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President launches the MNDF Air Corps and the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) into service

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu, the Commander-in-Chief of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), launched the MNDF's Air Corps and introduced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) into the service of the Defence Force.

Establishing the nation's first-ever Air Force and deploying UAVs in that force represents a powerful and important step in preserving the nation's independence and sovereignty. The service will significantly contribute to maintaining the security and safety of the nation's maritime territories and deterring illicit activities.



On this occasion, the President introduced the UAV and signed the decree to start MNDF's air surveillance in the Maldives. He was then given a seven-gun salute in honour of providing UAV and 'air surveillance' capabilities to the MNDF.

During the ceremony, the President also launched "Ras'ain," a mobile application for fishermen and travellers. This app tracks weather alerts and important messages from the Coast Guard. Fishermen can additionally use the app to locate schools of fish and utilise the app for other vital functions.

SOURCE : President's Office

The Maldives, along with its ocean, is a vast nation; Maldivians will monitor our jurisdiction, states the President

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has stated that the Maldives and its oceans are vast and that Maldivians would monitor our jurisdiction. The President made the remarks while speaking at the ceremony held at Maafaru International Airport in the Noonu Atoll to launch the Maldives National Defence Force's (MNDF) Air Corps and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

Emphasising that the Maldives isn't a small nation, the President stated that the Maldives stretches along nine hundred thousand square kilometres and is capable of monitoring its jurisdiction. He added that the Maldives is an independent and sovereign nation and that surveillance of the Maldives' jurisdiction should not concern any external parties. He further explained that this would not impede the Maldives' close relations with all countries.



President Dr Muizzu announced new initiatives to strengthen the nation's military capabilities. He revealed the initiative to mobilise resources to recondition neglected military resources and bring them up to a standard for military use and public service. The President stated that the Administration would double the capacity of the Coast Guard, expand the Air Corps fleet, and enhance land-based vehicles and platforms.

In his speech, the President affirmed the importance of the Maldives navigating its course towards self-reliance and remaining an independent and sovereign nation in every aspect. He highlighted that defending the nation is a duty befalling all citizens and that the nation's independence and sovereignty must be in the common interest of the entire populace, despite varying ideologies.

SOURCE : President's Office





The President express gratitude to the Turkish President for his continuous assistance to Maldives in augmenting military capabilities



President H.E. Dr Mohamed Muizzu, the Commander-in-Chief of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), expressed his gratitude to the President of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, for his continuous assistance in augmenting the Maldives' military capabilities.

The President expressed his gratitude to the Turkish President while speaking at the ceremony held at Maafaru International Airport in the Noonu Atoll to launch the Maldives National Defence Force's (MNDF) Air Corps and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

Gesturing to the initiation of surveillance of the Maldivian waters for the first time using UAVs, President Dr Muizzu emphasised that the Turkish President had played a pivotal role in realising the goal. He stated that the Maldives received three UAVs and hoped to increase the number through the close bilateral ties between Türkiye and the Maldives. The President added that most of it was received through grant aid from Türkiye.

The President further emphasised the Administration's efforts to double the Coast Guard fleet by adding vessels of all sizes and augmenting military capabilities through its close relations with Türkiye and friendly countries.

SOURCE : President's Office



MNDF Air Corps newly inducted unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)



Defense Minister says MNDF Air Corps service elevates military to new heights

Minister of Defense Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon has lauded the inauguration of the Maldives National Defence Force Air Corps and the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) service as a transformative milestone, elevating the capabilities of the army service to unprecedented heights.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Ghassan underscored the pivotal role of the MNDF in safeguarding the nation's maritime boundaries and preserving its independence, under the visionary leadership of President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu. The minister said this marks a historic achievement for our nation and our armed forces.

He attributed the historic day to the relentless dedication of President Muizzu, highlighting the president's steadfast commitment to fortifying the defense sector and ensuring the self-sufficiency of the armed forces since assuming office.

Further, he stated the inauguration of the Air Corps signifies a significant leap forward for the military, steeped in a rich history of service. He lauded the deployment of advanced technology under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief, enabling the MNDF to deliver essential services to the people securely, akin to systems employed in developed nations.

