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President assures no foreign troops in Maldives drone operations



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has reassured the public that foreign troops will not be involved in piloting the military drones recently introduced and used by the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) Air Force. He made the assurance during the “Raees ge Javaab” series, which facilitates direct public interaction with the President on diverse issues.

During the series, Mohamed Ihsaan raised concerns to President Dr. Muizzu regarding the possibility of seeking foreign assistance to operate and fly the newly acquired drones, thereby ending the previous presence of foreign troops in the Maldives Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

In response, President Dr. Muizzu affirmed that the government does not have a policy of maintaining foreign troops within the country. He also stated that the recently formed MNDF Air Corps and its specialised drones will not be operated by any foreign personnel.

Under the MNDF Air Corps, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones will be deployed in the MNDF area commands established in the northern and southern regions of the Maldives. The UAVs will enable the Maldives to effectively oversee more than 900,000 square meters of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for the first time. Through the service, MNDF will undertake all necessary aerial military operations to ensure the security of the country's airspace.

SOURCE : PSM

“ I will keep friendships with foreign countries. There won't be any enmity with countries close and far away ”

His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



Housing will be ensured to Male' residents within five years: President

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has reaffirmed his commitment to fulfilling his campaign promise of providing housing for all residents of the city within five years. Speaking at the opening of the campaign office in Hulhumale' for the candidate contesting the Vilufushi constituency, President Muizzu emphasised his dedication to delivering on the pledges made during his presidential campaign.

He assured that steps are being taken to address housing needs and other matters of national interest. President Muizzu reiterated his promise to ensure housing for all city residents within the next five years.

Regarding reclaimed land in areas such as Hulhumale, Gulhifalhu, and Giraavarufalhu, President Muizzu stated that beneficiaries would receive their allocations once the development work is completed. He noted his commitment to ensuring that no one's name is removed from the beneficiary list.

President Muizzu acknowledged the previous government's promises of providing flats and land and reiterated his administration's commitment to fulfilling those promises. He highlighted that the goal remains to provide housing for all city residents within the next five years.

Critically assessing the previous government's efforts, President Muizzu expressed concerns about the country's substantial debts without outstanding bills, amount to USD 7.8 billion. He highlighted the lack of progress in development despite the previous government's parliamentary supermajority.

President Muizzu urged the public to consider opposition claims regarding the need for a parliamentary majority in the upcoming elections, emphasising the importance of thoughtful consideration in the decision-making process.

SOURCE : PSM





President's Office to nominate long-serving officials to awards committee



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has directed the President's Office to compile and forward to the National Awards Committee the records of state employees with more than 43 years of service who are yet to be honoured with the 'National Award for Public Service'.

As such, the President has decided to collect employee records of those who left and remained in service, as well as employment details, specifics of employment, criminal records, and debt records of employees, and send them to the National Awards Committee for consideration in awarding them the National Award for Public Service.

Individuals with more than 45 years of public service, including those who left their jobs and remained in service but have not received the award, were presented with the National Award for Public Service the previous year.

This decision aims to address the challenges faced by former state employees in accessing their records and the dissolution of some of the institutions they once worked for, which further complicated the information collection process. Hence, individuals who have accumulated 43 years of public service will be exempt from the application process for the National Award for Public Service nominations currently open.

Although the current decision is to confer awards upon eligible individuals with more than 43 years of service, in subsequent years, the President's Office will also gather records and relay information regarding those who have served for periods exceeding 40 to 42 years to the National Awards Committee.

The National Award for Public Service will be conferred during the Independence Day ceremony.

SOURCE : PSM

SOURCE : President's Office

President pardons long-overdue penalties on unpaid utility bills

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has pardoned long-overdue penalties on unpaid electricity and water bills as part of the government's efforts to alleviate the financial burdens on the public.

In a social media post, President Dr. Muizzu announced that the government has instructed relevant companies to waive penalties for non-payment of electricity and water bills of domestic rates. Additionally, he urged these companies to establish payment agreements for settling outstanding balances.

The President emphasised ongoing efforts to enhance the economic situation in the Maldives, with a focus on addressing the fundamental needs of the people. Furthermore, he is implementing policies to facilitate ease during Ramadan for citizens.

As such, to uphold Islamic principles and encourage devotion, President Dr. Muizzu declared the last 10 days of Ramadan as public holidays annually. Additionally, the government will distribute staple food to every household during Ramadan.

Despite the usual increase in electricity and water bills during Ramadan, the government has decided to cap these expenses to prevent further escalation. This decision aims to provide relief to the public during the holy month.

