staff, and all members of our Association who loyally continue to support us. A special word of thanks goes to our wonderful nurses and midwives who keep smiling, under what are sometimes trying conditions in their daily rounds. Thank you all and all the best for the future.