

### **MALDIVES**

**NEWS BULLETIN** 

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# The President of the Export-Import Bank of China pays a courtesy call on President



The President of the Export-Import Bank of China, H.E. Ren Shengjun, paid a courtesy call on H.E. President Dr Mohamed Muizzu on Tuesday morning.

At the meeting, the President emphasised China and Maldives' close ties, noting that Maldives receives considerable support from EXIM Bank. Furthermore, the President highlighted several key developmental initiatives from China to the Maldives, including the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge and several social housing projects. The President emphasized that delivering housing for all Maldivians within his five-year term is a crucial commitment.

During the meeting, the President of EXIM China stressed the historical ties, cooperation, and mutual respect between China and the Maldives. He also acknowledged the Maldives' early participation in the Belt and Road Initiative and affirmed the EXIM China's readiness to foster positive collaborations with the Maldives.

President Muizzu and the President of China Exim Bank concluded the meeting with renewed commitment for future engagements.

SOURCE : The President's Office



### Gov't to formulate disability-inclusive building regulation



The Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure is in the process of formulating a regulation to ensure that the construction of buildings incorporates provisions for accommodating individuals with disabilities within the workplace.

A recent meeting convened by the construction ministry aimed to deliberate on the regulation. It was announced that the meeting would seek input and feedback from various government entities and private companies to formulate the regulation.

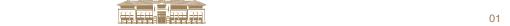
Speaking to PSM News, Director at the Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure Fathimath Shaufa revealed that the initiative to formulate the regulation stemmed from a Cabinet decision. She emphasised that the Cabinet had already set forth a policy to promote employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Additionally, Shaufa disclosed that a printed version of the regulation for constructing office and service buildings with disability-friendly features has been finalised. She said that representatives from state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and government ministries will be invited to provide their perspectives on the regulation. She also said that the regulation will be made publicly available following a thorough review of the feedback.

Furthermore, Shaufa highlighted that once the regulation is in place, all new office and service facilities will be constructed in compliance with its provisions. She also said that efforts will also be made to retrofit existing buildings to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu had announced a policy to promote the employment of people with disabilities on December 17 of last year. The decision was made during a Cabinet meeting held on the same day.

SOURCE : PSM



05 MARCH 2024 ISSUE 03

#### Over 400,000 tourists visit Maldives so far this vear



The Ministry of Tourism has revealed that more than 400,000 tourists have visited the Maldives so far this year.

The latest statistics published by the tourism ministry show that a total of 423,863 tourist arrivals visited the Maldives as of March 2, which is an increase of 16.9% compared to the 362,559 arrivals during the same period last year. The statistics show that that over 200,000 tourist arrivals visited the Maldives in February, marking a historic first.

The statistics also reveal that China contributed the most tourists with 54,719 arrivals, followed by Russia with 41,583, and Italy with 39,962. Currently, Maldives receives an average of 7,042 tourists every day, which spend an average of eight days in the country.

The government's target is to attract two million tourists this year, but the ministry anticipates that the actual number of tourists will reach 2.3 million.

#### The President arrives in Malé after concluding three-day visit to the islands of South and North Maalhosmadulu



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu arrived back in Malé after concluding a three-day visit to the islands of South and North Maalhosmadulu.

During the visit, the President toured several islands in the two atolls, holding meetings with the councils and Women's Development Committees (WDC), as well as the Atoll

Councils of the respective atolls. Throughout these discussions, the President addressed the developmental requirements of the islands and atolls, focusing on the most pressing needs of the residents.

During his ongoing series of visits to all atolls of the Maldives and meetings with local councils of atolls, islands, and cities, the President deliberated on the well-being of the people and strategies for organizing development projects.

The President has previously stated that his objective is to visit each island in the country at least twice within the next five years.

The President was accompanied by a highlevel Government delegation on his tour.

SOURCE . The President's Office

#### The President pledges to fulfill the residents' the longawaited dream of Thulhaadhoo **Airport**



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has pledged to fulfill the long-awaited dream of Thulhaadhoo residents to have an airport on the island. The President made the pledge while speaking to residents of Thulhaadhoo Island this afternoon.