Noting the nature of warfare has evolved, and while the era of enslavement among nations has ended, threats to sovereignty persist, the minister declared the Maldives unequivocally rejects any encroachment on its sovereignty.

Highlighting the Maldives' expansive maritime domain, Minister Ghassan underscored the MNDF's unwavering commitment to enhancing search and rescue efforts, as well as fortifying the nation's independence and security.

Minister Ghassan noted with Maldives' vast maritime territory, the MNDF's dedication to search and rescue operations is integral to expanding the safeguarding of the nation's independence and security.

SOURCE : PSM



“Air Corp service vital for national security assurance and confidence”



The Chief of Defense Force, Lieutenant General Abdul Raheem Abdul Latheef has hailed the commencement of the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) Air Corps service as a significant step towards bolstering national security. Speaking at the inauguration of the MNDF Air Corps and the introduction of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Lieutenant General Abdul Latheef highlighted the crucial role this initiative plays in enhancing the country’s defense capabilities.

Acknowledging the historical reliance on foreign parties for air services, Lieutenant General Abdul Latheef emphasised that the launch of the Air Corps service signifies a notable improvement in the Maldives’ indigenous air capabilities. He stated with the introduction of the Air Corps service, the Maldives Army’s air service will be greatly enhanced. He underscored the importance of modernising the military by providing UAVs with state-of-the-art equipment, thereby significantly augmenting the army’s capabilities.

Lieutenant General Abdul Latheef affirmed that the Air Corps’ service instills a sense of confidence in national security, showcasing the Maldives Army’s capacity to safeguard the nation’s independence and sovereignty. He reassured the public that the military resources allocated would be utilised optimally.

Moreover, he emphasised the symbolic significance of flying the national flag, representing freedom and sovereignty. He expressed confidence that this initiative would reinforce the belief among Maldivians in their ability to uphold independence and sovereignty, as well as showcase the capabilities of the Maldives Army.

The inauguration of the MNDF Air Corps and UAV service was officiated by President and Commander-in-Chief Dr. Mohamed Muizzu at a ceremony held at Maafaru International Airport. This service is poised to conduct all necessary air military operations to ensure the security of the Maldives’ airspace.

SOURCE : PSM



President plans to end unjust trial detentions

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced plans to put an end to the unjust detention pending trial. He made the announcement during the “Raees ge Javaab” series, which facilitates direct public interaction with the President on diverse issues.

Nasheeda Hassan from Mulah, Meemu Atoll, raised concerns with President Dr. Muizzu about whether the President had committed to releasing individuals held in custody pending trial, and if so, when it would occur.

In response, President Dr. Muizzu emphasised the significance of addressing the matter and affirmed that necessary legislative adjustments are underway to tackle it. He mentioned the reinforcement of the investigative process as part of the effort and assured the public that a permanent solution will be achieved.

President Dr. Muizzu had previously announced the cessation of prolonged detention pending trial in his parliamentary address in February. Furthermore, the enhancement of prison facilities stands as a presidential commitment, which he guaranteed would be fulfilled within his term.

SOURCE : PSM

Zakat-al-Mal collection surge 16.7% in February

The Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) has reported a total of USD 3.7 million received as Zakat-al-Mal in February 2024. This amount reflects a 16.7% increase compared to the USD 3.2 million collected in February 2023.

According to MIRA’s latest records, a total of USD 6.1 million has been collected as zakat

on wealth so far in the current year. This marks a decrease from the USD 6.6 million collected during the same period in 2023. Maldivians are mandated to submit Zakat al-Mal to MIRA, either at its service centers or other branches across the atolls. In instances where there are no MIRA collection centers established, the responsibility falls to the island council.

Zakat al-Mal constitutes a portion of the wealth and property that Muslims are obligated to pay annually to support the poor within their community. It is levied on specific assets

identified by Islamic law as having the potential for growth. Individuals who meet the minimum wealth requirements are required to pay Zakat al-Mal, with the minimum threshold known as Nisab.

