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President meets with 100 councils in three months



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has been engaging with local councils since assuming office, having met with 100 councils within the past three months and two weeks. As the 100th council, he met with the Rasgetheemu Island Council during his ongoing visit to Raa Atoll, with the meeting taking place in Ungoofaaru.

The effort underscores the President's commitment to working closely with local councils and citizens, marking it as one of his paramount responsibilities. His current journey through the atolls signifies his ambitious goal to visit every island of the Maldives within the year, having already reached 50 islands across 10 atolls. While it may not be feasible to visit every island during this particular visit, he ensures to engage with all island councils within each atoll, in addition to atoll and city councils.

The councils expressed gratitude for President Dr. Muizzu's early and direct engagement with them, acknowledging the opportunity to interact closely with him and directly convey their plans for island development. The President's proactive approach contrasts with the previous practice where councils had to schedule appointments in the capital city, Male', to meet with the president. The councils welcomed the initiative to meet them on their respective islands or atoll areas, providing them with a platform to present their concerns and proposals to the President and his ministers.

President Dr. Muizzu has set an ambitious target to visit all the atolls in the Maldives within the next 2-3 weeks. Moreover, he aims to visit every island in the country at least twice during his five-year term, with plans to extend this commitment into 2026.

SOURCE : PSM



Gov't seeks legal advisors to start emergency helicopter service



The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation has stated that it is seeking an experienced legal consultancy service provider for the Provision of helicopter emergency services in the Maldives project.

In a statement, the transport ministry said that the six-month project aims to assess the risks and impacts associated with helicopter operations. The ministry said that the implementation of the helicopter emergency service project will be contingent upon meeting national aviation, operational, and clinical standards. It added that the scope of work encompasses drafting notices for helicopter services, evaluating received bids, and drafting all necessary legal documentation, including the formal project agreement.

The ministry said that the selected consultancy service provider will be tasked with overseeing all legal aspects of the project to ensure compliance. The ministry is also committed to adhering to best legal practices throughout the processes, including the tendering process. The application deadline for interested parties is March 13.

Helicopter services were previously available in the Maldives from the early 1990s until 1999 under the name Hummingbird. However, due to unfortunate incidents, the service was discontinued.

SOURCE : PSM

“ My vision for the Maldives is to capitalize on this resilience and the vast opportunities our strategic geographic position opens up. ”



His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



Un'goofaaruu is among the seven Urban Centres Slated for Development by this Administration, says the President

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has outlined the development of seven specific regions as urban centers intended to benefit a large number of citizens, and identified Un'goofaaruu among these seven urban centers slated for development by the Administration. He made these remarks while speaking with residents of Un'goofaaruu Island this morning.

Speaking at the gathering, the President outlined the Administration's plans to establish seven urban centers across the country as part of its mid-term and long-term development goals. These development goals entail integrated development zones intended for the



northernmost and southernmost regions, each comprising four atolls, in addition to the seven specialised urban centers.

President Dr Muizzu further highlighted the developmental requests put forth by the island council, expressing the Administration's commitment to permanently resolving housing issues, promoting economic growth, and introducing borrower-friendly loan schemes. He also discussed efforts to provide social housing and acknowledged the community's needs for an improved sports sector, urban and social development, and other vital sectors. The President assured that these needs would be prioritized.

Un'goofaaruu marks the President's third destination on his tour of several North and South Maalhosmadulu Atoll islands.

SOURCE : The President's Office

The President emphasises need to implement development projects in Raa Atoll with the goal of reducing residents' expenses and improving their quality of life



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu emphasised the need to implement development projects in North Maalhosmadulu with the goal of reducing residents' expenses and improving their quality of life. He made these remarks during his meeting with the Raa Atoll Council today. The meeting was held at the Secretariat of Raa Atoll Council.

During the meeting, members of the Raa Atoll Council highlighted the initiation of RTL ferry services in the atoll, the expansion of services at Ifuru Domestic Airport, the necessity of developing an airport in the southern part of the atoll, improvements in services at Ungoofaaruu Regional Hospital, and challenges related to the availability of medicines. Additionally, the Council underscored other crucial socio-economic developments for the atoll.

Speaking at the meeting, President Dr Muizzu stated that the administration will address the concerns brought forth by the Atoll Council.

SOURCE : The president's Office

Gov't discusses changing Eid prayers timing

Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed has disclosed ongoing discussions aimed at advancing the timing of Eid prayers.

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Eid prayers. Speaking to PSM News, Minister Shaheem revealed that discussions are in progress among administrators and scholars regarding the adjustment of Eid prayer timings. He emphasised the typically sweltering conditions post-Eid sermon during large congregations and noted the comparatively late timing of Eid prayers in the Maldives compared to elsewhere. As such, he highlighted the ongoing review of the schedule.



Additionally, Minister Shaheem assured that any alterations to the Eid prayer timing would be formally announced before the month of Ramadan. He affirmed that such changes would be implemented starting from this year's Eid prayers.

Currently scheduled for 0730hrs, Eid Al-Fitr falls on April 10 this year.

SOURCE : PSM



MRI services to be launched at Ungoofaaru Hospital after Ramadan

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SOURCE : PSM

“ We have 91 protected areas and three UNESCO biosphere reserves. We plan to have 3 more biosphere reserves and atleast one nature park in each atoll
His Excellency President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu ”

MIB opens new Business Banking branch



Maldives Islamic Bank (MIB) has inaugurated a new branch called Business Banking.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MIB Mufaddal Idris Khumri said that the inauguration of the Business Banking branch by marks a significant expansion in its services. He emphasised that the new addition underscores the bank's commitment to enhancing its banking offerings in the Maldives. He also said that MIB acknowledges the importance of venturing into business banking to meet evolving market demands

To cater to business clientele effectively, MIB has also established a dedicated lobby offering round-the-clock services, including dollar transactions and cash handling. In addition, the bank has introduced a specialised petty cash card through its new branch.

