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Media Release

MEA advises Government against Amnesty on Fines

The Malta Employers' Association expressed itself against giving an amnesty to persons who broke the public health regulations related to the COVID pandemic. The Association said that this will convey a dangerous message that laws are there to be broken, and will also make these same regulations more difficult to enforce should there be a second wave of the outbreak. It would have been better not to introduce any regulations at all, rather than having ones which are not enforced. Fines are meant to be painful because they are meant to deter and penalise unlawful practices which, in this case, could place in jeopardy the health of others, including vulnerable persons. An amnesty under these circumstances undermines the hard work and sacrifice made by many, primarily the police in enforcing the regulations, and the heroic efforts of the public health authority and the employees in this sector to curtail the epidemic.