

12th April 2019

Media Release

Removal of tax clause from St. Vincent de Paule tender undermines all principles of good governance – MEA

The Malta Employers' Association expressed its shock and disapproval at the news that the Department of Contracts has shifted the goalposts in tendering documents to the effect that clearance certificates are now only required before a successful bidder signs a contract. The Association stated that this move clearly discriminates against the concept of fair competition and raises strong suspicion that it is intended to favour particular bidders who would have failed to be compliant with the terms of the tender. Compliance certificates should be a must to ensure that tax payers' money is being paid out to operators who have no tax arrears. This intervention by the contracts department does not inspire confidence in the business community that tenders are being adjudicated fairly. The Association called for an immediate retraction of the Contracts Department's revision and for the reinstatement of the clause that excludes companies with tax arrears from bidding for public contracts.

The Association added that such actions are eroding business confidence to the detriment of law abiding companies and their employees.