



03 MARCH 2024

ISSUE 01

My focus day in and day out is to serve people's needs, says the President



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has stated that his daily focus is on serving the people's needs. The President made the remarks while speaking with Raa Atoll Alifushi Island residents.

Speaking at the gathering held at Alifushi School, President Dr Muizzu spoke on the developmental plans for Aifushi Island, highlighting efforts being made towards developing tourism and sports on the island.

Emphasising that he wants to bring about change, the President announced all the pledges made by the Administration under its "Hafuthaa 14" roadmap had been delivered. The President revealed that initiating the Air Ambulance Service yesterday had also allowed Maldivians to operationalise the service using locals. The President emphasised that the Administration intends to launch and operate additional initiatives independently.

Speaking at the meeting, the President emphasised the challenges of completing the projects already initiated. He said the financing required to complete these projects far exceeds the budget allocated. However, the President revealed that the Administration would seek alternative sources to fund these projects and, reiterated the Administration's commitment to fulfilling the pledges made for the islands.

Alifushi is the first destination of the President's three-day visit to several North and South Maalhosmadulu Atoll islands. Throughout his three-day tour, the President will actively interact with local communities and councils, seeking ways to expedite development projects, and resolve issues being faced by the people.

A high-level Government delegation accompanies the President during his tour.

SOURCE : The President's Office

Fisheries Minister meets participants of fisheries training in Japan

Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Resources Ahmed Shiyam has met with participants of the Improving Capacity to Support Fishing Communities training programme held in Japan.

The programme falls under the umbrella of the "Promotion of Blue Economy in the Fisheries Sector" project, jointly undertaken by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Maldivian government, and the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources. It was held from February 13 to 27 in Shikoku, Japan, and welcomed two representatives from each of the project's focal islands. In addition, the Project Manager, Deputy Director General of Fisheries and Ocean Resources Adam Manik, and Director Aminath Nazima participated in the event.



Speaking to PSM News, Adam Manik shared the striking parallels observed between Japan and the Maldives' fisheries sectors. He emphasised Japan's commitment to food quality, even within small-scale enterprises. He also visited fish processing plants managed by various fisheries cooperative associations, highlighting the practical engagement of participants in the preparation of Japanese products. Throughout the training programme, participants explored diverse locations across three prefectures of Shikoku, gaining insights and hands-on experience. The programme aimed to familiarise participants with the intricacies of product preparation, packaging, and market distribution specific to Japan's seafood industry. Moreover, it offered insights into successful ventures within small and medium-scale fisheries.

The participants delved into the preparation of value-added fish products, observing activities led by women's branches within cooperative associations. They also visited retail outlets at road stations, witnessing firsthand the display and sale of various fish products, further enriching their understanding of market dynamics.

SOURCE : PSM





Reaffirming commitment to align R. Meedhoo Harbour construction with community preferences

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has announced that the construction of the R. Meedhoo harbour will proceed in accordance with the desires of the community. These remarks were made during his meeting with the R. Meedhoo Council and the Women's Development Committee (WDC).

During the meeting, the Council members underscored specific modifications to be incorporated, such as expanding the harbour, the imperative need for a hospital, addressing



housing shortages, shore protection, and maximizing land reclamation within feasible limits.

Additionally, the members emphasised the necessity of developing modern roads, providing indoor sports facilities, establishing an Islamic center, and installing a dollar ATM on the island.

President Dr Muizzu, along with Cabinet Ministers present at the meeting, provided the latest updates on the issues raised by the Council.

SOURCE : The President's Office



The President arrives Un'Goofaaruu Island of North Maalhosmadulu Atoll

The Administration's primary goal is to ensure self sufficiency of the people, says the President



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has stated that the Administration's utmost priority is to ensure the self sufficiency of the people, enabling them to achieve their full potential. He made these remarks while meeting with the residents of Meedhoo Island in North Maalhosmadulu Atoll today.

Addressing the gathering, the President expressed his aspiration for every Maldivian citizen to prosper and attain wealth during his term. He outlined his commitment to ensuring the citizens' well-being through stable incomes, affluence, housing security, social fulfilment, child-rearing triumph, and preserving an independent, sovereign, and self-reliant nation.

In highlighting the Administration's commitment to economic development, the President underscored the allocation of an uninhabited island to each local council. He clarified that councils could request islands not necessarily in close geographical proximity, aligning with their specific economic objectives. The President further stated that the Administration intends to allocate these islands to the councils for 25 years.

Speaking at the gathering, the President outlined the Administration's developmental vision for Meedhoo Island. This included land reclamation projects, the establishment of a hospital, and the expansion of harbour development tailored to the population's needs. The President also reassured the Administration's commitment to addressing additional needs expressed by the residential community.

SOURCE : The President's Office

Developmental initiatives on the islands must be conducted in line with the aspirations of the people



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has stated that the developmental initiatives on the islands must be conducted in line with the people's aspirations. He made the remarks while meeting the Island Council and Women's Development Committee (WDC) members of Vaadhoo Island in North Maalhosmadulu Atoll today.

