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### The Government envisioned urban centre on Nilandhoo Island would make residents proud, says the President

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has stated that the Government's envisioned urban centre on Nilandhoo Island would make its residents proud. The President made the remarks while speaking with the residents of Nilandhoo Island in the Faafu Atoll.

The President reiterated the Government's unwavering commitment to implementing developmental initiatives through sustainable means. He announced the establishment of seven urban centres under its development master plan, assuring that these centres would employ sustainable service delivery methods in every sector.

President Dr Muizzu detailed the Government's vision for developing Nilandhoo Island. In this regard, he emphasised the initiation of reclamation efforts to support the development of an airport on Nilandhoo Island. He also highlighted the development of two resorts and a city hotel to drive the economy. The President assured that the Government is firmly committed to not just meeting but surpassing the expectations of the island's residents.

Speaking further, the President revealed his desire to serve all citizens equally and without prejudice. He acknowledged the Administration's efforts to roll out and facilitate service delivery nationwide.

The President further acknowledged the Administration's dedicated endeavours to establish genuine political stability nationwide. He underscored that his Administration would refrain from any form of retaliation towards political adversaries, instead focusing on accelerating the pace of development. He stressed that the collective support and unity of the populace would facilitate such accelerated development.

SOURCE : President's Office

### MWSC entrusted to upgrade the water system facility in Addu City

Malé Water and Sewerage Company (MWSC) has been handed over the practical work pertaining to upgrades to the water supply facility situated in Addu City.

The agreement was officially co-signed by the State Minister of Construction and Infrastructure Ibrahim Thoaam Mohamed and the Managing Director at MWSC, Abdul Matheen Mohamed in a ceremony held in Addu High School. The ceremony was officiated by the Minister of Climate, Change, Environment and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim.



Notably, this project, valued at USD 18.26 million, has been tasked to complete within a year. As part of the project, upgrades will be made to the central desalination plant based in Hithathoo and as well as to the desalination plant situated in Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo. Additionally, laboratory facilities will be set up to assess water conditions in both the islands.

Moreover, the project involves the establishment of the Hithadhoo RO facility building, drilling of boreholes with the maximum capacity to produce 1500 tones of water from the two RO plants. Simultaneously, efforts will be addressed to substantially expand the facilities to reserve water. Furthermore, six water tanks will be installed to supply the connected islands, increasing storage capacity to 13000 tones. This expansion will further extend the 3 -hour water reserve in Addu City's connected islands to a week-long reserve.

Additionally, this project entails the implementation of two RO plants in Hulhumeedhoo, each with a capacity of 350 tones per day. This as a result would extend the storage capacity to 3000 tones. The project encompasses the practical initiation of an entirely new brine outflow pipes in the connected islands of Addu City along with Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo.

Speaking at the ceremony, Managing Director Abdul Matheen Mohamed affirmed that this initiative would significantly improve Addu City's water storage facility and as well the potential to produce water.

Government is committed to identifying a lasting solution to address the ongoing water supply disruptions across Addu City.

SOURCE : PSM





## The President departs on an official visit to several islands in Nilandhe Atoll



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu departed on an official visit to several islands in Nilandhe Atoll this evening.

During this visit, the President is scheduled to visit various islands in the Nilandhe Atoll, where he will discuss community priorities and developmental needs with councils, Women's Development Committees (WDCs), and residents.

Throughout the ongoing series of visits initiated this year, the President has convened with a total of 162 councils across the Maldives. His objective is to personally visit each inhabited island in the country at least twice over the course of his five-year term.

*SOURCE : President's Office*

## Gov't begins reclamation, shore protection in Meedhoo, Hulhumeedhoo

The Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure has announced the commencement of practical work for land reclamation and shore protection in Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo, Addu City.

In a post on social media, Minister Abdulla Muththalib said that the project in both islands commenced on April 13. He outlined the scope of the project, indicating the reclamation of 11.7 hectares in Hulhudhoo and 20.6 hectares in Meedhoo. In addition, he said that the project includes the creation of two 5-hectare islands and the implementation of shore protection measures.

