

22 April 2020

Media Release

MEA replies to Misreporting of its Statement concerning Public Sector Employees

The Malta Employers' Association issued a statement to correct deliberate and malicious attempts to distort its recommendations for additional measures which it made to Government about the Corona Virus. The Association said that sections of the media reported that it has recommended a cut in salary to public sector employees across the board. This is factually incorrect as what was stated in the media release clearly said that only the salaries of employees who are idle should be reduced, and not those of the entire public sector.

This misinformation was taken up by the Malta Police Association and Union Haddiema Maghqudin Voice of the Workers, who issued strong criticism to what has been wrongly reported. The MEA made it clear that it believes that the police are doing an excellent job under the circumstances, and no one is in any way recommending a paycut to the police. The same applies to many other segments within the public sector.

However, the Association stands by its principle that any employees who are idle, because there is no work available, cannot be privileged and expect a full pay including allowances for giving nothing in return, while others in the private sector in a similar situation suffer from reduced income or face redundancy. 'Why does a government employee with no work expect to have more rights than a waiter in a restaurant which has closed?', the Association asked. Even within the public sector, it is unjust that so many are going out of their way to provide a service and get the same remuneration as those who are idle. The Association appealed to anyone who chooses to comment on its statements to check the source material, before shooting from the hip.