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Minister unveils plans for Atoll Council jurisdiction separation

Minister of Cities, Local Government, and Public Works, Adam Shareef Umar, has underscored the government's commitment to bolstering local governance through the separation of jurisdiction and reinforcement of mandates for Atoll and Island Councils. His remarks were made during the Fanoahla Dharubaaru event initiated by the Local Government Authority (LGA).

Minister Umar highlighted the administration's plans to empower both Atoll and Island Councils, aiming to provide them with distinct jurisdictions and mandates. This initiative seeks to enhance the councils' capacities while creating diverse income-generating opportunities for local communities.

At the event, Minister Umar announced the formation of a specialized team to offer legal guidance to the councils. Additionally, strategies are being devised to facilitate the provision of legal and technical expertise, as well as public works through Atoll Councils, further strengthening their role in local governance.

The two-day Fanoahla Dharubaaru event, spearheaded by the LGA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), focused specifically on the Northern Islands. Attended by presidents of Atoll and Island Councils, along with members from Women Development Committees (WDC), the event aimed to foster collaboration among councils. Through this collaborative effort, councils can address shared challenges and explore innovative solutions for the benefit of their communities.

The government's proactive approach to empowering local councils underscores its commitment to decentralized governance and community development, ensuring that local authorities have the necessary resources and support to effectively serve their constituents.

SOURCE : PSM

"Ahaa" forum scheduled to be held on April 29



The second 'Ahaa' public forum, in which ministers will participate to address public queries related to government projects and initiatives, is scheduled to be held on April 29, 2030hrs. Organised by the President's Office in collaboration with Public Service Media (PSM), the forum series allows direct interaction between government officials and the public. The inaugural Ahaa forum was held on January 25.

Decisions have been made such that five ministers attend the forum. This includes Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Mohamed Ameen, Minister of Homeland Security and Technology Ali Ihusaan, Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Resources Ahmed Shiyam, Minister of Higher Education, Labour, and Skill Development Dr. Maryam Mariya, and Minister of Youth Empowerment, Information, and Arts Ibrahim Waheed.

Every two months, the public forum will be held to provide information regarding the ongoing projects to the public, while clarifying any inquiries. While the forum serves as an open platform to ask questions, arrangements have been made such that queries can be sent and asked via phone call, SMS and social media as well. Questions can be sent by SMS should be in a specified format (AH(space)question), and sent to 300.

In addition to the minister's public forum, a special forum is held in which President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu will also participate. The last forum in which the president attended was held on February 23. This public forum series is a pioneering initiative, showcasing the president's commitment to transparency and public engagement. It is further demonstrated through initiatives like visiting atolls and responding to frequently asked questions on social media and programmes aired on PSM News. The live-streamed forums also enable the public to contribute to discussions through social media.

SOURCE : PSM





MMPRC promotes Maldives at KITF



Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) has begun promoting the Maldives in the Kazakstan International Travel Fair (KITF). A total of 17 companies within the Maldivian tourism industry have participated in the fair along with MMPRC.

KITF is a significant, well-renowned fair hosted in Central Asia since 2001. The fair serves as a crucial platform to expand tourism industries across the world, enhancing more opportunities within the field. This year, the fair is scheduled to be held from April 24 to 26.

MMPRC revealed that the expo intends to establish and bolster ties with Kazakstan and agents in the central region of Asia, while displaying various merchandise from representing the Maldives in a global manner.

It further affirmed that maximum efforts will be exerted to provide tourists with the latest information and to showcase the destinations and previous experiences, aiming to attract more tourist arrivals. Additionally, it stated that opportunities are available to establish collaborative partnership ties.

The stand of the Maldives placed in the KITF represents the true sunny side of life. Emphasising the significance of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the MMPRC assured that it is actively involved in promoting and advertising the Maldives to the CIS region through various activities and events. It further stated the significance of using social media as a tool to advertise the Maldives and attract more viewers.

SOURCE : PSM

Maldivian resumes flights to Sri Lanka

The national airline, Maldivian, has resumed the flights from the Maldives to Sri Lanka with the flights operating from Velana International Airport to Bandaranaike International Airport.

The flights were officially inaugurated by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Mohamed Ameen and the Managing Director of Island Aviation Ibrahim Iyaas following a ceremony held at the Velana International Airport.

Speaking to media, the Deputy Managing Director of Island Aviation Ali Saleem expressed optimism that these flights will benefit the people of both countries and provide convenience for those travelling between Sri Lanka and the Maldives for various purposes.

He further informed that a 15% discount will be granted to Maldivians travelling to Sri Lanka for medical treatment at the Nawaloka Hospital.

Moreover, Maldivian will operate two flights per week between the Maldives and Sri Lanka scheduled for Thursdays and

Saturdays. Maldivian highlighted the decision to resume flights aims to bring convenience, offering easy connections to all domestic destinations.

In addition to the newly resumed flights to Sri Lanka, efforts are underway to expand its services to a diverse range of destinations with the initiation of wide-body operations.

SOURCE : PSM

Survey initiated to launch Laamu Integrated Maritime Hub Project

The survey work of Laamu Integrated Maritime Hub Project has begun. An MOU related to the Laamu Integrated Maritime Hub Project have been signed with a Chinese company, CAMC Engineering Company Limited, aiming to accomplish the commitments made by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu. Concurrently, Maldives Post Limited tasked the Chinese firm with the project on April 11.

Furthermore, MPL and CAMC Engineering Company Limited have initiated the survey work in collaboration, as two teams representing both companies visited Gaadho in Laamu Atoll, where the hub is to be established. The initial survey for the project concept involved input from seven experts from CAMC, with additional contributions from MPL'S technical team.

MPL conveyed the project is to be catered according to environmental standards and in a way that conserves the natural beauty of the island, given Gaadho's status as a major turtle breeding ground. It further emphasised that the concept of the project will be commenced following technical advice and guidance from Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy and Environmental protection agency. Therefore, as part of the project, turtle breeding will be preserved along with conservation and rehabilitation centres.

Outlined within the agreement are details of six subprojects:

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

Additionally, Gaadho has been identified as a prime location for maritime services, yet there have been no prior efforts to develop such services in the area. Notably, the project is among the top priorities promised by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu within the first 100 days of assuming office.

Moreover, MPL emphasised that the maritime hub will offer sustainable income opportunities for the residents of Laamu Atoll, while also rejuvenating tourism industry in the area, thereby generating more jobs and fostering new business opportunities.

SOURCE : PSM



NDMA extends assistance to Addu City households amid heavy rainfall

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has provided temporary shelter to individuals from 5 households adversely impacted by heavy rainfall in Addu City, with 3 households being already relocated to their family homes.

According to statistics released by NDMA, Addu City recorded a 167.7mm of rainfall on April 26, making it the area with the highest rainfall on the particular day.

NDMA conveyed that over 40 households were identified as severely impacted due to exacerbated rainfall, emphasising that efforts are currently underway by the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) and Island administrative bodies to address the situation.

Moreover, The Maldives Meteorological Service (Met Office) forecasts showers with thunderstorms in the central and southern parts of the Maldives. Concurrently, rainfall is also estimated in Addu City.

Furthermore, despite the Met Office's forecast of a predominantly cloudy day with a significant amount of rainfall, and surface winds ranging from west to north-westerly at 5-15 mph in Male' City, it is anticipated that the seas will be relatively moderate.

Relevant authorities have urged people to take precautionary measures in flooded areas, citing the ongoing heavy rainfall. Sub-consequently, they have advised placing sandbags near entrances and keeping away any resources that may be damaged.

SOURCE : PSM

Fuwad voices concern over substantial decline in female parliamentarians



President of the Election Commission of the Maldives, Fuwad Thowfeek has expressed concern over the decreasing proportion of female members in the parliament.

Minister cautions against the spread of Chikungunya



Minister of Health Dr. Abdullah Khaleel has urged the public to exercise caution when dealing with Chikungunya, as the disease continues to spread at an expedited rate.

On a social media post, Minister Dr. Khaleel raised concerns on the increasing number of cases reported, disclosing that a total of 59 cases of Chikungunya were reported in since April 1. The minister stressed that the weather is anticipated to be rainy with the south-west monsoon, creating the perfect environment for mosquitoes to breed. Hence, he highlighted the importance of destroying the breeding grounds of mosquitos, as it is the main cause of spreading the communicable disease.

Similar to Dengue Fever, Chikungunya is a contagious disease caused by aedes mosquitoes. Symptoms of the disease are often recognised within a span of three to seven days subsequent the mosquito bite with the virus. Some common symptoms of the disease include: high fever (with temperatures greater

than 39 °C), severe headache and body pain, pain in joint, stomach ache and rashes.

Health Protection Agency (HPA) revealed that the disease affects the fetus, children, elderly people as well as individuals who are undergoing treatment.

There are several measures that can be implemented to reduce or prevent the spread of the viral disease. This includes; destroying mosquito breeding grounds, covering skin, applying insect repellent and lotion and using screens on windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

Chikungunya can be treated by increasing fluid intake, resting, maintaining a healthy diet and avoiding pills other than panadol or paracetamol when having fever or body pain. If the fever lasts longer than three to seven days, or if any other symptoms are showing, it is advisable to get medical assistance with no further delay.

SOURCE : PSM

While the incoming parliament was contested by 368 candidates across 93 constituencies, including 13 female candidates, the official results indicate that only three out of the 43 female candidates who competed in the parliamentary elections were successful.

Speaking at the announcement of parliamentary results, Fuwad underscored the lack of female parliamentarians, citing it as a significant topic for future consideration. He further expressed optimism for the rise of female representatives in the parliament. Despite the substantial decline in the number of female candidates elected to parliament each year, Fuwad reiterated that the electoral process was conducted smoothly and

seamlessly.

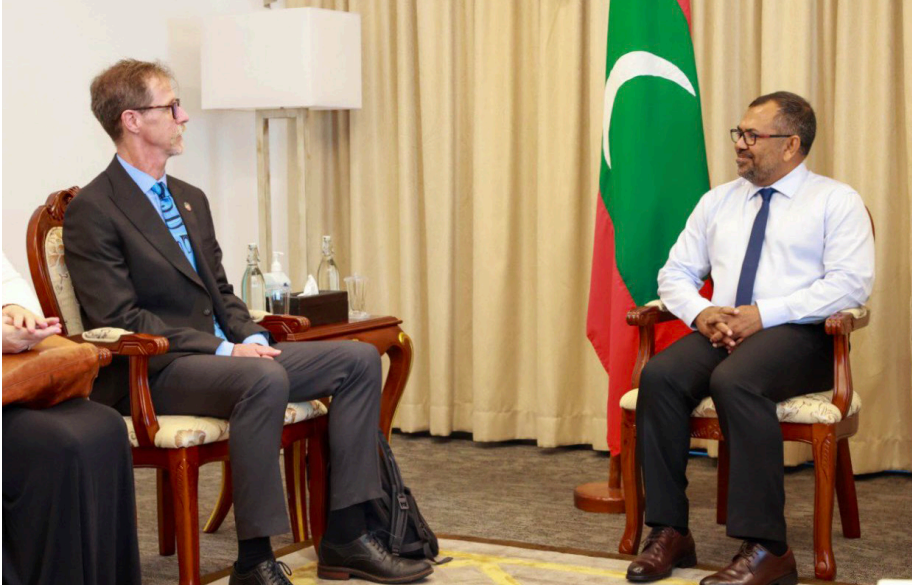
Furthermore, Fuwad hailed the recent parliamentary elections as a historic success, extending gratitude to the public for their cooperation in facilitating the process. Additionally, he asserted that a recount of a ballot box is necessary in the event of any illegal activity within the box or if any suspicious incidents occur during the counting process.

Remarkably, Fuwad conveyed sincere appreciation to the election staff and officials for their diligent efforts in ensuring the success of the parliamentary elections.

SOURCE : PSM



UN expert evaluates Maldives' environmental efforts



An environmental expert from the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council's Special Procedures Group David Boyd has concluded a 10-day visit to the Maldives aimed at assessing efforts to foster a clean, safe, and sustainable environment. Throughout his stay, he scrutinised the nation's endeavors to tackle environmental challenges, including the provision of clean drinking water in a sustainable manner.

Speaking to media post-observation, Boyd underscored the status of the Maldives as one of the most environmentally vulnerable nations, citing concerns such as sea level rise, coral bleaching, island erosion, and susceptibility to monsoon storms. He advocated for urgent action, proposing measures like phasing out diesel usage, promoting electric vehicles, conducting eco-friendly land reclamation, and expediting the enactment and enforcement of environmental legislation.

Additionally, Boyd stressed the importance of

aligning with UN goals, urging the Maldives to strive for 30% environmental protection of land and sea by 2030. He recommended transitioning waste management to an extended producer responsibility system and emphasised the swift passage of pending environmental bills in Parliament.

Furthermore, Boyd pledged to deliver a comprehensive report to the government outlining strategies to address identified environmental issues. During his visit, he engaged with government officials, civil society organisations, and environmental activists.

The Special Procedures branch of the UN Human Rights Council comprises volunteer experts tasked with monitoring country-specific and thematic human rights issues. These experts, appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, carry out mandates to investigate and advise on various human rights concerns worldwide.

SOURCE : PSM

Registration is open for workers' trade and employers' unions

The Ministry of Higher Education, Labour, and Skills Development has opened the opportunity for the inclusion of the Maldives in the provisional register of trade unions and employers' unions.

The minister emphasised the need for a provisional register to transition associations and organisations currently governed by the Associations Act to operate under the Industrial Relations Act as trade unions. As such, the ministry has initiated an online registration process for these entities currently active in the Maldives.

In accordance with the Industrial Relations Act, which was sanctioned by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu earlier this year, the registration of workers' trade unions and employers' unions will be conducted under the stipulations of the act once it takes effect.

The act not only facilitates the establishment of workers' associations but also ensures the promotion and protection of their participation rights in relevant activities. Furthermore, it delineates the parameters for the establishment and functioning of workers' trade unions and employers' unions. In addition, the act outlines procedures for dispute resolution between workers and employers and organises matters pertinent to trade unions.

Under the Regulations for the Registration of Unions, within three months of its enactment, previously registered workers' trade unions and employers' unions operating under different legislation must apply for registration to the Registrar of Unions.

SOURCE : PSM

Minister confident that Dhivehi Language will be impacted positively

Minister of Dhivehi Language, Culture and Heritage Adam Naseer Ibrahim expressed confidence that positive changes will be seen in the field of Dhivehi Language, within the following five years. The remarks were made by the minister during a ceremony held to commemorate Dhivehi Language Day.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Adam

Naseer proclaimed that President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu had a special vision to promote Dhivehi Language within his tenure. The minister emphasized the president's vision to promote the Dhivehi Language, revealing that several initiatives would be undertaken to achieve the overarching objectives.

Shedding light on the significance of communicating politely in Dhivehi Language, Minister Adam Naseer stressed the importance of speaking in a manner that it is easy to comprehend. The minister further stated that it is imperative to contemplate and formulate a

sentence prior to speaking.

During the ceremony, the Academy of Dhivehi Language launched two guideline books regarding the language. One of the books were officiated by the Minister of Cities, Local Government and Public Works Dr. Adam Shareef Umar. The academy revealed that the books were published by M7 with no charges.

SOURCE : PSM