The government has contracted Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC) with the contract for these projects in Addu City. The total cost of the project is estimated at USD12 million.

*SOURCE : President's Office*

## Maldivian resumes flights between Trivandrum and Hanimaadhoo

The national airline, Maldivian, has resumed the flights from Hanimaadhoo International Airport to Trivandrum, India. The operation of the flights between the two countries were suspended for development of Hanimaadhoo International Airport. A ceremony was held commemorating the resumption of flights between Hanimaadhoo International Airport and Trivandrum was attended by several senior officials from Regional Airports Company and Island Aviation Services Limited (IASL).

IASL operating the national airline revealed that Maldivian will operate two flights per week between Hanimaadhoo and Trivandrum, scheduled for Fridays and Mondays. The Managing Director of Maldivian Ibrahim Ilyas highlighted the decision to resume flights aims to bring convenience to residents in the northern atolls and foster economic development in the region on a previous stance.

Currently, ticket bookings for the flights are available, and IASL has provided a variety of booking options, including their website, mobile application, and ticketing offices.

*SOURCE : PSM*

*SOURCE : PSM*

## NDMA provides shelter to 34 individuals from 5 homes



The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has provided temporary shelter to 34 individuals from 5 households adversely impacted by heavy rainfall.

NDMA has informed that during their rapid assessment, 9 households have been deemed unfit for living. Among these, the authority stated that 5 households including 11 children have been temporarily relocated due to sewage issues that were exacerbated due to heavy rainfall.

Moreover, it was also underscored that NDMA has provided assistance to 85 homes thus far, while a total of 495 sandbags have been placed across Male' City, as highlighted by the authority.

Additionally, MNDF stated that ongoing drainage efforts are in progress to address road flooding caused by persistent rain, expediting water drainage as swiftly as possible. Thereby, 15 draining pumps are being used in across 7 areas.

Furthermore, Maldives Police Service (MPS) has urged people from dumping waste on the roads and to avoid driving heavy vehicles and four-wheelers until the roads return to normalcy.

The Met Office conveyed weather to be generally better in Male' City following the heavy rainfall. Concurrently, informed that heavy rainfalls are mostly expected in Meemu, Thaa and Laamu Atoll.



## Government focuses on VIA development for economic growth



The development of Velana International Airport (VIA) is currently the primary focus of the government, poised to contribute significantly to economic growth upon completion. President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu officiated the government's 20-year master plan in January 2024, ensuring that the airport will cater to 25 million passengers annually.

VIA has undergone continuous and noteworthy development in recent years. Inaugurating a 3,400m Code-F runway in 2018, capable of accommodating some of the world's largest aircraft, stands as a significant milestone. The commencement of services from fuel hydrants has also streamlined aircraft refueling processes.

Several projects are currently underway to enhance VIA's services further. These include increasing the capacity of the domestic terminal from 300 passengers per hour to 2,000 passengers per hour and expanding the parking area from 34 to 73 aircraft. Additionally, plans entail establishing terminals designated for jets and low-cost carriers.

The top priority project of developing and commissioning a new passenger terminal aims to accommodate 7.5 million passengers. The government aims to complete this 78,000-acre terminal's development within the year, incorporating facilities for aero boarding and a State of the Art Baggage Handling System. According to the Managing Director of Maldives Airport Company Limited (MACL), this initiative aims to provide expedited services, earning the trust of passengers and airlines alike.

Furthermore, the master plan includes the development of an Airport Economic Zone in Funadhoo, Shaviyani Atoll. The Economic Zone will feature transit hotels, shopping centers, convention centers, entertainment complexes, and food and beverage outlets, providing amenities for passengers during layovers. The government anticipates that this project will generate substantial commercial opportunities and enhance employment prospects.

As developmental efforts at the airport continue, the government revealed that the initial phase of the project is nearing completion. It asserts that this multi-billion-dollar initiative will serve as a transformative endeavor, positively impacting the entire nation.

SOURCE : PSM



## Kadhdhoo Airport transferred under Regional Airports

Maldives has signed a MoU with a Chinese company, aiming to enhance Kadhdhoo Airport in Laamu Atoll. The MoU delineates specific enhancements required for the airport's development and was signed by Minister of Construction and Infrastructure, Dr. Abdullah Muththalib, and CAMC's General Manager, Li Wei Wei.

