



10 MARCH 2024

ISSUE 07

## Formulation of fishermen register will conclude by July: Minister Shiyam

Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Resources Ahmed Shiyam has announced the fishermen's register is set to be completed by the end of July. Compiling this national register for fishermen aligns with one of the key commitments made by the current administration, particularly emphasised in the 'Week14' road map.

The opportunity for fishermen to register was officially launched at a ceremony in Komandoo, Shaviyani Atoll. The creation of this register aims to professionalise the fishing industry and provide fishermen with financial opportunities comparable to other government jobs.

Moreover, the government highlighted that the register would integrate fishermen into the banking system, enabling access to bank loans for further investments. This move is expected to facilitate government support to fishermen in the form of subsidies.



Minister Shiyam noted that teams are actively working in various atolls and cities, including Gaafu Alifu Atoll, Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll, Laamu Atoll, Shaviyani Atoll, Alifu Dhaalu Atoll, Haa Dhaalu Atoll, Addu City, and Fuvahmulah City. The teams will subsequently move on to Haa Alifu Atoll, Lhaviyani Atoll, Thaa Atoll, Male' City, and Hulhumale'.

Furthermore, Minister Shiyam assured that all types of fishing approaches would be included in the fishermen's register. Despite the requirement in the fisheries act for such a register, there has been no evidence of its completion until now. The government's efforts are geared towards providing comprehensive information, encompassing various fishing methods such as grouper fishing, recreational fishing, and sports fishing, in line with the current administration's commitments.

SOURCE : PSM



## The President encourages all to seize the golden opportunity Ramadan presents to embrace virtuous conduct and ideals

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu encouraged all Maldivians to seize Ramadan's golden opportunity to embrace virtuous conduct and ideals. He made the remarks while speaking with the residents of Lhaviyani Atoll Naifaru Island.

In that regard, the President encouraged Maldivian citizens to foster a compassionate society by caring for one another. The President emphasised that the holy month of Ramadan provides an opportunity to increase piety.

President Dr Muizzu urged the public to abstain from negative behaviors, adopt honest communication, nurture respect and discipline among individuals of all age groups—children, youth, and adults—and promote positive behavior and values. The President appealed to the populace to refrain from falsehood even amid competition and treat each other respectfully.

SOURCE : President's Office

“ STO has already begun importing necessary items to reduce prices ahead of Ramadan, which is in effect already. However, extra efforts will be made to reduce prices of consumer goods

His Excellency President  
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu





## The President declares Naifaru as one of the Seven Urban Centres for Development



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has declared Naifaru as one of the seven urban centres slated for development by the Administration. The President made these remarks while addressing the residents of Lh.Naifaru today.

Speaking at the meeting, the President emphasised the crucial need for sustainable development in the Maldives. He outlined the Government’s master plan to establish seven urban centers, each dedicated to delivering high-quality services sustainably to all citizens.

The President detailed the comprehensive scope of the urban centers, encompassing critical aspects of the healthcare sector, and offering diverse therapy services. He also highlighted plans to elevate the education system to the highest standards and improve road infrastructure, ensuring comprehensive development across all sectors.

During the meeting, President Dr Muizzu acknowledged that a prior land expansion project in Naifaru had not met residents’ expectations. He assured that the current Administration’s project would successfully conclude with the acquisition of 45 hectares of land, aligning with the aspirations of Naifaru’s residents. He emphasized the substantial community benefits that would result from this endeavour.

Naifaru is the third destination of the President’s ongoing visit to Faadhippolhu Atoll today.

SOURCE : President’s Office



## State revenue exceeds expenditure by USD 1 million

Ministry of Finance has revealed the government’s revenue has exceeded its expenditures by USD 1 million by the end of the first two months of this year.

The weekly fiscal report issued by the finance ministry indicates that the government has both earned and spent USD 4.2 billion during this period. The fiscal report reveals that the revenue comprises USD 3.6 billion in tax revenue, USD 53 million in non-tax revenue, and USD 1 million in aid received.

Tax earnings include import duty, business and property tax (BPT), goods and services tax (GST), as well as earnings from GST. The breakdown of revenue generation includes USD 30 million from import duties, USD 1.2 billion from BPT, USD 1.8 billion from GST, USD 12 million from green tax, USD 11.7 million from airport service charges, and departure tax.

Expenditures till the end of February totaled USD 415 million, with USD 337 million allocated to recurrent expenses and USD 77 million to capital expenditures. Recurrent expenses cover USD 136 million for salaries and allowances and USD 19 million for administrative work. Capital expenditure primarily encompasses expenses related to structural development. Notably, compared to the same period last year, government expenditures have seen a significant reduction, with USD 532 million spent during the corresponding timeframe.

SOURCE : PSM

## The President commits to addressing the land shortage issue in Kurendhoo Island

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has committed to addressing the land shortage issue in Kurendhoo Island. He made the remarks while speaking at the meeting held with the Island Council and the Women’s Development Committee (WDC) of Kurendhoo Island, Faadhippolhu Atoll. The meeting was held this morning at Kurendhoo Habashi Pre-School.

During the meeting, the Council highlighted concerns regarding the harbour project, coastal erosion, land shortage, housing requirements, and the allocation of an island for economic activities. Additionally, there

was emphasis on expediting the completion of the school’s multipurpose hall, enhancing health center services, and improving electricity provision.

Further, matters pertaining to the island’s social and economic development were emphasized by the Council.