During the gathering, the President announced plans to implement a reclamation project for the island community's mid to longterm development. He further disclosed the development of an additional hundred housing units on the island within the year. The President also outlined initiatives for enhancing the healthand sports sectors on the island.

Highlighting the significance of the fisheries and renowned lacquer sectors to Thulhaadhoo's economy. President affirmed Administration's commitment to fostering and expanding these industrial sectors. Notably, the traditional lacquer craftsmanship, integral to the nation's heritage, faces a decline. To address this, the President unveiled plans to establish a dedicated facility to revitalize this fading tradition, ensuring its continuity for future generations.

Thulhaadhoo marks the President's seventh destination on his tour of several North and South Maalhosmadulu Atoll islands.

SOURCE : The President's Office



### Gov't to provide a gynaecologist and a pediatrician for Dhuvaafaru



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has committed to providing a gynaecologist and a pediatrician for Dhuvaafaru, Raa Atoll. He made these remarks while meeting the Dhuvaafaru Island Council and Women's Development Committee (WDC) at the Secretariat of the Dhuvaafaru Island Council.

At the meeting, Council Members highlighted the need to resolve the housing difficulties, resumption of halted development projects, concerns regarding the registration of Dhuvaafaru households, harbour expansion, establishing better healthcare, and a solution to land erosion. The council members also emphasised the need for sports infrastructure development, namely for volleyball and handball, as well as other priorities linked to the societal development of the island.

Speaking at the meeting, President Dr. Muizzu reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to aligning developmental efforts with the recommendations of both the Council and the local community. Additionally, he emphasised the Administration's resolve to resume projects that were previously halted due to payment delays resulting from mismanagement of funds during the previous Administration.

SOURCE : PSM

### MACL initiates stakeholder engagement sessions for VIA terminal



The Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL) has initiated stakeholder engagement sessions to facilitate the operationalisation of the new passenger terminal at Velana International Airport (VIA).

During the inauguration of the sessions, Managing Director of MACL lbrahim Shareef Mohamed emphasised the meticulous nature of transitioning operations to the new terminal. He underscored the indispensable cooperation of all stakeholders associated with airport services to ensure a seamless commissioning process.

Additionally, Shareef announced the establishment of specialised committees comprising airport service providers to spearhead the operational launch of the new terminal. He highlighted the pivotal role of these committees' discussions in facilitating a smooth transition.

The sessions were conducted at the Hulhule' Island Hotel and saw participation from VIA service providers alongside key figures such as Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority Ali Jaleel, Immigration and Customs officers, airline operators, and airport-serving resorts.

The new passenger terminal at VIA stands as a cornerstone of the ongoing airport development project, which encompasses a Code-Frunway, an innovative seaplane terminal, a VIP facility, a cargo terminal, a fuel farm, and a fire station.

\*\*SOURCE:PSM\*\*

### The President embarks on a three-day tour to South Nilandhe Atoll, Felidhe Atoll, and Mulaku Atoll this afternoon



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu embarked on a three-day tour to South Nilandhe Atoll, Felidhe Atoll, and Mulaku Atoll this afternoon.

During this visit, the President is set to visit multiple islands across the three atolls and engage in meetings with the councils and Women's Development Committees (WDC) on as many islands as time allows. Additionally, meetings with the Atoll Councils of the three atolls are scheduled.

As part of his ongoing series of visits to all atolls in the Maldives, President Dr Muizzu plans to meet with local councils of the atolls, islands, and cities. His discussions will encompass inquiries into the well-being of the people and deliberations on strategies for prioritising development projects. Notably, the President has already held meetings with 121 local councils.

The President has previously expressed his commitment to the objective of visiting each island in the country at least twice within the next five years.

