



## **MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION**

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### **Press Release**

#### **MEA appeals for an objective Portrayal of Employers**

The Malta Employers' Association expressed its concerns about sweeping statements made during recent parliamentary sessions that are casting a negative image of employers in general. Among such statements were references to employers that are abusing of part timers by not giving them their pro rata benefits, or else by turning part time employment into self employment.

The Association stated that, amongst the thousands of employers on the island, the vast majority offer decent conditions of work to their employees, even when faced with adverse market conditions. Any contention of abuse should be backed with relevant statistics to shed light of the extent of the problem before spreading the perception that all employers exploit their employees.

There are also a number of unfair allegations being directed against particular sectors of the economy such as the gaming sector. MEA said that the gaming industry is generating hundreds of productive jobs in Malta, and the impression that the majority of these jobs are taken by foreigners is erroneous. In fact, the majority of people working in this sector are Maltese who are often benefiting from remuneration packages that are well above average. This is a high value added service which needs to be nurtured, and the fact that many companies are setting up operations in Malta is contributing to the current economic growth. Employees of foreign nationality are also generating positive spillover effects in various areas of economic activity such as the property market, entertainment and transport.

The MEA added that, while it condemns any illegal practices by employers, responsible politicians should appreciate the contribution of employers to the generation of wealth and productive jobs through which the whole community benefits, and to be more specific when they find the need to point towards alleged abusive behaviour. A negative portrayal of employers will only have a harmful effect on business confidence and consequently threaten the livelihood of many.