

Update

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The Malta Employers' Association calls for a suspension of Collective Bargaining Talks for Teachers till after the Elections

The following Media Release was issued on 18th May 2024.

Media Release

The Malta Employers' Association has called for government and the MUT to suspend negotiations for a revised collective agreement in the education sector till after the elections. The Association has, for years, contended that collective bargaining negotiations in the public sector should never occur closer than three months before an election. The party in government will be in a much weaker bargaining position to negotiate when in election mode. It may also use the outcome for pre-election propaganda. The collective agreement for the education sector is very sensitive as, besides being an essential service, it also has severe repercussions on educational institutions in the private sector where there are thousands of students. It can also impact relativities with other professions in the public sector and cause further industrial unrest.

The Association underscored that there is general consensus that educators deserve adequate remuneration for the critical services that they provide, but it would be in the interest of both sides of the table to conduct negotiations with cool heads, and the period during an electoral campaign is definitely not an ideal setting for both the union and government to arrive at an equitable solution. MEA stressed that collective bargaining should never be weaponised by either unions or government, as this could have a long term destabilising effect on the labour market.

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