Minister Dr. Abdullah Muththalib provided insights into the transformative endeavor, stating that a comprehensive plan will be formulated, encompassing a company concept design and budget allocation. He affirmed that a technical, commercial, and financial proposal will be submitted for government approval once all details are finalised. During this phase, no funds will be spent on the project. Efforts are underway to reclaim and protect the necessary land for expanding the airport's services.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's commitment to developing Kadhdhoo Airport to facilitate international services is evident. Noting that management under the Kadhdhoo Airport Development Company posed a significant obstacle, President Dr. Muizzu transferred management to the Regional Airports Company to address the issue. Despite the presence of a military airbase on the island, half of the airport will be designated for tourism.

Kadhdhoo Airport, the first domestic airport in the country inaugurated on December 6, 1986, has seen concerns from residents regarding discontinued development over the years. President Dr. Muizzu addressed these concerns, assuring residents that while the airport will be developed to international standards, additional island development is also planned.

SOURCE : PSM

*Velana International Airport's new development plan will significantly boost the country's tourism and business sectors and its fieldwork will be conducted simultaneously with the current project*

His Excellency President  
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



## New Faafu Atoll Hospital building construction starts this year: Gov't



Minister of Health Dr. Abdulla Khaleel has announced plans for the commencement of construction on the new Faafu Atoll Hospital building in Nilandhoo this year. He made the announcement during a gathering with Nilandhoo residents, coinciding with President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's visit to the Faafu Atoll islands.

Speaking at the gathering, Minister Khaleel emphasised President Dr. Muizzu's commitment to enhancing the healthcare system in Faafu Atoll, ensuring continued development for the region. He revealed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the hospital's construction, with the design and service identification currently in progress. He also assured that the project would swiftly progress to completion, with the final contract imminent.

Additionally, Minister Dr. Khaleel disclosed plans to initiate hospital operations this year,

including the launch of dialysis services in Nilandhoo, with intentions to extend such services across all islands in the atoll. He also pledged an expansion of hospital bed capacity with the new facility.

Furthermore, Minister Dr. Khaleel underscored the government's commitment to strengthening the primary healthcare system. He highlighted ongoing expansions in 10 atolls, with the second phase underway in Fuvahmulah City. He also said that the expansion aims to expedite the diagnosis and treatment of prevalent diseases, particularly Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Moreover, Minister Dr. Khaleel stressed the significance of electing parliamentarians that align with President Dr. Muizzu's vision for national development and the welfare of the citizens.

SOURCE : PSM



## Hanimaadhoo Airport new runway will be completed by next month

Managing Director of Regional Airports Company Limited (RACL) Ahmed Mubeen has revealed that the project of developing a new runway in Hanimaadhoo International Airport will be fully completed within the upcoming month of May. The remarks were made on a programme aired on PSM News,

The project undertaken for the redevelopment of the airport was launched in January, 2023. The first initiative taken was to establish a new runway of 2,465m in length. Due to the land constraints encountered in both the new runway and the previous runway, a total of 1,200 meters of the new runway was put in operation on January 28, 2024, subsequent to the completion of the initial phase. The runway that was previously utilized has been discontinued. Mubeen disclosed that the construction of 1,400 under the first part of the project has been completed. Efforts are underway to layer with tar the remaining area 600m.

President Dr. Muizzu has pledged to expand the runway of the airport with an additional 700m. This initiative aims to facilitate the anticipated increase in the number of tourist arrivals following the government's decision to increase the bed capacity with 9,000 beds. Mubeen revealed that while previously the runway could cater aircrafts with 150 passengers, the establishment of the new runway will allow the capacity of the runway to accommodate aircrafts with 250 to 300 passengers. He additionally acknowledged the feasibility of the project, highlighting that this development was bound to be advantageous to the island.

The new runway of the airport has been developed to cater the aircrafts scheduled to land during nighttime. The project is considered to be the biggest development initiative launched on the island and is worth up to USD136.6 million. Upon completion of the development, Hanimaadhoo International Airport will have the capability to cater services to 1.3 million passengers annually.

