



MALTA

**IN THE COURT OF MAGISTRATES (MALTA)
AS COURT OF CRIMINAL JUDICATURE**

**MAGISTRATE
DR. CHARMAINE GALEA**

Today the 29th July 2021

**The Principal Immigration Officer
(Inspector Hubert Gerada)**

vs

**Ali Hassan Muhammad
(English passport number 123515626)**

The Court,

Having seen that the defendant **Ali Hassan Muhammad** was charged with having on the 29th of July 2021 or days prior this date in these islands:

1. That in order to gain any advantage or benefit for himself or others, in any document intended for any Public Authority, knowingly made a false declaration or statement, or gave false information (Ch 9, art 188 (1) of the Laws of Malta);
2. Committed any other kind of forgery, or knowingly made use of any other forged document (Ch 9, art 189 of the Laws of Malta)

Having seen that the acts of the proceedings;

Having heard the defendant plead guilty to the charges brought against him, which guilty plea was confirmed after the Court explained to him the punishment for the charges brought against him and gave him time to reconsider such plea;

Having heard the submissions regarding the penalty to be meted out.

Having considered:

The defendant admitted the charges brought against him and consequently, after taking cognizance of the acts of the case, the Court is of the opinion that the same have been sufficiently proven;

Regarding the penalty to be meted out, the Court took into consideration the nature of the offences and the defendant's admission at the earliest stage of these proceedings. The Court took also note that the defendant excused himself for providing the Maltese Authorities with a forged Covid 19 certificate.

The Court considers that the defendant's deeds could have jeopardised the public health in a situation which is already worrying. However, it is also of the opinion that a non-custodial punishment would be more fit in the circumstances of the case.

DECIDE

Wherefore the Court, after having seen sections 188 (1) and 189 of the Criminal Code, on his admission finds the defendant guilty of the charges brought against him and condemns him to a fine (multa) of nine hundred Euros (€900).

Dr. Charmaine Galea
Magistrate

Diane Gatt
Deputy Registrar