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Media Release

MEA voices concern about employment at Water Services Corporation

The Malta Employers' Association voiced its concern about the engagement of 150 fitters at the Water Services Corporation, stating that while it is doubtful that these persons will be productively employed within the WSC, many of them will have been attracted to the WSC from the private sector, as there are hardly any fitters on the unemployment line. The Association added that this drain on human resources in the private sector is leading to artificial wage inflation, plus increasing demand for foreign workers to compensate for skills shortages. MEA said that competition within the labour market can be healthy as it encourages labour mobility and offers employees prospects of better conditions of employment. However, employers in the private sector cannot compete with promises of financial packages and lax working hours which are funded by the taxpayers.

The Association said that while it is recognised that any organisation may conduct recruitment exercises in line with its human resources and business objectives, in such cases the corporation should explain why the employment of these people was necessary, the criteria of selection and the qualifications of the successful candidates.

The MEA concluded that the country needs to learn from past experience that an overburdened and inefficient public sector leads to unsustainable fiscal deficits which can in themselves keep the economy from reaching its potential.