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### President ensures robust system for dispensing risk allowance

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has pledged to enhance the risk allowance for employees operating in high-risk environments. He made the commitment during the “Raees ge Javaab” series; an initiative facilitating direct public engagement with the President on pertinent issues.

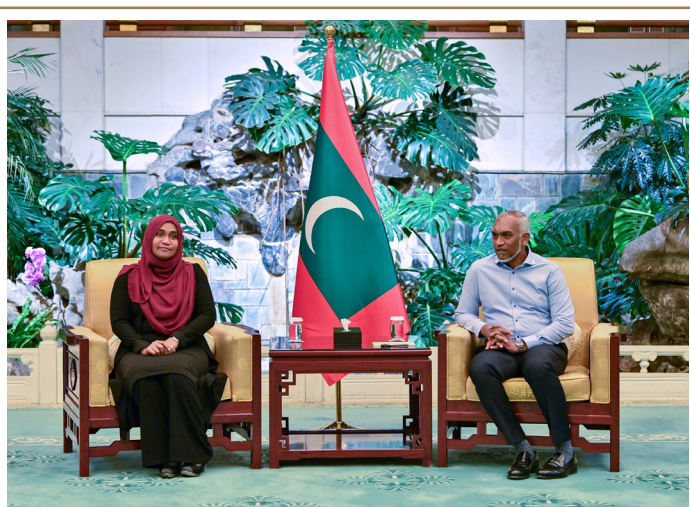
Aminath Nathasha voiced her concerns to the President regarding the absence of risk allowances for individuals engaged in high-risk roles within certain government entities.

In response, President Dr. Muizzu emphasised the diverse nature of government-owned enterprises, highlighting the necessity for addressing risk-related considerations within each company’s corporate framework.

Drawing upon the example of the Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC), the President noted distinctions between roles such as harbor construction and labor-intensive tasks, juxtaposed against those involving minimal exposure to outdoor or hazardous environments. President Dr. Muizzu committed to working towards implementing a comprehensive risk allowance system, aiming for inclusivity across a broader spectrum of individuals in the future.

Despite the demanding work conditions experienced by employees of government entities such as MTCC, Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL), Maldives Ports Limited (MPL) and Waste Management Corporation (WAMCO) disparities persist in the provision of appropriate risk allowances across different companies.

*SOURCE : PSM*



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed concluded their unofficial visit to Singapore and returned to Malé this evening. *(Filed Photo)*

### Maldives extends condolences to Russia following concert venue terror attack



The Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer has expressed heartfelt condolences to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, in the wake of the recent terrorist attack that struck a concert venue near Moscow.

Armed assailants stormed the Crocus City Concert Hall in Moscow on March 22, perpetrating the deadliest attack since the Beslan school siege two decades ago. The tragic incident, resulting in the loss of innocent lives and numerous injuries, has elicited widespread condemnation from the international community. Russia’s State Investigative Committee revealed the attack claimed the lives of 133 individuals.

In a message addressed to Minister Lavrov, Minister Zameer conveyed the strong condemnation of the Government of Maldives towards the cowardly act of terrorism. He emphasised the solidarity of the Maldivian people with their Russian counterparts during this time of immense grief and distress.

The message further expressed the Government of Maldives strongly condemns the terrorist attack at a concert venue near Moscow, which has caused the loss of innocent lives and injuries to many.

Furthermore, Minister Zameer extended profound sympathies to the families of the victims and wished a swift recovery to those injured in the heinous attack. He assured that the thoughts and prayers of the Maldivian government and its people remain with the Government and the citizens of the Russian Federation during this challenging period.

Meanwhile, in response to the attack, Russia announced on Saturday that it had apprehended all four gunmen suspected of carrying out the shooting massacre at the concert hall. President Vladimir Putin pledged to track down and punish those behind the attack, revealing that a total of 11 individuals, including the four gunmen, had been detained.

*SOURCE : PSM*





## President condemns release of child sexual abuse convicts



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has condemned the release of individuals arrested and convicted of child sexual abuse, deeming it entirely unacceptable.

In a post on social media, President Dr. Muizzu emphasised the need for the government to swiftly appeal such decisions, underscoring the gravity of the matter. He called upon collective efforts to eradicate the presence of such reprehensible elements from society. He also said that this call to action follows the recent release of a male, who was arrested last year for allegedly sexually assaulting his granddaughter on an island in the Maldives.

The Maldives is witnessing an increase in cases of child sexual abuse, even within familial settings. Foreign monitors had flagged the disturbing trend of child pornography downloads in the country, as highlighted in the latest police press conference.

The Maldives Police Service (MPS) disclosed that following an investigation into the initial case, a 32-year-old individual was forwarded to the Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) last October for prosecution, alongside an advisory agreement. MPS is currently probing another instance of child pornography downloads, involving images and videos of children aged 2-18 found on electronic devices. Collaborative efforts between MPS and PGO have led to the drafting of legislation aimed at enhancing the investigation process for cases of child exploitation, now in its finalisation stage.

SOURCE : PSM



## Male road development set to commence in late 2024

Minister of Construction and Infrastructure Dr. Abdulla Muththalib has announced plans to commence the development of roads in Male' City in the last quarter of this year.

