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The President appoints the Chief and Vice Chief of Defence Force



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu, the Commander-in-Chief of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), has appointed the Vice Chief of Defence Force, Major General Ibrahim Hilmy, as the new Chief of Defence Force.

Major General Ibrahim Hilmy was appointed to the position following the outgoing Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Abdul Raheem Abdul Latheef's retirement on April 17, 2024.

The ceremony to present the letter of appointment was held this morning at the President's Office.

The President additionally appointed Brigadier General Ahmed Ghiyas as the Vice Chief of Defence Force.

SOURCE : President's Office



Delayed projects will commence and conclude this year: MWSC

Managing Director at Male' Water and Sewage Company (MWSC) Abdul Matheen Mohamed has stated all delayed projects will commence and conclude this year.

During the previous administration, MWSC was handed over about 20 projects aimed at upgrading water infrastructure and sewage systems. These projects were to be paid once fully commenced. However, when the change in government occurred, many of the projects have been stalled, resulting in difficulties for the residents.

Within a few months into the new administration, MWSC has commenced its work on all islands. Speaking on a programme aired on PSM News, Managing Director Matheen underscored that the government's primary objective was to resume the stalled projects upon assuming office. He further stated that the prior administration's failure to pay contractors and suppliers due to financial difficulties had resulted in an escalation of project costs.



Additionally, Matheen revealed ongoing work in 20 islands directed towards the development of water and sewage systems. He conveyed all initiations to be completed this year, while most of the projects to be commenced by the middle of the year. He further estimated the last project to be fully commenced latest by September.

Moreover, Matheen stated that in addition to initiating and expediting the stalled projects, MWSC's top priority has been to settle the outstanding amounts owed to the contractors.

SOURCE : PSM



Preparations to commence harbour development of Thinadhoo completed



Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC) has mobilised the site to commence the practical work of the project on developing the harbour of Thinadhoo, Vaavu Atoll. The present harbour utilised in Thinadhoo was established in 2007 and requires enhancement due to the inadequate maintenance and development.

Thinadhoo is widely recognised for its extensive local tourism, despite having a modest population. Therefore, Thinadhoo City Council stated that the damages to the harbour due to the lack of development pose significant challenges, given its daily usage. In addition to the harbour, the outer wall of the port has also been damaged.

The council voiced their concerns regarding the 300ft harbour, which obstructs to cater the increasing number of tourist arrivals. Highlighting the difficulties in providing services to the ships and boats embarked as well, the council reiterated the urgency of developing the port to a modern standard. It affirmed that the development of the port will enhance local tourism while resolving obstacle faced during the clearance of goods brought through vessels.

The project of renovating the harbour of the island was entrusted to MTCC to complete within a period of 360 days. Under the project, an additional area will be added with a depth of 12,800 cubic metres, construction of a 71m outer wall, installation of a sub-jam breakwater along with the dredging of the canal such that it is 860 cubic metres deep. Additionally, decisions have been made to develop a scoring apron of 54m, install navigation lights and 59 mooring rings and other such practical works. Furthermore, the scope of the project includes the establishment of a concrete bridge and a 90 arc metre ramp, development of a 1847 arc metre pavement and installing 18 street lights.

The development of Thinadhoo's harbour is a commitment of President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu which is outlined in the government's manifesto.

SOURCE : PSM

Maldives underscores pivotal role of knowledge exchange among SIDS

The Maldives has underscored the pivotal role of knowledge exchange and collaboration, particularly among Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to foster sustainable tourism practices. The remarks were made by Minister of Tourism Ibrahim Faisal during the United Nations High-Level Thematic Event on Tourism.

Speaking at the event, Minister Faisal underlined the critical significance of tourism and emphasised its foundational role in shaping the economic landscape of the Maldives, driving the nation's GDP, and serving as the primary contributor to foreign exchange reserves. He took pride in highlighting the illustrious reputation of the Maldives as the world's leading destination for four consecutive years, underlining a vision dedicated to delivering unparalleled experiences while ensuring enduring benefits for local communities, workers, and enterprises.



Additionally, Minister Faisal proposed a multifaceted approach centered on resilience-building, innovation, and intensified collaboration. He outlined a strategy poised to ensure the flourishing of island tourism amidst a rapidly evolving global landscape. With a focus on confronting the pressing challenges posed by climate change and public health crises, he underscored the imperative of frameworks and innovative financing mechanisms. He also highlighted the Maldives' pursuit of partnerships with international entities, development agencies, and private stakeholders to secure essential resources and drive sustainability-aligned initiatives.

Furthermore, Minister Faisal underscored the pivotal role of knowledge exchange and collaboration, particularly among SIDS, to foster sustainable tourism practices. Citing initiatives such as the "Climate Smart Resilient Islands Initiative," he emphasised the necessity of leveraging collective expertise to navigate shared challenges and seize opportunities for mutual advancement.

In conclusion, Minister Faisal reiterated the importance of safeguarding the well-being of islands, communities, and the environment in charting the future of tourism. By championing resilience, sustainability, diversification, and global collaboration, he expressed unwavering confidence in tourism's potential to emerge as a transformative force for prosperity and sustainable development.

As the Maldives emerges as a beacon of progressive tourism policies, the Ministry of Tourism reaffirms its steadfast commitment to forging alliances with international partners to realise a future where tourism serves as a catalyst for positive global change.

SOURCE : PSM



Arrangements made such that Maafarufalhu is a part of Mahibadhoo



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has declared that Maafarufalhu, Alif Dhaal Atoll is a part of the capital of the atoll, Mahibadhoo. The declaration was made in the presidential decree released.

Interconnecting the two islands officially and reclaiming land for residential, economic and commercial purposes and projects are commitments of President Dr. Muizzu outlined in the government's manifesto. The president made this commitment while addressing the residents of the island on September 4, 2023.

Mahibadhoo being an island with a one of the greatest populaces of the atoll, it is also one of the most remarkable islands of the atoll in terms of significant development. The island has a land area of 22.3ha, with over 2,000 individuals living on it.

Recently, President Dr. Muizzu has also decided such that Velidhuggaa, Alif Alif Atoll is a part of Bodufolhudhoo while issuing some islands from Noonu Atoll as a part of Maafaru as well.

The president made this commitment while addressing the residents of the island on September 4, 2023, during his presidential election campaign

SOURCE : PSM

ECM extends voting hours for parliamentary election



Election Commission of the Maldives (ECM) has decided to extend voting hours for the upcoming parliamentary election, scheduled to take place on April 21. The decision was finalised in a meeting held within the commission.

Previously, voting hours were allocated from 0800hrs to 1600hrs, with the voting queue to be closed sharp at 1600hrs, as per the instructions given by ECM. However, during the meeting held with the National Advisory Committee, ECM was recommended to extend voting hours. Following the meeting, the voting hours have been extended to 1730hrs. Therefore, the allocated time period for voting is between 0800hrs and 1730hrs. Officials will start counting votes 30 minutes after the ballot boxes are closed.

ECM's Member Hassan Zakariyya said that the decision was made after taking the forecasted weather into consideration. The decision aims to prevent any difficulties individuals may face due to unfavourable weather conditions or other such reasons. With 284,663 eligible voters, a total of 602 ballot boxes will be placed to accommodate the parliamentary election, which sees 368 candidates contesting for seats across 93 constituencies.

SOURCE : PSM

Oath taking ceremony for Members of Thinadhoo City Council held



Members of Thinadhoo council have taken their oaths for the newly appointed positions, following the official grant of city council status to Thinadhoo Island Council.

Following the decision of designating Thinadhoo as a city, the Thinadhoo Island Council was granted city council status on March 27, after the amendments of law. The Decentralisation Act outlines the criteria for granting an island the status of a city, which includes meeting specific requirements and a decision by the president. It also stipulates that despite the change in status, the current island council elected to govern the island will continue until the completion of their term.

With the modifications brought to the law, Thinadhoo Council's President Saud Ali was appointed as the mayor of the city while the Vice President Nasrullah Ali was assigned the role of a deputy mayor. Members of Thinadhoo City Council are as follows; Mayor Saud Ali, Deputy Mayor Nasrullah Ali, Ahmed Waheed, Mohamed Zaleef Abdullah, Ahmeema Ahmed, Aminath Naseema and Aishath Liusha Zubair.

During the oath taking ceremony, the council members signed their resolution and took their oaths for the designated positions. Additionally, Members of Women's Development Committee (WDC) in Thinadhoo, also assumed new roles after signing the relevant resolutions during the ceremony.

SOURCE : PSM