

7th November 2023

Media Release

UPE action against Industrial Tribunal members is unethical - MEA

The Malta Employers' Association stated that action taken by the Union of Professional Educators against the Industrial Tribunal and its members is unprecedented and undermines the proper functioning of this institution. Any party can ask for the recusal of a member of the Industrial Tribunal if it proves that there is a conflict of interest, and indeed, the UPE itself had asked for the recusal of one of the members who was originally appointed to sit on the panel before the hearings started. Parties also have recourse to an appeal of any Industrial Tribunal decision if they believe that the decision is faulty on a point of law.

The decision by UPE to name the members of the Tribunal when it filed constitutional proceedings is unethical. The Industrial Tribunal has always been a respected institution and, although there have been many recommendations to strengthen its role and function by the MEA and other social partners, no one has ever cast a shadow of doubt over the integrity of the chairpersons in their quasi-judicial role, and appointed members.

The MEA stated that this is yet another attempt by the UPE to destabilise industrial relations structures in the country to further its own agenda.