

National Centre for Cultural Heritage

Male', Maldives

Reflections of Faith: Islamic Symbols Through the Lens <u>Photo Competition</u>

To commemorate the day Maldives embraced Islam, the National Centre for Cultural Heritage is excited to announce **"Reflections of Faith: Islamic Symbols Through the Lens"** photo competition. The competition will be conducted according to the following procedures.

1. Objectives:

- Identify Islamic symbols embedded in the daily lives of Maldivians and preserve them for future generations.
- Ensure inclusive participation by all Maldivians in celebrating the day the Maldives embraced Islam.
- Utilize technology to safeguard and promote the Maldivian national identity.
- Strengthen the love for Islam and revitalize national identity through the rich heritage and culture of the Maldives.

2. Eligibility:

The competition is open to the following categories of Maldivians:

- Ages 12-15
- Ages 16-30
- Above 30 years old

3. Competition Categories:

Participants can submit photos in the following three areas:

- Maldivian Islamic Heritage Sites and Monuments (A)
- Islamic Celebrations in the Maldives (B)
- Islamic Writings, Designs, and Calligraphy in the Maldives (C)

4. Participation Guidelines:

- Participants do not need to be professional photographers.
- Employees of the Ministry of Dhivehi Language, Culture, and Heritage, as well as those working in institutions under the Ministry, along with competition judges and their immediate family members (parents, children, spouses), are not eligible to participate.

5. Photo Submission Guidelines:

- Photos must be taken using mobile phones.
- Photos should depict locations where participants were born or currently reside.
- Each participant can submit one photo per category.
- To submit photos, they should be uploaded to a drive link, which must then be shared through the form submission. This folder's sharing settings must be set to be accessed by "Anyone with the link". Please ensure that the following information is included:
 - Copy of National ID card
 - o Photo
- Photos must adhere to the following format:
 - File format: JPEG or PNG
 - \circ Resolution: Minimum 3000 pixels on the longest side
 - File size: Minimum 3MB, maximum 10MB
 - File name: Participant's Name, Photo Number, and Category (e.g., Ali_03_A)
- Photos will be disqualified if:
 - \circ $\;$ They do not adhere to the submission guidelines.
 - They violate Maldivian law.
 - They go against Islamic principles.
 - \circ $\;$ They do not comply with community standards.
 - They are AI-generated.
 - \circ $\;$ They have previously been submitted to a competition and placed.

6. Winner Selection Process:

Photos will be evaluated by a judging panel and community acceptance, with the following weightage:

- Scoring Criteria:
 - Judging panel: 75%
 - Community acceptance: 25%
- Winners:
 - \circ One photo will be awarded First Place from each atoll.
 - \circ One photo will be awarded First Place overall in the competition.
 - Two photos will be awarded **Second Place** overall.
 - Three photos will be awarded **Third Place** overall.

7. Prizes:

- The **First-Place** overall competition winner will receive a resort trip.
- First, Second, and Third Place winners in each category will receive a commemorative token.
- Winning photographs will be exhibited at the National Museum or a designated venue for one week.

• The National Centre for Cultural Heritage and the Ministry of Dhivehi Language, Culture, and Heritage will have the right to use the photographs for celebrations and significant events, with credit given to the photographer, without any profit being made from their use.

8. Judging Panel:

The judging panel will consist of professionals and experts from the following fields:

- Photography
- Maldivian Heritage and culture

9. Judging Criteria:

Photos will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance to the Category:** 30 marks The submission's alignment with the specific category it is entered into.
- **Composition:** 20 marks The arrangement of visual elements within the photograph, including balance and framing.
- **Technical Excellence:** 20 marks The quality of the photograph, including exposure, focus, and clarity.
- **Creativity and Originality:** 30 marks The uniqueness of the concept and the innovative approach to the subject matter.

10. Submission Deadline:

Photos must be submitted between October 5 and October 10, 2024.