SOURCE : PSM

STELCO advises against damaging cables in interconnection network

State Electric Company Limited (STELCO) has issued a public advisory urging individuals to refrain from placing billboards or damaging the network intersection cables linking Male', Hulhule, and Hulhumale'.

In the announcement, STELCO noted the network reportedly has the capacity of 200 megawatts to transmit current between stations and spans across 7 kilometers.

The cables in the network, originating from the 132kV substation at the Male' Power Station, are laid from the Usfasgandu area, across the Sinamale' Bridge and Highway, to the 132kV substation at the Hulhumale' Power Station. STELCO stated that the grid is also supplying a large percentage of the electricity needed in

the city.

STELCO reaffirmed that any damage to the network cables would result in substantial expenses and require a significant time to repair. They attested that this would, in turn, interrupt the electricity services provided in the Male' region as well. Additionally, STELCO underscored the significant risk to installers' lives if metal objects were placed on the intersection cables.

STELCO also revealed that measures will be enforced against those damaging the network intersection cables in any form. Along with this, it has urged road excavators and authorities giving permission for billboards to be more responsible.

SOURCE : PSM



President ensures resolution of legal barriers to methadone therapy

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced plans to address and resolve legal obstacles encountered by drug abusers undergoing Methadone Maintenance Therapy as part of their treatment. This announcement came during the “Raees ge Javaabu” series, a platform for direct public interaction with the President on various issues.

Aminath Nathasha expressed concerns about the requirement for individuals undergoing methadone therapy to also attend rehabilitation, which often leads to unemployment. She urged for a solution to this issue.

In response, President Dr. Muizzu assured that legal challenges would be addressed, with amendments to be made to allow the therapy to be completed within the legal framework.

Methadone therapy plays a vital role in helping drug addicts overcome their addiction and reintegrate into society.

The current administration has undertaken numerous initiatives to combat drug abuse, including efforts to expand treatment services for drug abusers. Out of 700 individuals, 300 have already commenced treatment since the beginning of the government’s term. Additionally, measures have been implemented to prevent the importation of drugs into the country.

SOURCE : PSM



Malaysian airlines to resume flights to Maldives

Malaysian Airlines has decided to commence flights to the Maldives.

The agreement of the venture was between Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) and Malaysian Airlines at the ongoing Matta Fair 2024.

The agreement, officially signed by Deputy Managing Director of MMPRC Mohamed Bassam and Chief Commercial Officer of Malaysian Airlines Derseniash Aresandiran, paves the way for Malaysian Airlines to operate scheduled flights to the Maldives starting August 1.

This expansion of Malaysian Airlines’ flight network to include the Maldives is part of its ongoing efforts to expand. The new route aims to provide convenient travel options for those commuting between Malaysia and the Maldives.

Malaysia is known to host a significant number of Maldivians for various purposes, and there has been a notable increase in the number of Malaysian tourists visiting the Maldives. In 2023 alone, over 13,000 Malaysian tourists visited the Maldives.

While Malaysian Airlines had previously operated flights to the Maldives, the service was discontinued for an extended period before this new agreement.

SOURCE : PSM

Controller General envisions modernisation of Immigration services



Controller General of Immigration Mohamed Shamaan Waheed has revealed that the upcoming year of 2025 will mark a revolutionary period for Maldives Immigration, with numerous advancements aimed at modernising its services. The remarks were shared by the Controller General on social

media, commemorating the 74th anniversary of Maldives Immigration.

Shamaan stated that upon assuming office, one of the major challenges he encountered was a weakening of the longstanding bond within the institute. Therefore, he prioritised efforts to reunite employees, fostering teamwork and strengthening relationships while cultivating a collaborative work environment. Shamaan assured that these actions resulted in significant improvements in a short period, establishing a healthier workplace. He also acknowledged the significant contributions of employees to expanding immigration services, appreciating their hard work.

Shamaan unveiled ongoing efforts aligned with President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu’s vision to enhance public services, including simplifying Maldivian passport services, streamlining processes for Maldivian travelers abroad, and

expediting services from atoll immigration offices.

Regarding illegal immigration, Shamaan assured that Maldives Immigration, in collaboration with relevant government agencies, is actively addressing the issue with top priority.

Looking ahead to the 75th anniversary of Maldives Immigration, Shamaan emphasized forthcoming changes to enhance facilities and services within the field. He underscored plans to address employee-related issues closely and increase employee efficiency. Immigration services were first introduced to the Maldives in 1950, with subsequent developments to enhance passport-related services. The Maldivian passport has been modified to meet regional standards, becoming a modern, robust, and distinguished document.

SOURCE : PSM