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## Gov't to develop national sports complex in Hulhumale Phase I

Minister of Sports, Fitness, and Recreation Abdulla Rafiu has unveiled plans for the construction of a dedicated national sports complex in Hulhumale Phase I.

In an interview with PSM News, Minister Rafiu revealed that the complex will be established on land previously designated for sports infrastructure, predating the current administration's tenure. Acquired from the Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure, this land will now be utilized for the construction of the national sports complex, with work expected to commence later this year. He assured that all financial arrangements for the complex will be finalized within the coming months.

Minister Rafiu stressed the significance of state-of-the-art futsal facilities, in addition to the development of multipurpose sports complexes and various sports grounds across the country. He cited the recent allocation of land for the construction of a five-stadium futsal and netball complex in February, in line with the Week-14 Roadmap.

Furthermore, Minister Rafiu outlined the placement of the futsal complex in Hulhumale Phase II, while the netball complex is slated for Hulhumale Phase I. These complexes, heralded as the first five-stadium installations in the Maldives, will be designed to accommodate a wide range of sports activities, marking a significant advancement in the nation's sporting infrastructure.

SOURCE : PSM

“ we will pave the path for sports associations to evolve and promote activities. Aiming for long term achievement, we will begin training athletes and players

His Excellency President  
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



## ECM to place 602 ballot boxes for parliamentary election

The Election Commission of Maldives (ECM) has announced 602 ballot boxes will be placed for the upcoming parliamentary election, a slight reduction from the originally planned number.

Initially, ECM had planned to position 608 ballot boxes for the parliamentary election scheduled for March 17, 2024. However, following the rescheduling of the election to April 21, 2024, and considering changes in re-registration, the number of ballot boxes has been adjusted to 602.

Among these, 21 polling stations will be located in the greater Male' area, including 181 in Male' City, 51 in Hulhumale', and 9 in Villimale'. Additionally, 319 ballot boxes will be distributed across the atolls, and 3 countries overseas will host ballot boxes based on the number of registered voters in each location. Furthermore, 34 polling stations will be set up in resorts, and 5 ballot boxes will be placed in correctional facilities.

The countries selected for overseas ballot boxes are Trivandrum in India, Columbo in Sri Lanka, and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. These locations were chosen based on the number of individuals who re-registered to vote abroad, with a minimum requirement of 150 registered voters in each location.

ECM has extended the registration opportunity for individuals who were initially assigned to canceled ballot boxes due to insufficient re-registrations. These individuals can now register at the designated polling stations where new ballot boxes will be placed. Additionally, individuals have the option to register for another ballot box to maintain the confidentiality of their votes if they feel their initial designated boxes compromise their voting secrecy.

In conclusion, a total of 371 candidates are contesting across 93 constituencies in the upcoming 30th parliamentary election.

SOURCE : PSM





## Landowners meeting scheduled to graft Giraavaru land-use plan

The government has made the decision to engage in discussions with individuals who are set to receive land plots from Giraavarufalhu under the Binveriyaa scheme. The focus of these discussions will be to prepare a land-use plan for the island. Previously, the Ministry of Housing, Land, and Urban Development had developed a draft of the land-use plan for Giraavarufalhu.

The Ministry of Housing, Land, and Urban Development has announced that the meeting will take place on March 27, with details regarding the location and time to be publicised later. The ministry has extended invitations to individuals who will be receiving land plots from Giraavarufalhu, emphasising that they will have opportunities to voice their ideas and opinions during the discussions.

While a total of 19,639 individuals are eligible for land plots, it has been decided to allocate more than 9,000 land plots to individuals under the Binveriyaa scheme. Among these allocations, 5,000 land plots are set to be provided from Giraavarufalhu, representing the highest number of land plots allocated under the scheme.

*SOURCE : PSM*

## Applications open for Rehendhi Award 2024

The Ministry of Social and Family Development has announced the opening of nominations for the Rehendhi Award 2024, providing an opportunity for individuals and organisations to submit their nominations until April 18.

The Rehendhi Award honors women who have made significant contributions to national service, women's rights, community building, and the advancement of women in the Maldives. It aims to recognise the efforts and achievements of women and empower them to take on key roles in national development.

The award will be conferred in three categories: individual awards for women and organizations, institutional gender mainstreaming, and women development committees (WDC). Interested parties can nominate themselves or others for the award. Nominees must be Maldivian nationals or registered organisations, not convicted criminals or recipients of the National Award, and should have at least five years of experience in a relevant field.

Aminath Afaa, Senior Social Protection Officer at the Ministry of Social and Family

Development, noted the increasing public appreciation and acceptance of the Rehendhi Award over the years. Many individuals now strive to achieve this recognition, reflecting its growing significance.

Forms for nominations can be submitted via email to [rehendhiawards@msft.gov.mv](mailto:rehendhiawards@msft.gov.mv) or in person at the ministry's counter on weekdays between 0900hrs and 1300hrs. This year marks the tenth edition of the Rehendhi Awards, with 46 individuals having received the honor to date.

*SOURCE : PSM*

## Minister plans to fast-track futsal and netball complex projects

Minister of Sports, Fitness, and Recreation Abdullah Rafiu has announced plans to expedite the handover of two projects, namely the establishment of a futsal complex and a netball complex, to contractors. During an interview on a programme aired on PSM News, Minister Rafiu outlined various initiatives within the sports, fitness, and recreational sector, as part of the Week-14 roadmap. These initiatives align with government policies aimed at enhancing sports facilities and hosting regional and international competitions.

The government has prioritized the construction of a football and netball complex in the Male' Region, among other facilities, as part of the Week-14 roadmap. Land has been allocated in Hulhumale' by the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) for these projects. The netball complex will be built in Hulhumale' Phase I, while the football complex will be located in Hulhumale' Phase II. Each complex will feature five stadiums and will offer a wide range of sports services. Minister Rafiu emphasised that the design concepts for the complexes have been finalised, and a financial plan has been approved by the Economic Council and forwarded to the Ministry of Finance. He assured that all necessary preparations have been made to initiate the project and that they are currently in the process of selecting contractors, pending approval from the Ministry of Finance.

The minister assured that the complexes will be developed to modern standards, providing services and facilities for athletes and spectators alike. He also emphasized that the complexes will be accessible to individuals with special needs.

Minister Rafiu highlighted the stringent requirements that must be met for the complexes to host international competitions. These include facilities such as changing rooms, toilets, referee rooms, doping rooms, and medical facilities. Additionally, spaces such as a managers' meeting hall and a media room will be established. Recognising the potential for revenue generation, Minister Rafiu expressed optimism that the project will be completed and operational within two years after handing over to contractors. He emphasized the allocation of a specialized area within the complex for commercial purposes, with the generated revenue earmarked for maintenance purposes.

*SOURCE : PSM*