



01-02 MAY 2024

ISSUE 37

The President commits to fostering a prosperous lifestyle for all Maldivian workers within his five-year tenure



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has committed to fostering an affluent lifestyle for all Maldivian workers within his five-year tenure. He made the commitment in his written address on International Labour Day 2024.

In his address, the President detailed the efforts of the Administration to facilitate labour rights. The President highlighted the efforts initiated to increase wages and benefits for government employees. He then underscored the initiatives to generate increased employment opportunities for local workers by allocating 22 professional sectors exclusively to local employees. Furthermore, he accentuated the Administration's rigorous measures to clamp down on businesses operated in the Maldives by undocumented foreign nationals, followed by their prompt deportation within a span of 48 hours.

Shedding light on the Administration's future plans, the President emphasised his focus on facilitating training and development opportunities and establishing services such as daycare centres to foster prosperous lifestyles for all families.

Concluding his message, the President expressed optimism that the Administration's endeavours in this direction would usher in a more promising future for all Maldivian workers. He further articulated that it would lay the groundwork for many opportunities for workers to flourish.

In his address, the President extended his profound appreciation to all locals and foreigners engaged in endeavours, both within the Maldives and overseas, who are contributing to the advancement of the Maldives and conveyed greetings on the occasion of the International Labour Day.

SOURCE : President's Office



The Vice President officiates the 6th Asian Carrom Championship 2024 award night and closing ceremony

Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef officiated the award night and closing ceremony of the first international sports event hosted in the Maldives this year, the '6th Asian Carrom Championship 2024'. The tournament was held from May 26 to May 1.

Several Maldivian athletes who participated in the tournament won awards across different categories. During the event, the Vice President presented awards to the runners-up. Additionally, mementos of service were handed to those who assisted in organising the event.

During this year's Presidential address, President Dr Mohamed Muizzu had assured the Administration's full support for the development of sports by taking notice to Maldivian athletes' concerns. He had outlined plans for sports associations to flourish and engage actively in the upcoming fiscal year. The President had further highlighted the commencement of training programmes for Maldivian athletes, aiming for sustained success in sporting competitions.



SOURCE : President's Office

“The biggest contributors to the development of the Maldives and the advancement it is seeing in various areas are, without doubt, the industrious workers. Without the service of these workers day and night, none of the hopes we hold for this nation's future will be realized.”

His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



Statement by His Excellency Dr Ali Haidar Ahmed, Minister of Housing, Land and Urban Development of the Republic of Maldives at the Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the ‘Use of the veto’



The meeting is convened by the President of the General Assembly as per the GA resolution 76/262 entitled ‘Standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council’. The veto was cast by the United States on a draft resolution for the Council to that the State of Palestine be admitted to the United Nations as a full member, to the General Assembly. The United Kingdom and Switzerland abstained from the vote, and the remaining 12 members voted in favour (Algeria, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Guyana, Ecuador, Russia, China, France, Slovenia, Malta, Japan, Republic of Korea).

The draft resolution was submitted by Algeria, and strongly supported by the Arab Group, the OIC, and NAM. The Council members which voted in favour said that Palestine’s admission as a full UN member could facilitate the implementation of a comprehensible two-State solution. Several Council members also noted that the Council had failed to deliver justice to Palestine on multiple occasions. As an explanation of its vote, the United States said that ‘premature actions’ at the UN would not achieve statehood for the Palestinian people, and that the vote does not reflect opposition to Palestinian statehood. The United States said that the acknowledgement of the State of Palestine will only come from direct negotiations between the parties.

Statement by His Excellency Dr. Ali Haidar Ahmed

I thank you for convening this meeting of the General Assembly to debate on the veto, cast during the Security Council, on 18 April.

We are here today because one vote at the Security Council has blocked Palestine from becoming a full member State of the United Nations.

It is shameful that one vote can ignore the deafening call for justice.

A call echoed by over a hundred and forty member States of this Assembly, including twelve members of the Security Council.

A call echoed by millions of peaceful protesters in universities, streets, and cities across the world.

Yet, one country, just one out of the 193 members of the UN, defied that outcry for justice.

The cry for recognition.

And the call for self-determination.

With that one vote, the Security Council has, yet again, failed.

With that veto, the Security Council has failed to stop Israel’s on-going genocide.

As we speak, Israel is carrying out its mass killings in Palestine. its brutal, barbaric, and horrific actions are being etched into history as it is witnessed in real-time.

Palestinian bodies are being unearthed from mass graves.

Palestinian families are being dug out of the rubble by children’s hands.

On no account can we fake ignorance.

The Security Council cannot claim to be unaware of the situation on the ground in Palestine, right now.

