



**EVENTS  
IN APRIL 2020  
WITH REGARDS  
TO COVID-19  
SUPPORT  
- TO MIA MEMBERS**

## 2 online webinars: 4<sup>th</sup> MAY COVID-19 DIER – Conditions of work - Q&A sessions

As a response to the frequently asked questions by MIA members, being currently asked in light of the recent COVID-19 disruptions on employment, the MIA invited representatives from the Department of Industrial and Employment Relations (DIER) to provide clarity on queries such as:

*Can I force my employees to go on vacation leave?*

*Does an employer need permission when employees go on unpaid leave?*

The respective DIER speakers Ms Cher Smith, Senior Manager and Ms Mariella Caruana, EIRA Inspector initiated the webinar by presenting the mission statement, organigram and the main activities of the DIER, then proceeding to the several questions raised by attendees both before the webinar as well as during the session, through the chat box feature.

A Q&A list was put together by the Institute from the questions asked during the session and recently issued to all MIA members. This can be found within the MIA website **E-Library section**.



# Open discussion with Malta Business Registrar (MBR)

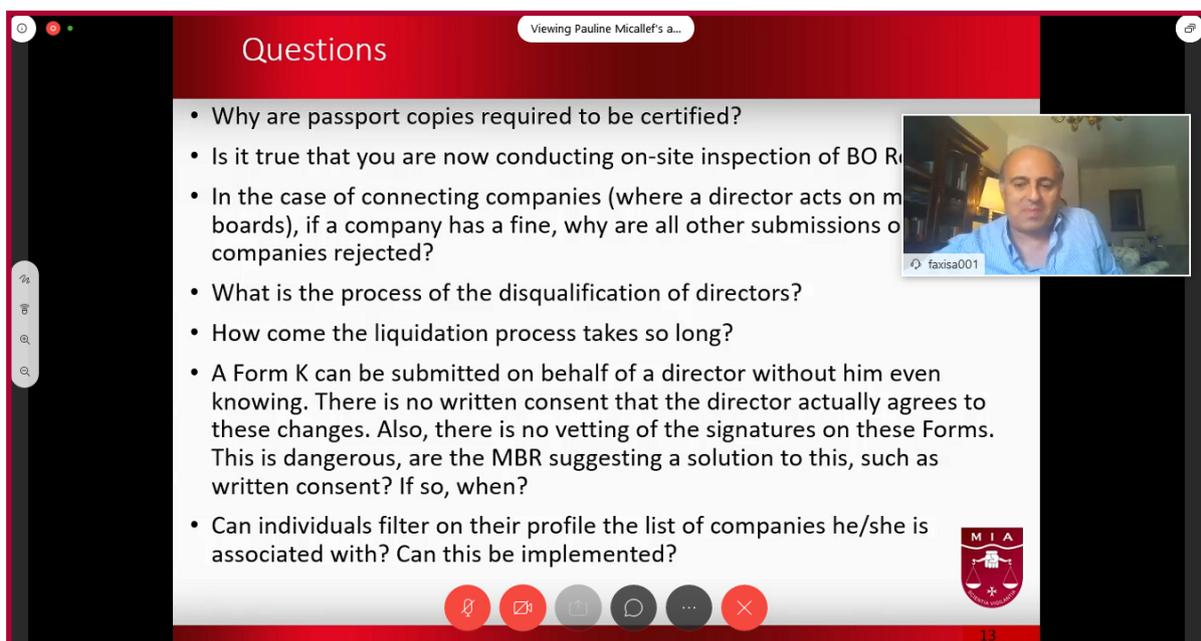
It came to the MIA's attention that, its accountants and practitioners have been encountering various challenges and had several queries to discuss with the MBR. Following a number of meetings between the MBR and the Institute, Mr Fabio Axisa, MIA president invited MBR representatives; Mr Josef Farrugia Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Geraldine Ann Spiteri Lucas Chief Legal Officer, and Mr Kenneth Brincat Chief Operations Officer for an online webinar.

The webinar enabled MBR to explain the right interpretation on various issues to the MIA members. This included the legal requirements of the Beneficial Owner (BO) disclosures and the new requirement of online submissions of documents. Other queries were also addressed, such as:

- What is the L4 Form?
- What is the process of the disqualification of directors?
- Is it true that you are now conducting on-site inspection of BO Registers?
- Why are passport copies required to be certified?
- Amongst many others.

The MBR also highlighted upcoming projects including the new system based on a blockchain planned to be available by the end of 2020.

The MIA members had the opportunity to put forward their queries, both before and during the session. A list of Q&A is currently being put together by the Institute and will be issued to all MIA members.



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, a red banner reads 'Questions' and 'Viewing Pauline Micallef's a...'. Below this is a list of questions:

- Why are passport copies required to be certified?
- Is it true that you are now conducting on-site inspection of BO Registers?
- In the case of connecting companies (where a director acts on multiple boards), if a company has a fine, why are all other submissions of other companies rejected?
- What is the process of the disqualification of directors?
- How come the liquidation process takes so long?
- A Form K can be submitted on behalf of a director without him even knowing. There is no written consent that the director actually agrees to these changes. Also, there is no vetting of the signatures on these Forms. This is dangerous, are the MBR suggesting a solution to this, such as written consent? If so, when?
- Can individuals filter on their profile the list of companies he/she is associated with? Can this be implemented?

On the right side, there is a video feed of a man in a blue shirt, identified as 'faxisa001'. At the bottom, there is a red banner with the MIA logo and the number '13'. The Zoom control bar at the very bottom shows icons for mute, video, chat, and other functions.