

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET BY THE  
HON. PRIME MINISTER

Compulsory use of taximeters

There is a general complaint by tourists, which is often ventilated in the local and foreign press, that taxi-drivers often fail to operate the taximeter.

2. This is being done as taxi-drivers are taking advantage of the loopholes existing in the law, section 64 of the Code of Police Laws (Cap. 13), which allows a person hiring a vehicle to require that he shall be charged for the hire by time, not by distance.

3. Sub-section (3) of section 65 of the same Code allows agreement for a fare lesser than the Tariff to be made, and the Commissioner of Police is submitting an amendment (copy annexed) in the Code of Police Laws (Cap. 13) to make the use of the taximeter compulsory.

4. This amendment is concurred in by the Tourist Board, with whom many complaints on the abuse in question have also been lodged.

5. Hon. Ministers are asked whether they agree that the proposed amendment to the Code of Police Laws (Cap. 13) be made.

24th June, 1963.

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A BILL  
entitled

AN ACT further to amend the Code of Police Laws  
(Cap. 13).

ENACTED by the Legislature of Malta:

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Code of Police Laws (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1963, and shall be read and construed as one with the Code of Police Laws, hereinafter referred to as "the principal law".

Insertion of section 64A in the principal law.

2. The principal law is amended by the insertion after section 64 of the following section:-

"Fare leviable for hire of taxi cars.

64A. Notwithstanding anything contained in the last preceding section, and without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (3) of section 65, the fare leviable for the hire of any motor vehicle licensed as a taxi car shall be the basic fare shown on the taximeter, with such additions as are provided for in Tariff D of the First Schedule to this Code."

Addition to subsection (3) of section 65 of the principal law.

3. The principal law is amended by the addition at the end of subsection (3) of section 65 of the following sentence:-

"In the case of a motor vehicle licensed as a taxi-car, it shall not be lawful for such agreement to operate so that the taximeter is not used to show the fare chargeable as the maximum basic fare."

OBJECTS AND REASONS

The object of this Bill is to make illegal the omission to operate the taximeter in a taxi car on hire.