Operating hours for the Business Banking Service Desk are from 0830hrs to 1600hrs on weekdays, with adjusted timings during Ramadan. Specifically, during Ramadan, services will be available from 0930hrs to 1500hrs, extending to 1100hrs to 1400hrs. during the final ten days of the holy month.

SOURCE : PSM



THE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN RAA. DHUVAAFARU



Gov't partners with Hilton Maldives to empower people with disabilities

The Ministry of Social and Family Development has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hilton resorts in the Maldives, aimed at empowering people with disabilities and ensuring equal opportunities across various social sectors.

Under the agreement, the social ministry, in collaboration with Hilton Maldives, has partnered with three resorts in the Maldives. They include, Waldorf Astoria Maldives Ithaafushi, Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, and Hilton Maldives Resorts and Spa. The partnership signifies a concerted effort to empower people with disabilities and foster inclusivity within the tourism sector.



The ministry views the agreement as a significant stride towards enhancing the involvement of people with disabilities in tourism. Through specialised vocational training programmes, disabled individuals will have the chance to acquire essential skills relevant to the tourism industry and gain valuable work experience. Furthermore, the ministry aims to expand opportunities within the tourism sector for people with disabilities, fostering an environment of inclusivity and accessibility.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Social and Family Development Dr. Aishath Shiham, and Vice President of Hilton Resorts and Regional Head of Hilton South East Asia Alexandra Murray. In addition, the General Managers of the three Hilton resorts in the Maldives were present to mark the collaborative endeavor.

SOURCE : PSM

President commits to pay fishermen within 48hrs of fish processing



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has stated that the government has committed to expedite payments within 48 hours of fish processing, following the pre-Ramadan disbursement to fishermen. He made the commitment while speaking at a gathering with the residents of Dhuvaafaru, Raa Atoll.

Speaking at the gathering, President Dr. Muizzu informed residents that the government has already disbursed USD39 million to fishermen. He, however, said that delays arose due to USD15 million outstanding from the previous administration's payments to fishermen upon the current government's assumption of office. Additionally, President Dr. Muizzu reiterated the government's pledge to settle outstanding dues before Ramadan. As such, he assured that payments will be expedited within the stipulated 48-hour window following fish processing.

Furthermore, President Dr. Muizzu outlined ongoing development initiatives in Dhuvaafaru, emphasising completion of pending projects as the utmost priority. Accelerated efforts would be directed towards finalising the construction of the school and sports facilities on the island. Fulfilling campaign promises, additional sports facilities would be established, leveraging reclaimed land.

Moreover, President Dr. Muizzu pledged enhanced healthcare services for Dhuvaafaru, responding to the request of the women's development committee (WDC) in the island by initiating gynecological and pediatric services. He also said that educational opportunities would be expanded in the island community.

SOURCE : PSM



PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN R. UN'GOOFAARU ISLAND



China hands over 12 green ambulances to Maldives

China has handed over 12 eco-friendly ambulances to the Maldives.

First Lady Sajidha Mohamed attended the handover ceremony of the green ambulances. The event encompassed the official signing of the handover certificate from the Chinese Embassy to the Maldives Ministry of Health. Ambassador Wang Lixin of China handed over the green ambulances, which were received by Minister of State for Health Khadeeja Abdul Samad Abdulla.

The Ministry of Health highlighted that the ambulances, donated by the Chinese government, aim to bolster the swift delivery of emergency healthcare across the Maldives' islands, particularly during times of disaster and crisis. The vehicles will facilitate healthcare access in remote islands where navigating large ambulances is challenging.

Emphasising their eco-friendliness, the ministry underscored the importance of such vehicles in a nation with a delicate environment like the Maldives. Plans are underway to deploy these ambulances to smaller islands, ensuring equitable access to healthcare services across the country.

SOURCE : PSM



President announces fee abolishment for 'Rashu pickups'



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced the abolishment of fees for 'rashu pickups'. He made the announcement while speaking at a gathering with the residents of Dhuvaaafaru, Raa Atoll.

Speaking at the gathering, President Dr. Muizzu emphasised the significance of 'rashu pickups' for individual household needs rather than commercial use. He also highlighted their widespread adoption and their eco-friendly nature as battery-powered vehicles.

Additionally, President Dr. Muizzu acknowledged the requests from local councils to waive fees for battery-operated vehicles. Therefore, he declared the abolishment of annual charges for 'rashu pickups' effective April.

Furthermore, President Dr. Muizzu pledged a government attuned to the populace's sentiments, committed to close collaboration. He also disclosed plans to reduce council payments to mosques from government to domestic rates, ensuring fairer pricing.

SOURCE : PSM

The President sends a message of condolences following the passing of the former President of Tanzania

President H.E. Dr Mohamed Muizzu has sent a message of condolences to H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, following the passing of H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the 2nd President of Tanzania.

In his message, the President stated that he was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former President of Tanzania. He also noted that President Mwinyi left a lasting mark on Tanzanian history as a distinguished statesman who dedicated his life to the betterment of his people and nation.

In conclusion, the President sent sincere wishes to President Mwinyi's family, loved ones, and the people of Tanzania on behalf of the Maldives' government and people.