President Dr Muizzu, along with the Ministers in attendance offered the latest updates on the Government’s efforts to resolve the issues raised by the Council. The President provided assurances of practical solutions, particularly in addressing coastal erosion on the island

SOURCE : President’s Office



## Lhossalafushi will be under jurisdiction of Kurendhoo: President



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu committed to directing all possible efforts to place Lhossalafushi, an island in close proximity to Kurendhoo Island, under the purview of Kurendhoo. He emphasized that this measure aims to ensure the sustainable development of Kurendhoo.

The President made these remarks while addressing the residents of Kurendhoo Island this morning.

The President stated that the Administration would work to ensure economic progress for all islands, paving the way for the prosperity of their residents. He revealed his intention to follow proper procedures while seeking the least disruptive path to change the jurisdiction of Lhossalafushi. The President added that he would do everything possible to make it happen, considering the benefits for the island, its residents, and future generations.

In his speech, President Dr Muizzu congratulated Kurendhoo School on marking its 40th anniversary today, and expressed the Administration's commitment to supporting the school's future endeavours.

Kurendhoo Island marks the President's initial destination on his tour of several islands in the Lhaviyani Atoll.

SOURCE : President's Office

## Gov't distributes essentials to households

The government has initiated the distribution of essential goods to every household in preparation for the upcoming month of Ramadan. President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu announced that each household will receive 10kg of rice and 10kg of flour as part of this initiative. The State Trading Organisation (STO) is overseeing the distribution process, and the imported goods are securely stored.

Starting on March 9, STO has begun the distribution of basic goods in the Greater Male Region. Daily distribution hours are from 10:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs, excluding Fridays, with an additional window from 20:30 hrs to 23:00 hrs. During Ramadan, distribution hours will be adjusted to 09:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs and 21:00 hrs to 23:30 hrs.

Six distribution points have been designated across the Greater Male Region, and transportation to the islands will commence on March 13, with city and local councils overseeing distribution. This effort is exclusively for Maldivian residents, and STO is collaborating with various government ministries, councils, and associations to coordinate the distribution process.

SOURCE : PSM

## MPL starts re-exporting to expand it's business



Maldives Ports Limited (MPL) has announced its readiness to expand business operations through re-exporting. Speaking to the media, CEO Mohamed Ibrahim Wajeeh highlighted the significant demand for re-exporting goods that are initially imported by a country. He expressed the company's willingness to venture into re-exporting to boost MPL's revenue.

CEO Ibrahim Wajeeh disclosed successful negotiations with airlines, reaching agreements on handling transshipment cargo, with a particular emphasis on the demand from destinations like Colombo for re-exporting.

Explaining the advantages of re-exporting, Wajeeh emphasized that the process would contribute to increasing MPL's revenue and play a role in addressing the issue of the shortage of dollars in the country.

Wajeeh reassured that MPL is actively working on modernising, improving, and developing its services. Initiatives in progress include efforts to enhance the capacity of the Hulhumale port by accommodating an additional 150 containers. This expansion aims to address the shortage of workspace in the bonded warehouses, which provide services to the tourism industry. Additionally, Wajeeh affirmed that the re-exporting business would be highly beneficial for resorts.

SOURCE : PSM



## The President assures a permanent solution to the housing crisis in Hinnavaru



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu stated that this Administration will find a permanent solution to the housing problem in Hinnavaru. The President made the remarks while speaking with the people of Faadhippolhu Hinnavaru this evening.

During the meeting, the President emphasized the initiation of various infrastructure projects, in addition to addressing housing needs. These include plans for road construction and port enhancements, along with ensuring the provision of essential utilities this year, such as water, electricity, and sanitation in the newly reclaimed areas of Hinnavaru.

Asserting the importance of every citizen, President Dr Muizzu affirmed his commitment to equality among all Maldivians, irrespective of political ideologies. He highlighted that an individual's political perspectives carry no weight in his considerations.

Furthermore, the President committed to providing equal attention to every community, regardless of population size, ensuring the fulfillment of pending projects and upholding the rights of all citizens.

Hinnavaru is the second destination that the President has visited as part of his ongoing visit to Faadhippolhu Atoll today.

SOURCE : President's Office

## The President returns to Malé after concluding tour of several islands in Lhaviyani Atoll

On Saturday, President Dr Mohamed Muizzu returned to Malé after concluding his tour of several islands in Lhaviyani Atoll.



As part of the President's commitment to visiting all atolls in the Maldives and engaging with the atoll councils, city councils and island councils nationwide, he seeks to assess citizens' well-being and discuss prioritization of crucial developmental projects. To date, the President has held discussions with 150 local councils.

The President has previously announced his intention to visit every island twice within this five-year term.

SOURCE : President's Office

## President ensures affordable Ramadan food prices

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has emphasised his commitment to ensuring affordable food prices during the upcoming month of Ramadan. He made the commitment during the "Raees ge Javaab" series, which facilitates direct public interaction with the President on diverse issues.

In response to a request made by a citizen during the series to reduce food prices for Ramadan, President Dr. Muizzu reiterated the government's commitment to the priority. He highlighted ongoing efforts to lower prices for various items, with the State Trading Organisation (STO) already implementing discounted rates, and assured that further actions will be taken to alleviate the burden on consumers.

Additionally, President Dr. Muizzu outlined the government's long-term strategy to ensure sustained affordability of food items. He said that it involves prioritising food security through local production, which would ultimately result in lower prices and guaranteed availability.

The government has initiated the importation of basic commodities



through STO to address this issue of increased food prices during Ramadan. Recognising the importance of staple food like onions, eggs, and potatoes, which tend to become more expensive during Ramadan, STO is importing and selling these items at reduced prices. Furthermore, efforts are underway to expand the range of cost-effective offerings to the public.

SOURCE : PSM