The Nisab threshold is determined by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, with the last adjustment to the property Zakat rate made in August 2023. Presently, the Nisab limit stands at USD 463.68.

SOURCE : PSM



Members appointed for Housing Committee



The Ministry of Housing, Land, and Urban Development has announced the appointment of members to the Housing Committee, established to provide advice and assistance in resolving issues related to the Binveriyaa and Gedhoruveriyaa housing schemes.

The Housing Committee was initiated in February 2024 to oversee and advance the development of the Binveriyaa and Gedhoruveriyaa schemes, which were initiated during the previous government's tenure. President Dr. Mohammed Muizzu recommended the establishment of this committee.

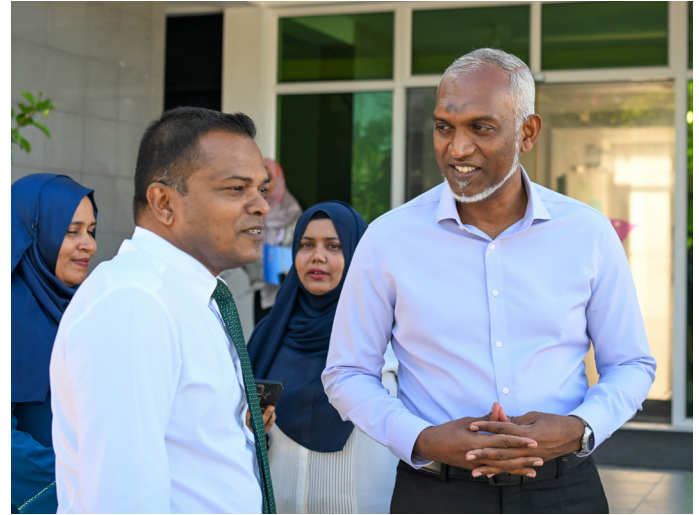
The appointed members of the Housing Committee are as follows: Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzudin Aneesa Ahmed, Aminath Eenaas, Ahmed Ali Manik, Abdul Azeez Yusuf, and Mariyam Fizana Rasheedh. Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzudin Aneesa Ahmed has been appointed as the Chair, with Abdul Azeez Yusuf designated as the Vice Chair. Additionally, the ministry will oversee the committee's secretariat.

The Ministry of Housing also disclosed that the inaugural meeting with the Housing Committee was held on March 14.

SOURCE : PSM

“Housing is a fundamental human right and every citizen in need should be entitled to it.”

His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



Addu City Council committed to Addu development collaboration

Mayor of Addu City Ali Nizar has expressed optimism about the future of Addu under the current administration, highlighting the commitment of the Addu City Council to collaborate with the government for its development.

Speaking to PSM News, Mayor Nizar highlighted President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's visit to Addu in February, during which extensive discussions took place between the President and the council regarding the development of Addu. As such, he said that the councilors of each island were given the opportunity to present their proposals to the President separately.

Additionally, Mayor Nizar emphasised the close collaboration between the council and the Ministry of Cities, Local Government, and Public Works, ensuring prompt responses to government inquiries. He outlined significant development plans, including the challenging Hithadhoo to Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo bridge project, which previous governments hesitated to tackle. He, however, said that with President Dr. Muizzu's approach, residents are now hopeful that this long-awaited project will come to fruition.

Furthermore, Mayor Nizar expressed confidence in President Dr. Muizzu's commitment to fulfilling major projects. He noted that survey work for the bridge project has commenced with The Arab Contractors, an Egyptian-based company. He also said that the President assured that the project would be completed within the current term.

Moreover, Mayor Nizar pledged the council's full cooperation in various development initiatives, including road construction, land reclamation, and airport projects crucial for the progress of Addu. He said that President Dr. Muizzu has guaranteed the uninterrupted continuation of the projects.

The government's plans for Addu also include the Addu Asseyri Tourism Development Plan, aiming to establish a 6,000-bed tourism project, along with the development of the Addu Equatorial Hospital, both of which are key components of the government's agenda for the development of Addu.

SOURCE : PSM