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### The President decides to implement “Vessels Tracking Devices” on marine vessels and monitor them systematically



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu, following a recommendation from the Cabinet, has resolved to implement “Vessel Tracking Devices” on marine vessels and systematically monitor their activities. This initiative aims to effectively combat the sale and trafficking of narcotic drugs throughout the nation.

The decision was made following discussions on a paper submitted by the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology during today’s Cabinet meeting.

The determination to install and oversee marine vessels via tracking devices strategically supports the anti-drug operations conducted by the Maldives Police Service, addressing the widespread issue of drug sale and trafficking across the nation.

In addition, in line with the Cabinet’s recommendation, the President has opted to revise the Sea Vessel Safety Regulation (2015/R-229) to enforce the mandatory installation of tracking devices on all marine vessels.

At today’s Cabinet meeting, the President also decided to establish a comprehensive system for tracking the movements of vessels equipped with the installed devices. This monitoring will be conducted through the collaboration of the Maldives Police Service’s Maritime Operations Centre and the Maldives National Defence Force’s Maritime Rescue Coordination.

SOURCE : The President’s Office



### All payments to fishermen handed over to MIFCO

Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Resources Ahmed Shiyam has announced that the government has cleared all outstanding funds owed by the previous administration to fishermen and transferred the funds to the Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company Limited (MIFCO).

Speaking to PSM News, Minister Shiyam acknowledged the financial challenges faced by the government when President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu took office but highlighted that they have managed to settle all pending payments to fishermen.

Further, Shiyam mentioned the outstanding funds have been reallocated to MIFCO, and payments to boat owners are being processed by MIFCO, with the assurance that it will be transferred to Bank of Maldives (BML) accounts within a day. However, he noted that if someone has an account with another bank, there might be slight delays over the weekend.

The minister emphasised that the previous administration owed fishermen USD 16.2 million, and settling this long-overdue payment presented significant challenges. President Muizzu had earlier announced that the payments to fishermen would be completed before the Holy month of Ramadan. He also assured that new payments would be processed within 48 hours of fish processing.

SOURCE : PSM



Government aims to ensure that fishermen are paid on a daily basis



His Excellency President  
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu





### The Vice President breaks ground at the new building site of the Auditor General’s Office

Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef broke ground on Sunday, at the site of the new Auditor General’s Office building. The ceremony was held this evening at the first phase of Hulhumalé.

The Maldives Transport and Contracting Company Plc (MTCC) was awarded the contract for developing the six-storey office building. The new office building will comprise adequate workspace, a daycare facility for staff use, parking space, a library, and a conference hall to host trainings and events.

SOURCE : The President’s Office

### President conveys Ramadan felicitations to the leaders of Islamic countries

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu extended his warmest felicitations and sincere good wishes on behalf of the Government and the people of the Maldives to the Governments and the Muslim brothers and sisters of Islamic countries, on the commencement of Ramadan 1445.

In his messages, the President expressed hope that during this holy month of Ramadan, Almighty Allah bestow generous blessings and bring the countries together for the peace, progress, and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah.

SOURCE : The President’s Office

### Salaries of council administrative staff can be increased through parliament: President



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has stated that the salaries of administrative employees within councils can be elevated through a legal amendment in the Parliament. He made the remark during the “Raees ge Javaab” series, a platform facilitating direct public interaction with the President on a wide range of issues.

In response to a question from Moosa Sabir an administrative staff member of the Island Council of Naalaafushi, Meemu Atoll, regarding potential changes to the salaries of council employees, the President acknowledged the existing disparity between the salaries of graduates and employees with a lower qualification.

President Muizzu clarified that councils are currently categorised at a very low level under the Parliamentary Affairs Act. Despite efforts from the government and the Ministry of Finance to enhance the salaries of administrative employees within councils, the President noted that any increase is contingent on generating additional revenue and strengthening the economy.

Expressing his desire to improve the salaries of council employees, President Muizzu emphasised that immediate resolution of this issue is only possible through increased revenue and economic empowerment. Acknowledging the seriousness of the matter, he assured that steps would be taken to address the concerns surrounding the salaries of administrative employees within councils.

SOURCE : PSM



11.03.2024



## Zakat-al-Fitr collection begins

Government has begun the collection of Zakat-al-Fitr.

Maldives Zakat Housing has confirmed that online zakat payments will be facilitated from the coming March 11 until April 6. They added that despite the last 10 days of Ramadan being government holidays, the zakat payment system will remain operational.

Various online platforms have been provided for the convenience of zakat payments, including the Dhiraagu app, Dhiraagu pay, SMS, Ooredoo M-Faisaa, Ooredoo pay, Maldives Islamic Bank Mobile Application, Faisaa net, Bank of Maldives (BML) portal, Fahipay application and website, as well as Bandeyri Pay.



Moreover, the payable zakat is determined based on the consumption of 2.4 kilograms of wheat.

In the Greater Male' area region, the Zakat al-Fitr amounts for different types of rice are as follows: USD 0.78 for rice, USD 4.55 for Thailand white rice, USD 5.20 for red rice, USD 4.55 for ordinary basmati rice, USD 6.49 for premium basmati rice, and USD 8.12 for super premium basmati rice. Additionally, the Zakat al-Fitr amounts for wheat and wheat flour are USD 0.65 and USD 4.87, respectively.

Zakat Housing also informed that Zakat al-Fitr can be paid via Bandeyri Pay until the last day of Ramadan. Additionally, zakat will be accepted at the Ministry of Islamic Affairs hall for elderly people and those unfamiliar with online payment systems.

Arrangements have been made to accept Zakat al-Fitr every morning from 0930hrs to 1300hrs, excluding public holidays. During the last 10 days of Ramadan (public holidays), zakat can be paid every day from 1100hrs am to 1400hrs, except for Fridays and Saturdays. Zakat Housing announced that zakat payment systems will be organised by the island's councils.

Furthermore, Zakat al-Fitr, obligatory for all Muslims, is given to those in need of financial assistance after the Holy month of Ramadan. Mandated in the second year of Hijra, it applies to men, women, children, adults, independents, slaves, rich, and poor. However, certain conditions must be met, including having enough money to provide for dependents with food and basic essentials on the day and night of Eid.

SOURCE : PSM

## The President sends Commonwealth Day felicitations



In commemoration of this year's Commonwealth Day, President D. Mohamed Muizzu has conveyed warm wishes and emphasised the spirit of unity for a prosperous and resilient future. His message, recognising the significance of the Commonwealth, highlighted the importance of shared values and norms outlined in the Commonwealth Charter.

President in his message noted that a crucial partner for Small Island Developing States like the Maldives, the Commonwealth plays a vital role in advocating for climate action, simplified access to finance, gender equality, increased trade, and resilience-building. The president added that this year's theme, "One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth," aligns with the interests and priorities of the Maldives.

President Muizzu underscored the achievements of the Commonwealth over its 75-year history, noting the collaborative efforts that have placed sustainable development at the forefront. He underscored that unified endeavors have addressed vulnerabilities, upheld shared commitments, and showcased the advantages of working together in unison.

Expressing gratitude for the Commonwealth's commitment to finding solutions to shared challenges, President reaffirmed the Maldives' dedication to collaborating within the Commonwealth family.

The Maldives rejoined the Commonwealth on February 1, 2020.

SOURCE : PSM

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Commonwealth Day greets us at an opportune moment to summon the spirit of unity to ensure a prosperous and resilient future.



His Excellency President  
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu

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## MPL inaugurates state-of-the-art labourer's shelter

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has stated that the salaries of administrative employees within councils can be elevated through a legal amendment in the Parliament. He made the remark during the "Raees ge Javaab" series, a platform facilitating direct public interaction with the President on a wide range of issues.

In response to a question from an administrative staff member of the Island Council of Faresmaathodaa, Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll, regarding potential changes to the salaries of council employees, the President acknowledged the existing disparity between the salaries of graduates and lower-class employees.

President Muizzu clarified that councils are currently categorised at a very low level under the Parliamentary Affairs Act. Despite efforts from the government and the Ministry of Finance to enhance the salaries of administrative employees within councils, the President noted that any increase is contingent on generating additional revenue and strengthening the economy.



Expressing his desire to improve the salaries of council employees, President Muizzu emphasised that immediate resolution of this issue is only possible through increased revenue and economic empowerment. Acknowledging the seriousness of the matter, he assured that steps would be taken to address the concerns surrounding the salaries of administrative employees within councils.

SOURCE : PSM

## Tourist arrivals from top five leading nations reach 200,00

The Ministry of Tourism has disclosed that the Maldives has welcomed over 200,000 tourist arrivals this year from the top five visitor nations.

Recent statistics released by the tourism ministry indicate that the predominant source countries for tourists are China, Russia, Italy, the United Kingdom (UK), and Germany.

A cumulative total of 212,817 tourists have explored the Maldives from these nations so far. In total, 466,273 tourists have visited the Maldives in the current year, reflecting a notable 15.2% increase compared to the corresponding period last year, which witnessed 404,898 tourist arrivals.

The data further revealed that February experienced an unprecedented surge in tourist arrivals in the Maldives, with a tally exceeding 200,000. With the government's ambitious target of welcoming two million tourists this



year, the overall number of visitors to the Maldives has already surpassed the 400,000 mark.

To achieve the objective of exceeding two million visitors, the government has outlined various initiatives to enhance tourism in the Maldives throughout the year.

SOURCE : PSM

## Addu bridge survey works underway

The first survey work for the bridge project linking Hithadhoo to Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo in Addu City has been successfully completed.

The government awarded the survey and preliminary design task for the Addu City Bridge to The Arab Contractors, an Egypt-based company. The decision was made during President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's visit to Addu in February. The President assured the residents of Addu that the survey and preliminary design phase would swiftly progress, leading to the construction of the bridge, which is expected to be operational within the year.

Following President Dr. Muizzu's pledge, the survey work commenced, with the Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure confirming the initiation of the first survey for the preliminary design on March 6. Now completed, Minister of Construction and Infrastructure Dr. Abdulla Muththalib affirmed that the survey would wrap up within three months, staying true to the President's pledge of completing the bridge this year.

Spanning approximately 14km, the bridge garnered interest from various parties, including major Chinese companies, upon its initial announcement. However, the government decided to entrust The Arab Contractors with the project, emphasising their dedication to its timely completion. Notably, the survey expenses are borne by the contractor, reflecting a cost-effective approach.

The government emphasised a collaborative approach, stressing the involvement of the Addu City Council and local residents throughout the project's execution. Beyond enhancing progress and development in Addu, the bridge is expected to enhance connectivity for residents of neighboring atolls, fostering further growth in Hulhumeedhoo and beyond.

SOURCE : PSM