

25<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Attn: The Editor

The Shift News  
Tula Ltd,  
85 St Johns Street,  
Valletta, VLT1165,  
Malta

**RE: Defamatory Statements – “Why Abela’s done nothing”**

Dear Editor,

I am instructed by Mr Ram Tumuluri in relation to an article that appeared on The Shift News titled “Why Abela’s done nothing” dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

In this article Kevin Cassar writes, *“It would expose Joseph Muscat and his pyramid of grand collaborators who have made money through his direct interventions – Ram Tumuluri, Ashok Rattehalli, Shaukat Ali, Mark Pawley, Cheng Chen, Ali Sadr Hasheminejad, Hani Salah, Yorgen Fenech, Turab Musayev, Armin Ernst.”* My client strongly objects to this malicious implication that he has profited in any manner from the intervention of Joseph Muscat, the former Prime Minister.

This statement is purposely placed to continue an agenda that is set to tarnish my client’s character. My client categorically denies any “collaboration” or “direct intervention” with/from Joseph Muscat as falsely alleged by Cassar. My client simply maintained a professional relationship with the former Prime Minister due to the work carried out between Vitals Global Healthcare and the Maltese Government for the benefit of the people of Malta. Therefore, the above statements are clearly unfounded and defamatory and are solely intended to cause reputational harm to my client and this in clear breach of Chapter 579 of the laws of Malta. Moreover, I refer you to Code of Ethics that should regulate Maltese Media Houses, in particular Clause 1.3 which requires your journalists and opinion writers to make a clear distinction between fact, conjecture, and comment. It is absolutely evident that in this case the distinction has not been made and was purposely omitted to pursue a narrative that purposely tarnishes my client.

I would like to remind you that our courts have already pronounced themselves on gratuitous statements which are false and are purposely made to discredit someone.

In light of the above, my client calls upon you to immediately delete the defamatory statements in the abovementioned article upon the receipt of this letter. Failing to do so my client will seek to protect his rights at law and request damages in accordance with Article 9 of the Media and

Defamation Act. Should you wish to publish this letter as you have done previously, you are to note that this is not a threat but an exercise of a right that exists in our law in terms of Chapter 579 of the laws of Malta.

For your guidance,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mifsud', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Cedric Mifsud