During the meeting, Council members articulated their development priorities to the President. Notably, they underscored the critical importance of shore protection, relocation of the waste management centre, and harbour development. Additionally, discussions centred around finding solutions for the urgent allocation of housing plots. Council members also raised concerns about the halt of the water and sanitation network establishment project and the challenges arising from space limitations at the council Secretariat.

SOURCE : The President's Office



MIFCO to introduce foreign vessel in March

The Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company Limited (MIFCO) has revealed plans to introduce a large foreign fishing vessel to its operations in March, coinciding with the peak fishing season.

The fishing vessel called Maskira will have a capacity of 3,000 metric tonnes and aims to alleviate capacity constraints faced by local fishermen during the peak season. In addition, MIFCO is in the process of bringing another vessel to further support fishing activities.

Speaking to PSM News, General Manager of MIFCO Muaz Ali said that the company plans to use these foreign vessels to access international markets for Maldivian fish. He said that the company is also working on enabling quality testing within the Maldives by foreign companies to reduce the risk of rejected shipments abroad.

The Maskira is set to dock at the harbour in Kooddoo, Gaafu Alifu Atoll, where it will be loaded for export to European markets. Buyers will inspect the fish at the harbour to ensure compliance with quality standards.

The actions align with government initiatives to improve the profitability of MIFCO, enhance market access, and maintain the quality of locally produced fish for international trade. President Dr. Mohamed Muzzu has pledged to transform MIFCO from a loss-making company into a profitable one. Within the first week of the pledge, the President converted MIFCO into an independent company responsible for its own losses, leading to several changes in the company's management.



SOURCE : PSM

Gov't highlights youth talented in Maldives despite size



Minister of Youth Empowerment, Information, and Arts Ibrahim Waheed has emphasised the abundant talent among the youth of the Maldives despite its small size. He made the remarks while speaking at the launch of the Youth Hackathon.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Minister Waheed expressed confidence that the hackathon would serve as a catalyst for youth advancement in technology, highlighting the provision of necessary skills and opportunities. He also highlighted a national initiative to enhance the involvement of Maldivian women in the arts, noting the participation of 42 young individuals, including 13 female participants and an all-girls team.

Additionally, Minister Waheed underscored the indispensable role of technology in daily life and praised the youth for their creativity. He also cited their impressive global rankings despite the Maldives' sparse population.

The Youth Hackathon focuses on three key objectives including, assisting small businesses in overcoming economic hurdles, leveraging technology for innovative mental health and healthcare solutions, and empowering content creators to effectively use digital platforms and technology for product showcasing, service provision, and content creation and distribution.

The two-day hackathon was organised by the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Information, and Arts. It featured the participation from 10 teams and offered special prizes to the winners.

SOURCE : PSM

World Endometriosis Awareness Day 2024



Endometriosis affects 1 out of 10 women in the US and an estimated 200 million women globally where it is estimated that up to 50% of women with endometriosis have difficulty getting pregnant as it is an inflammatory health condition where tissues similar to the lining of the uterus grow outside of the uterus, often on the ovaries, fallopian tubes or other pelvic structures and can cause severe pain and infertility.

SOURCE : Hindustan Times



Gov't to introduce E-wallet services, benefiting Maldivians



The President meets with the Island Council and WDC of R. Fainu



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu met with the R. Fainu Council members and discussed the key concerns for the Island's development. The meeting was held at the Secretariat of the R. Meedhoo Council.

The Council emphasized the importance of facilitating easy loan facilities for new home construction on the island, the need for coastal protection, and the establishment of a designated picnic island for the community.

President Dr Muizzu along with the Cabinet Ministers present at the meeting, provided updates on the Government's ongoing initiatives to address the issues brought to the forefront by the Council.

SOURCE : The President's Office

Minister of Homeland Security and Technology Ali Ihusaan has revealed plans to introduce e-wallets and offer services to foreign entities, aiming to directly benefit Maldivian citizens. He made the statement during the launch of the Youth Hackathon organised by the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Information, and Art.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the hackathon, Minister Ihusaan emphasised the potential of innovative ideas to generate financial gains and underscored the government's commitment to fostering such opportunities. He revealed President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's directive to implement e-wallet mechanisms, enabling revenue from foreign entities to swiftly enrich the pockets of Maldivians.

Highlighting the significant presence of women in the tech sector, Minister Ihusaan praised their participation in the hackathon. He also stressed the importance of exploring diverse approaches and seizing opportunities to drive innovative transformations.

The Youth Hackathon serves as a platform for young minds to innovate, collaborate, exchange knowledge, and develop novel solutions. The winning team will be awarded a cash prize of USD6,500, encouraging further creativity and ingenuity among participants.

SOURCE : PSM

“ We are committed to diversify our economy to make it more sustainable and resilient for future shocks
His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu ”