

Committee to tackle İskele sea pollution

A "REGIONAL committee" will be set up to deal with the wastewater problem at İskele long beach, Interior Minister Ziya Öztürkler has announced.

Mr Öztürkler made the announcement after he called a meeting with officials at the Interior Ministry to discuss the matter.

Last week it was reported that bathing waters at İskele Public Beach contain dangerous levels of bacteria such as E. coli, with the source of the contamination traced back to toilets at a construction site.

According to the statement issued by the ministry, the meeting, held on Tuesday, was attended by İskele District Governor Ertuğrul Toroslu, İskele Mayor Hasan Sadıkoğlu, Cyprus Turkish Construction Contractors Association president Cafer Gürcafer, Interior Ministry undersecretary Mesut Ener, Local Administrations director Cenk Dökmen, officials from the Basic Health Services Department and Environmental Department, local businesspeople and contractors.

Mr Öztürkler said that "pre-



Interior Minister Ziya Öztürkler, centre, during the meeting. Above, the front page of last week's *Cyprus Today*.

serving the appeal of the İskele coast and sea" plays a "very important role in strengthening the state, supporting regional businesses and increasing national income".

"Our businesspeople and our state will suffer if we don't protect our seas and public health," he continued. "This is very worthwhile for us as we have dropped everything to come together to find a solution."

Mr Öztürkler pointed out the importance of forming a regional committee under the coordination of the municipali-

ty and district governorship in which "all stakeholders will take part to find short- and long-term solutions".

He added: "It is very pleasing that local businesspeople are ready to contribute financially and technically for a fund to be created under this committee."

"Our duty is to complete the work that will ensure the formation of this structure in accordance with legal regulations and to ensure that the sewage and wastewater treatment system project for the İskele area comes to life as soon as possible."



3,000TL 'not enough' to cover elderly care costs

STATE support of 3,000TL a month to meet the costs of elderly care is not enough, the head of the Association of Elderly Rights and Mental Health, Hatice Jenkins, has said.



Prof Jenkins, (pictured) in an interview with *Cyprus Today's* sister newspaper *Kıbrıs*, noted that there could be "extremely dangerous consequences" because the money paid to care homes is insufficient to cover expenses such as food and drinks, medication and adult nappies.

Indicating that care homes may cut back on their expenses, Prof Jenkins said that this may cause incidents like that at the Sınırüstü Care Home, where elderly people were being neglected, to be repeated.

"The money that care homes receive is not enough," she said. "The social welfare assistance provided is around 3,000TL [per month per person]."

"This money buys medication, adult nappies and food. Care homes have to use electricity [and] are trying to cover all this with the money they receive."

"However, even the cost of electricity has increased significantly. As the situation continues, care homes will have to compromise on quality. So they will use fewer nappies and will not be able to get medicine."

Prof Jenkins noted that an elderly person in need of care cannot stay at home and cannot afford to pay a carer with 3,000TL a month.

She said that elderly people can suffer from bedsores, or fall and hurt themselves when they are left home alone, adding that it is a form of "abuse" for the children of elderly people in need of care to leave them alone, for example to go to work.

Noting that elderly people living in care homes are also from the "poorest parts of society", Prof Jenkins continued: "We have heard that the capacity of the care home in Lapta is insufficient and the one in Kalkanlı will be closed. It really is still a tangled mess."

Prof Jenkins said that care homes should receive the equivalent of "at least the minimum wage" in order to take care of an elderly person.

"The minimum wage is 7,000TL, [but] even this is insufficient," she said. "If they can't get this then their medicine, food and nappy expenses cannot be covered. The Finance Ministry and other relevant ministries should do the necessary calculations."

Doctors fit heart device in former President Eroğlu



Derviş Eroğlu at Near East University Hospital before the ICD was fitted

DOCTORS at Near East University Hospital (NEUH) in Lefkoşa have implanted an ICD (implantable cardioverter defibrillator) in former President Derviş Eroğlu.

A statement from NEUH said that Dr Eroğlu, who served as the TRNC's third President from 2010 to 2015, was fitted with the ICD during a 40-minute procedure on Tuesday.

He had been admitted to the hospital on Sunday with complaints of high blood pressure and "short-term loss of consciousness" and was placed under observation at the hospital as a precaution.

The procedure to implant the ICD was "successfully performed" by NEUH cardiology department chief Prof Dr Hamza Duygu and Prof Dr Levent Cerit.

Prof Duygu explained that the ICD was implanted after tests on Dr Eroğlu, 84, revealed he had a "decrease in heart rhythm" and "tachycardia attacks". He added that Dr Eroğlu was doing well after the procedure.

On Sunday Dr Eroğlu's daughter Resmiye Canaltay issued a statement denying some reports claiming that her father had died.

WHAT IS AN ICD USED FOR?

According to the NEUH statement, unlike normal pacemakers, ICDs are used when blood pressure drops due to a drop in or accelerated heart rhythm and in cases that may cause fainting.

They said that the ICD automatically detects the irregularity and returns the heart rhythm to normal with electroshock.

□ Industrial estate sewage problem 'being resolved', page 10

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