



MALTA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

35/1, South Street, Valletta VLT 1100, Malta.

Tel: (+356) 21 237585, 21 222992

Fax: (+356) 21 230227

E-mail: admin@maltaemployers.com

Web Site: <http://www.maltaemployers.com>

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Press Release

Patients should never be Caught in a Crossfire - MEA

The Malta Employers' Association stated that the services provided by nurses are listed in the Employment and Industrial Relations Act as essential services and the MUMN should not resort to actions which in any way affect the welfare of patients. Even if the MUMN is abiding by the staff limits as specified in the EIRA, it has the moral obligation towards patients who should not be caught in a crossfire.

The Association appealed to both government and the union to seek a solution to any pending issues round a table. In particular, there is the immediate situation regarding the employment of expatriate nurses to tackle the current shortage of nurses, and medium term solutions that are required to ensure an adequate supply of qualified nurses to cater for the increased demand in future.

In any case, both parties carry a responsibility to place the patients' interests first and foremost. 'If the parameters set by the EIRA do not guarantee a continuation of the service to patients, then they should be revised to avoid a repetition of what is currently happening in our hospitals', the MEA stated.