

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

## Media Release

### Prime Minister's Statement is an invitation to Anarchy – MEA

The Malta Employers' Association expressed its strong condemnation of the recent scandals involving benefit fraud and driving test licenses. It stated that these incidents are clear evidence that there are serious governance issues in Malta which are affecting its international reputation and many aspects of people's lives. The Association said that covering for such scandals under the pretext that this is the normal functioning of the political system is unacceptable and sends a dangerous message to all sectors of Maltese society. The Prime Minister's pronouncement in this respect is a radical invitation to anarchy which encourages individuals and businesses to bypass what should be established and trusted structures to either get fast tracked to obtain what they are eligible for, or worse, to acquire entitlements which they should never have at the expense of others. It also provides future administrations justification to conduct their affairs in a similar manner. This is not the way a political system should work at all.

It is impossible to justify the correspondence that has exposed blatant corrupt practices that makes one question whether those who are driving vehicles on our roads are actually fit to do so. How can insurance companies assess risk in such circumstances? These abuses are helping a few for partisan interests at the expense of potentially destroying many people's lives. Seen against a backdrop where it is known that phantom jobs were dished out from Castille, where hundreds of people have been abusively awarded health benefits, where business organisations have repeatedly been calling for better transparency in public procurement, one can only wonder how widespread is this culture of nepotism, and to what extent corruption has been normalised in our society.

The MEA said that what is expected is a clear condemnation of any tampering with the established channels and systems that make us a civilised society, an apology for what has occurred, a commitment by both political parties to step back from partisan meddling, and criminal and disciplinary proceedings against all those involved, whatever their rank, status or political affiliation. Only then will we be able to steer back to a semblance of normalcy.