SOURCE : PSM

SOURCE : PSM

## President unveils healthcare initiatives for Gan

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced ambitious plans for Gan, Laamu Atoll during a community meeting with its residents, indicating that it would see the most housing projects compared to other areas across the country.

Addressing the gathering, the President highlighted that the nationwide housing project would prioritize areas with larger land areas, ensuring its significant inclusion. He assured the residents that all proposed development projects for Gan would be executed as planned.

In addition to housing, President Muizzu outlined

the government's commitment to elevate Gan Regional Hospital into a tertiary-level facility, fulfilling a promise made to the community. Furthermore, he announced the establishment of an international mental healthcare hospital on Gan, enhancing healthcare services comprehensively.

Gan served as the final stop on the President's official visit to several islands in Laamu Atoll, underscoring the significance of these announcements for the island's future development.



## Permanent financial assistance for orphans through Maldives Zakat House

Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed has affirmed the establishment of a system to provide necessary financial assistance to orphans permanently through the Maldives Zakat House.

Established on the recommendation of President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, the Maldives Zakat House aims to enhance public awareness about Zakat while providing a mechanism for accepting and disbursing Zakat and other services.

In a social media post, Minister Dr. Shaheem disclosed plans to create a system ensuring orphans receive secure financial assistance annually until they reach legal adulthood.

After distributing Zakat payments to the poor and needy, the government deposits the remaining amount into the Zakat Fund. This fund is then utilized according to set policies and recommendations from the Zakat committee. It includes assisting those in need of funding for medical treatment and education, as well as renovating mosques and funding other projects related to public interest.

The official Dhivehi name for the Maldives Zakat House is Dhivehiraajjeyge Zakat House. The Zakat House is mandated to strengthen the Maldivian Zakat system and expand the fund by investing in areas approved by Shariah, thereby increasing distributor benefits.

SOURCE : PSM



## Maldives signs with Chinese firm for Laamu Integrated Maritime Hub Project

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pertaining to the Laamu Integrated Maritime Hub Project have been signed with a Chinese company, aiming to accomplish the commitments made by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu. The contract laying groundworks for this transformative endeavour was signed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Maldives Post Limited (MPL) Mohamed Wajeeh and the General Manager of CAMC Engineering Li Wei.

Outlined within the MoU are details of six subprojects:

- Launching offshore bunkering services
- Developing a cruise terminal
- Establishing a super yacht marina
- Developing Gaadhoo as an Eco-resort
- Establishing a facility to store regionally produced food items
- Building a transshipment port

Providing insight into the developmental project, CEO Wajeeh underscored MPL's ongoing efforts to secure a relevant market. He envisioned attracting international shipping lines to the transshipment port, anticipating a significant economic boost from even a single shipping line. Discussions are also underway with cruise operators to initiate cruise terminal operations.

MPL disclosed proposals from two companies to assist in providing bunkering services. While Vitol Bunkering, currently involved in developing bunkering facilities in Haa Alif Atoll, is one of them, the second company expressing interest hails from Dubai.

The establishment of a commercial port and a harbour including logistics is a commitment outlined in the governments' manifesto.

SOURCE : PSM

## President affirms to deliver the development that people anticipate



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has reiterated his commitment to meeting the expectations of the people regarding anticipated development, including infrastructure projects, road building, land reclamation, sanitation initiatives, and economic ventures. He made these remarks during an address to the residential community of Isdhoo and Kalaidhoo.

During the meeting, the President emphasised the importance of consulting with the residents of Laamu Atoll before making decisions, particularly regarding the construction of a second airport. He further stated that development projects would prioritize the Isdhoo-Kalaidhoo constituency.

President Muizzu also informed the community about upcoming development projects in the tourism sector, highlighting the positive impacts on job creation and income levels. He encouraged public collaboration with the Government's efforts for community development and pledged to prioritize the realisation of the people's development goals.

Isdhoo and Kalaidhoo mark the second destination of the President's visit to select islands in Laamu Atoll.

SOURCE : PSM