SOURCE : The President's Office

05 MARCH 2024 ISSUE 03



### Deputy Director of the Office for International Military Cooperation of the People's Republic of China pays a courtesy call on President Dr Muizzu



Major General Zhang Baoqun, Deputy Director of the Office for International Military Cooperation of the People's Republic of China, paid a courtesy call on President Dr Mohamed Muizzu today. The meeting was held at the President's Office.

The President expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Republic of China for its continued support and assistance to the Maldives. President Dr Muizzu and Major General Zhang Baoqun held comprehensive discussions on strategic partnerships and enhancing defence cooperation between the Republic of the Maldives and China .

The courtesy call concluded positively, with President Dr Muizzu and Major General Zhang Baoqun expressing enthusiasm for future collaborations and partnerships.

SOURCE : The President's Office

## The President asserts that, with the unwavering support of citizens, the administration's objectives for the people can be promptly achieved



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu claimed that, with citizens' unwavering support, the administration's objectives for the people can be promptly achieved. The President made these remarks while addressing the people of B. Hithaadhoo this afternoon.

During the meeting, the President expressed his commitment to realizing the dreams of the people. He assured that he would prioritize the necessities of the people while also assisting them in achieving their aspirations.

In this regard, President Dr Muizzu committed to make necessary

adjustments to accommodate the preferences of the Hithaadhoo residents, in completing the island's harbour project. He also mentioned that preparations are underway to commence the land reclamation project in Hithaadhoo this year.

Speaking at the meeting, the President assured the people of Hithaadhoo that he would fulfill their requests in the sectors of sports, health, and education. He reiterated his dedication to advancing development for both the people and the islands, aiming to deliver tangible results for the community.

Hithaadhoo is the sixth destination that the President has visited as part of his tour of North and South Maalhosmadulu Atolls.



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### Marine Management System will ensure sovereignty: Cities Minister



Minister of Cities, Local Government, and Public Works Adam Shareef Umar, has emphasised the significance of the marine management system in safeguarding the country's sovereignty. Speaking during President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's visit to Thulhaahoo, Baa Atoll, Minister Adam Shareef noted that the largest expanse of Maldives is its marine environment, expressing regret that it has not been sustainably managed.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Shareef highlighted the role of local fishermen in alerting the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) when foreign vessels are observed illegally operating in Maldives waters. He stressed the need for strategic management of Maldivian waters to protect against such illegal activities. President Dr. Muizzu has accorded special importance to this issue and announced the establishment of a marine management system with specified operating hours. Once implemented, MNDF will oversee the management of Maldivian waters.

Additionally, Minister Shareef underscored the government's commitment to reduce dependence on specific countries, citing extensive efforts to secure access to essential resources from various nations. The ongoing work reflects the government's dedication to ensuring the self-sufficiency and resilience of the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM

### BCC begins development of Creator Hub

The Business Centre Corporation (BCC) has commenced the development of the Creator Hub, a project initiated to establish a platform for fostering a skilled economy. The foundation for this innovative building was laid during an event at Sultan Park, by Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Mohamed Saeed.

Conceived as part of President Dr. Mohammed Muizzu's vision the eleven-storey Creator Hub by BCC is designed to offer flexible working spaces for industry professionals. The facility will be equipped with the essential tools and equipment required for optimal productivity.



BCC emphasised the importance of promoting technical and innovative fields within a creative economy, noting communication and knowledge-sharing as fundamental components. The corporation underscores the significance of providing a conducive work environment furnished with sophisticated technological appliances to cater to the needs of professionals in these sectors.

During the event at Sultan Park, Deputy Managing Director of BCC, Saamih Adam, highlighted the increasing number of self-employed professionals and stressed the Creator Hub's role in enhancing productivity in technical and innovative fields, both in the national and international markets. Saamih highlighted the hub's potential to support the development of a talented, skilled generation, contributing to the overall performance of the economy and boosting profits for small and medium-sized enterprises.

In February of the previous year, the Creative Hub project, along with its designs, was entrusted to FEDO Private Limited. With a designated area of 1500 sqft, the Creative Hub is slated for launch in 2025, with the project completion expected within 400 days under a design-and-build policy.

SOURCE : PSM