Israel’s repeated strikes on Rafah – after brutally driving more than a million Palestinian civilians to seek refuge in the city – are characteristic of genocide. Israel’s unbearable escalation of violence and terror is being normalized, through the Council’s inaction.

The Council needs no reminding of its failure in taking action to prevent the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, and the genocide in Srebrenica in Bosnia in 1995.

It is therefore time for this Assembly to say “no” to veto. For veto has been used to encourage Israel to continue with apartheid, to continue with illegal occupation, to continue with illegal settlement.

It has indeed become a tool to perpetrate genocide.

The only way a lasting solution can be achieved in the Middle East is for Israel to recognise and respect the sovereignty of Palestine.

Israel should withdraw from the occupied Palestinian lands.

And Israel should allow the return of Palestinian refugees driven out of their homes since 1948.

One key obstacle in achieving that is the veto. We must abolish it completely.

I thank you.

SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Gov't aims to secure prosperous future for workers

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has emphasised the assurance of a prosperous future with the ongoing government led initiatives. He made these remarks on the occasion of International Labour Day, highlighting the pivotal role played by labourers in achieving substantial national development and progress.

President Muizzu stated that the biggest unrest upon assuming office was the failure of the previous administration to pay significant sums of money to entities and as well individual



workers. It was noted that several private entities have been unable to pay salaries to their workers, operational expenses have not been met and stressed that the economic situation had significantly deteriorated.

Furthermore, President Muizzu assured that the retirement age would be extended to 75 years, providing a new opportunity for individuals who have left the civil service and health sectors. He emphasised the inclusion of people with disabilities in society, with efforts underway to provide them with meaningful

employment and fair salaries. In addition, President Muizzu underscored the importance of introducing housing schemes for workers across diverse sectors, ensuring job security and facilitating concessional loans for income-generating opportunities. He further affirmed the government's commitment to policies that promote substantial female participation in various fields.

Shedding light on government initiatives, President Muizzu highlighted a priority to



introduce new investment opportunities during his five-year tenure. This includes establishing free trade agreements between countries, implementing e-wallets and payment gateways, enabling local talent to gain recognition in the global market and earn foreign currency while residing in the Maldives.

President Dr. Muizzu has reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to fostering prosperous, self-reliant livelihoods for all workers during his tenure.

SOURCE : PSM

MTCC records USD43 million revenue for first quarter of the year

Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC) has recorded a revenue of USD43 million for the first quarter of this year.

The latest financial statistics released by MTCC shows that this figure represents a decrease compared to the same quarter last year, where MTCC recorded USD51 million in revenue. The company also recorded a profit of USD340,000 for the year, with operational profits amounting to USD2.7 million and net profits at USD399,000, lower than anticipated.

MTCC attributed the decline in pre-tax revenue to the significant increase in world commodity

prices, impacting its supply chain and leading to increased foreign exchange expenditure. However, the company stated that measures have been implemented to address these challenges.

Despite the revenue decline, MTCC has initiated several infrastructural development projects, with a total of 196 projects in progress across various stages. While three projects were fully commenced in the previous quarter, work has begun on eight projects. The company further highlighted the awarding of new projects during the ongoing quarter.

SOURCE : PSM

Abdulla Jihad appointed Chairperson of Maldives Financial Authority



Former Vice President Abdulla Jihad has been named the Chairperson of the Maldives International Financial Services Authority.

In a post on social media, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed announced the appointment on social media, highlighting President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's decision. He also emphasised collaborative efforts across various agencies to bolster the economy and achieve the vision of the President.

The establishment of the Maldives International Financial Services Authority, mandated by President Dr. Muizzu under Article 116 of the Maldives Constitution, signifies a strategic move to enhance financial services. It includes both on-shore and off-shore financing, as outlined in the Special Economic Zone Act. The agency, operating under the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, is tasked with developing the legal framework for financial services and fostering the growth of on-shore and off-shore development banks, alongside international financial centers. Its broader mission includes researching modern solutions to legal and administrative barriers hindering the financial market's advancement and promoting a competitive financial ecosystem in the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM





Efforts underway to limit Hajj pilgrimage rates



Maldives Hajj Corporation (MHC) has initiated significant steps to substantially lower the prices of Hajj pilgrimage trips, aligning with President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's presidential pledge to reduce costs for travellers from Maldives.

In a post shared on social media, Managing Director Mohamed Shakeel announced the establishment of the "Hajj Fund," aimed at reducing pilgrim expenses while creating income-generating opportunities for the corporation, thus strengthening its financial stability. He underscored that efforts are currently underway to minimise Hajj trip costs, with an increase in real estate investments.



Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed affirmed that restructuring the Hajj Corporation would substantially decrease Hajj pilgrimage rates. He further emphasised the Ministry's proactive measures under the new administration to address this issue. This year, the Hajj Corporation has disbursed USD 4,537 with over 7,000 individuals on the waiting list. The government has officially allocated 100 quotas to the Maldives to mitigate the waiting list and alleviate high pilgrimage costs incurred.

Minister Shaheem stated that if additional quotas are to be granted, private entities will be engaged in organising pilgrimage trips, adhering to the list compiled by the Hajj Corporation.

SOURCE : PSM

STO receives profit of USD 291 million

State Trading Organization (STO) has announced a profit of USD 291 million for the first quarter of this year, marking a notable 12% increase compared to the previous quarter.

Moreover, financial statistics have been made available on STO's official website. While STO successfully secured USD 291 million during the first quarter, the surge in oil prices and the success of other STO-led projects contributed significantly to this increase in income.



Following the rise in profit, STO saw a notable increase of 18% to USD 39.92 million compared to previous quarters, while operational expenses significantly rose by 19% to USD 19.93 million. Concurrently, after tax deductions, STO attained a net profit of USD 15.20 million, marking a substantial 46% increase compared to the same period in 2023.

Furthermore, STO underscored the positive results to be as a result of overall effectiveness of STO led initiatives and reduced operational expenses. Additionally, it reported a net profit of USD 12.62 million for the quarter.

STO notably operates across various sectors, including oil trading, pharmaceuticals, construction, and food and beverages, making it a diversified multi-business company.



SOURCE : PSM



Eco-friendly vehicles introduced to enhance WAMCO services



Waste Management Corporation Limited (WAMCO) has intensified waste management efforts in Male' City by integrating specialized vehicles, thus significantly enhancing waste management capabilities and efficiency.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) notably donated specialized vehicles to WAMCO for waste management in Male' City, with financial support from the Coca-Cola Foundation.

Furthermore, the vehicles added by WAMCO include two electric vehicles, totalling six vehicles. With the integration of these vehicles, WAMCO aims to collect a diverse type of waste in the Male' region and intensify its ongoing efforts to internalise the increase in plastic waste across the Maldives.

The Managing Director of WAMCO Mujuthaba Jaleel emphasised that the incorporation of eco-friendly vehicles will substantially bring in positive changes to the environment and as well as to the corporation, underscoring the significance of this addition.

Moreover, while the utilisation of renewable energy in waste management is regarded as a fundamental objective by the present administration, it is a significant priority for the UNDP.

Additionally, UNDP Maldives Deputy Resident Representative Pek Chuan Gan conveyed that the use of "clean energy solutions" will significantly reduce carbon emissions in the Maldives. He further emphasised that this represents a pivotal step towards combating environmental pollution and enhancing the quantity of waste recycled in the Maldives.

President of TCC and VP Community Affairs Sadia Medsburg emphasized the association's commitment to enhancing waste management and promoting environmental stewardship in the Maldives, prioritizing efforts beyond mere waste recycling. He highlighted the goal of establishing environmental monitoring benchmarks through similar initiatives in Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM

Labour Day: Ensuring Rights in Maldives

May 1 every year marks Labour Day or May Day, a global observance dedicated to advocating for workers' rights.

This year's theme revolves around "Ensuring Safety and Health at Work in a Changing Climate". The origins of International Labour Day trace back to a tragic incident in London on May 4, 1886, when a peaceful workers' demonstration was violently disrupted, resulting in the loss of lives including seven police officers and four civilians. The event galvanised the movement for workers' rights, leading to the establishment of May 1 as an internationally recognised day for their advocacy.

Various initiatives have been undertaken worldwide to commemorate this day, prompting many nations to enact legislation bolstering occupational safety standards and defining specific working conditions. Initially, political parties and labor unions spearheaded the observance, with formal recognition of Labour Day in the Maldives occurring in 2011, accompanied by legislative support and the establishment of relevant authorities.

In the Maldives, where Labour Day has been officially recognized for over a decade, President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has pledged significant measures in support of workers' welfare during his tenure. It include the development of special policies to facilitate the return of healthcare professionals who have left service, as well as initiatives to reintegrate former civil servants. In addition, the government has implemented salary adjustments for personnel in sectors such as the Maldives Police Service (MPS) and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) to safeguard their rights. President Dr. Muizzu has further committed to salary increments across all sectors during his term and has assured protection for employees voicing criticism against the government.

The current administration's manifesto emphasises several priorities concerning workers, including addressing the promotion rights of uniformed personnel who have been overlooked for advancement in the past five years. These commitments underscore a concerted effort to uphold and advance the rights and well-being of workers in the Maldives.



SOURCE : PSM