In discussions with the media regarding the ministry's initiatives, Minister Muththalib revealed that while the initial plan was for the road development project to be funded by the government budget, a decision was made during President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's visit to China to execute the project with Chinese assistance, provided as free aid.

Minister Muththalib emphasised that despite previous design work, with the grant of Chinese aid, all contractual and administrative tasks will be undertaken by the Chinese agency.

Additionally, he stressed that the project includes enhancements to water and sewage systems, financed by the government's budget.

The modernisation of Male' City roads was initiated during President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's tenure as Housing Minister, with the initial focus on laying asphalt from the Male' industrial village to the Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC). Despite previous plans to extend the asphalt to other roads, no further developments in accordance with modern standards have been made on Bodguthakurufaanu Magu.

Over the past two years, Ameenee Magu has been fully developed with asphalt.

SOURCE : PSM

## Works of Laamu harbor will commence this year: MPL



The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Maldives Ports Limited (MPL) Mohamed Wajeeh Ibrahim has announced the allocation of funds for the development of the commercial port in Laamu Atoll. Establishing a commercial port in Laamu Atoll is a presidential pledge of President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu.

In an interview with PSM News, CEO Wajeeh disclosed that government has handed over the project to develop a commercial port in Laamu Atoll to MPL and assured that it will be launched this year. He added the port will be established in Gaadhoo, Laamu Atoll, chosen for its strategic location to provide commercial services, particularly catering to the tourism industry. Wajeeh emphasised that the port will offer bunkering and transshipment services, alongside facilities such as storages and cruise terminals.

The CEO revealed that the project's value exceeds a million dollars, with financial

arrangements already made and handed over to the contractors. He anticipates that the establishment of the commercial port will significantly boost employment, with approximately 2000 job opportunities expected to become available.

Wajeeh also provided updates on other ongoing projects, mentioning the development of the port in Hithadhoo, Addu City, currently in progress. He noted that while bunkering services are already operational in the Hithadhoo port, similar services are set to commence in Kulhudhuffushi port, Haa Dhaalu Atoll, in the near future.

SOURCE : PSM



## May recorded the hottest month of 2023

The Maldives Meteorological Service (Met Office) has revealed that May 2023 emerged as the hottest month of the year, according to its records. Highlighting temperature spikes, the Met Office reported a peak of 34.6 degrees Celsius on May 26, marking the highest temperature recorded for the year. Following closely behind, April 22 witnessed the second-highest temperature at 34.2 degrees Celsius.

In addition to temperature records, wind speeds also garnered attention, with July 5 in Hulhule registering the highest wind speed at 55mph from the west. Meanwhile, Gan, Addu City experienced the second-highest wind speed on May 5, reaching 54mph from the north.

As per records, December 31 saw the highest precipitation levels, totaling 179.7 milliliters. December 27 followed closely as the second-highest rainfall day, recording a maximum of 154.8 milliliters.

Looking ahead to 2024, the Met Office predicts April and March to be the hottest months. The weakening of winds coupled with rising humidity levels is anticipated to exacerbate temperatures, potentially causing individuals to experience temperatures as high as 40 degrees Celsius.

As temperatures continue to rise, the Met Office emphasises the importance of proactive measures to ensure the well-being of individuals amidst the challenging weather conditions.

SOURCE : PSM



## Tertiary hospital development in Villimale’ progressing: President

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced the progress of designing and technical works for the construction of a tertiary hospital in Villimale’. The announcement was made during the “Raees ge Javaab” series, which facilitates direct public interaction with the President on various issues.

During the session, Villimale’ resident Ahmed Shifan expressed concerns about the current standard of healthcare services in Villimale’ and inquired about plans for improvement. In response, President Dr. Muizzu assured that enhancing healthcare in Villimale’ is a top priority for the government. He acknowledged the existing issues and pledged swift action to address them.

President Dr. Muizzu further disclosed that the construction of a 100-bed tertiary hospital in Villimale’ is already underway. He revealed that the Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Health, and relevant Chinese authorities have initiated the design and technical aspects of the project, with land allocation already completed.

In addition, Minister of Health Dr. Abdulla Khaleel had stated that the hospital will specialise in treating crucial diseases and will follow an environmentally friendly design concept. He highlighted that the assistance of China will be utilised in constructing the hospital, which is expected to be operational within three years after construction begins.

SOURCE : PSM

## Gov’t initiates 400 housing unit project in Hulhumale’



The Ministry of Housing, Land, and Urban Development has held discussions with the Ministry of Finance regarding the appointment of a project management consultant for a government-led initiative to construct 400 housing units in Hulhumale’.

This project is being facilitated with support from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), with the Ministry of Finance having signed a finance agreement with the SFD.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has set a visionary goal for every citizen in the country to have their own household within the next five years. To realise this vision, the government has embarked on a comprehensive plan to provide over 65,000 housing units within the same timeframe.

One of the pivotal projects in this endeavor is the Rasmale’ development in the Greater Male’ Region, which entails the reclamation of 1,153 hectares of land. Operations for this project commenced in December of the previous year. President Dr. Muizzu has announced plans to allocate 11,000 plots of land and more than 26,000 flats from the reclaimed land.

SOURCE : PSM

“Nationwide housing needs will be comprehensively addressed and fulfilled by the end this term”  
His Excellency President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu