

## **MALDIVES**

**NEWS BULLETIN** 

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### Efforts underway to submit new laws to Parliament



Chief Spokesperson at the President's Office Heena Waleed has stated that efforts are underway to complete the administrative preparations for introducing new laws and amendments to the Parliament, with the government achieving a super majority in the parliamentary elections.

Heena stated there are several crucial laws to be presented to Parliament under the government's week-14 legislative agenda. As such, laws relating to housing, the criminal justice system, social security are to be submitted. On this stance, Heena affirmed that the laws and amendments which have been stalled in the committee phase will be given a top priority to be implemented by the end of President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's tenure.

Furthermore, Heena revealed that over 200 laws are to be implemented, aiming to fulfill President Dr. Muizzu's commitment outlined in the government's manifesto. She assured that the elected Parliament will play a significant role as their views align with that of the president.

Observing that the government attained a super majority during the parliamentary elections was due to the unwavering trust in President Dr. Muizzu, Heena affirmed that this advantage will not be exploited. She guaranteed that the super majority will assist the government in implementing and enforcing policies that will benefit the public as per the respective policies.

# Efforts are underway to cover education of soldiers via scholarships

Minister of Defence Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon has stated that President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu is exerting maximum effort to provide military personnel, the opportunity to seek higher education in various fields through scholarships. The remarks were made while speaking at the oath taking ceremony of the soldiers participating in the 70th fundamental training course of Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).



Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Ghassan stated that this initiative of President Dr. Muizzu aims to secure the future of individuals joining to serve the military. The minister disclosed that efforts are underway to expand and strengthen the military while catering to the individual needs of the soldiers. Moreover, he affirmed that the president has implemented measures to ensure that individuals who have served in the military for an extended period will not encounter any housing issues, as they will have their own accommodation.

MNDF's fundamental training course is a special programme for fresh soldiers, enabling them to acquire and enhance their skills, such that they can excel in any field.

SOURCE : PSM

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## Minister reveals reform programme for SOEs will commence soon



Minister of Finance Dr. Mohamed Shafeeq has revealed that a reforming programme will commence in the near future, aiming to reform or take measures to modify state-owned enterprises (SOE).

In an interview with PSM News, Minister Dr. Shafeeq emphasised the significance of enhancing the managements of SOEs, as it has been observed that they are not operating at the highest level of efficiency. The minister recognised the demands of the citizens which aligned with the government's views, to reform companies such that it is beneficial to all parties. Noting that the bill proposed by the Ministry of Finance to the Parliament regarding the reformation of SOE's has been approved, he unveiled that all the necessary preparations and research to launch the programme has been completed.

Additionally, Minister Dr. Shafeeq disclosed that efforts are underway to prepare a reform programme aimed to strengthening government policies when providing subsidies. Observing that the current Aasandha entailed involved unnecessary expenses, the minister highlighted the ongoing efforts in seeking a sustainable solution to this issue.

Furthermore, Minister Dr. Shafeeq stressed the importance of utilising the government revenue beneficially such that expenses are reduced.

SOURCE : PSM

# Discussions held aiming to develop Maldives Zakat House

Minster of Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed has held discussions with the Director General of Zakat House of Kuwait Dr. Majid Sulaiman, aiming to develop the Maldives Zakat House. The meeting was held during the annual meeting with the Islamic Development Bank Group in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Minister Dr. Shaheem revealed that several significant topics were covered during the discussion. This encompasses discussions pertaining to the development of the Zakat House, employee training, and Shariah standards to identify individuals who are to receive the zakat collected.

The Maldives Zakat House established on December 18, 2023, was officially inaugurated by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu on January 2. The initiative aims to increase awareness regarding zakat, while targetting to provide a mechanism for accepting and disbursing Zakat, announce the Nisab for Zakat Al-Mal, or Zakat on Wealth, twice a year, and regularly update the national registry of individuals below the poverty line

SOURCE : PSM

#### Discussions held to enhance financial sector

Minister of Finance Dr. Mohamed Shafeeq has engaged in crucial discussions regarding financial assistance and strengthening the financial system of the nation. The discussion was held during his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to participate in the annual meeting of the Islamic Development Bank.

During the official visit, Minister Dr. Shafeeq, accompanied by the Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed held important discussions with several officials of various financial administrations. This includes the OPEC fund, Saudi Development Fund and the Islamic Development Bank.



The meeting held with the Acting Director General of the Islamic Development Bank was regarding on measures to enhance and advance the field of Islamic Finance. The meeting shed light on the significance of developing human resources and youth cooperation, which are vital for development.

Meanwhile, the discussions held with the President of the OPEC Fund for International Development highlighted the successful projects completed with the assistance of the fund and discussed areas of development which required financial support.

Additionally, government officials held meetings with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Saudi Fund for Development, in which information was provided between the two parties regarding the projects ongoing with the assistance of the fund.

While efforts are underway to strengthen financial relationships with other financial administrations, the government has formulated plans for several developmental projects. This includes developing international airports, urban centres and other projects to bolster economic growth. With the efforts exerted to expand the economy, the government is also striving to increase investments in various sectors.

SOURCE : PSM