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Maldives supports South Africa's call for additional measures



The Government of Maldives strongly condemns the ongoing attacks on Rafah by Israel, which have led to an exacerbation of the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. The continuation of military aggression by Israeli occupying forces against innocent Palestinian civilians is a rampant breach of international human rights and humanitarian law.

The demands made by Israel for the immediate evacuation of thousands of Palestinian civilians seeking refuge in Eastern Rafah are a testament to Israel's failure to adhere to the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the case "Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)". These genocidal acts perpetrated by Israeli occupying forces under the guise of security concerns have resulted in mass displacement, acute starvation, and blockage of humanitarian aid.

The Government of Maldives has declared its intention to intervene in the case filed by South Africa against Israel at the ICJ, on the premise that Israel is in violation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In this regard, the Government of Maldives extends its full support to the urgent request made by South Africa on May 10, 2024, for the modification and indication of further provisional measures by the Court concerning the current situation in Rafah. The Government of Maldives is resolute in guaranteeing a lasting solution to the long suffering endured by the Palestinian people by any means necessary.

The Government of Maldives stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people in the pursuit of their inherent right to self-determination and remains committed to its calls for the establishment of a sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as per the pre-1967 borders.

SOURCE : The President's Office



Minister encourages participation of women in economic development

Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed has emphasised the importance of increasing women empowerment during the decision-making processes, aiming to accelerate economic development. The remarks were made by the minister, during the inaugural ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Blue Economy Forum.

The forum held in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is scheduled for a period of two days and will take place in Villa Nautica. The forum is a significant event attended by countries listed in the Climate Finance Network of UNDP. As such, this prestigious event was attended by over 100 representatives of 12 various countries.

Speaking at the forum, Minister Saeed underscored the utmost priority given by the government's developmental agenda to embark on developmental projects sustainably, without adversely affecting the environment. The minister additionally requested to hold discussions in three specific fields, interconnected with the development of the nation. As such, he stressed the significance of addressing challenges encountered to seek financial assistance from international organisations for environmental protection, facilitating access to financial aid for countries requiring support and ensuring easy access to finance to promote and assist small and medium enterprises.

Furthermore, Minister Saeed stressed the significance of collaborative efforts for the development and progress of the nation. Observing the lack of women involved in the decision-making process for development, the minister urged this issue to be resolved. He stated that the participation of women is bound to accelerate the economic development of the nation.

While the Maldives is set to co-host the forum, the forum will be held with joint-efforts of the ministry, UNDP and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom.

SOURCE : PSM





Asia-Pacific Blue Economy Forum commences in the Maldives



The Asia-Pacific Blue Economy Forum has commenced, with Maldives co-hosting the prestigious forum. The forum serves as a platform for countries to engage in discussions to formulate developmental plans and will be held with joint-efforts of the ministry, UNDP and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom.

The regional forum held in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is scheduled for a period of two days and will take place in Villa Nautica. The forum is a significant event attended by countries listed in the Climate Finance Network of UNDP. As such, this prestigious event was attended by over 100 representatives of 12 various countries.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the forum, UNDP Resident Representative to the Maldives Enrico Gaveglia emphasised the importance of blue economies, noting that this was a crucial sector for countries such as the Maldives.

The concept of the blue economy pertains to the sustainable utilization of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and job creation while maintaining the health of ocean ecosystems. This encompasses traditional sectors such as renewable energy, fisheries, maritime tourism, climate change, and waste management, among others.

During the forum, British High Commissioner to Maldives Caron Röhler stressed the significance of marine resources for low-lying island countries. Hence, she highlighted the importance of convening forums which discuss methods to maximise the utilisation of marine resources sustainably.

Furthermore, Röhler underscored the momentousness of ensuring the provision of opportunities for the youth to excel within this emerging field. She reiterated the United Kingdom's steadfast support for the Maldives, particularly in providing financial assistance for initiatives related to the blue economy and environmental protection.

SOURCE : PSM

India extends budget support to the Government of Maldives

The Government of India has provided a budget support of USD 50 million to the Maldives today. The support was in the form of a rollover of USD 50 million Treasury Bill, for an additional year, through the State Bank of India, Male', from 13 May 2024.

Government of India's decision to rollover the T-Bill came following a request to that effect made by Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer to India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, during the official bilateral visit to India from 8-10 May 2024.

The Government of Maldives is highly appreciative of the generous support that Government of India has been providing to the Maldives in the form of budgetary support. Large number of infrastructural developmental projects and High Impact Community Developmental projects are underway with the assistance from the Government of India, which consists of a notable part as grant assistance.

The Government of Maldives looks forward in continuing this collaborative partnership for the mutual benefit and prosperity of their people.

SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Maldives participates in IOTC meeting in Thailand

Represented by a delegation from the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources, Maldives participated in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the five-day session, Maldives will advocate for member states to prioritise the sustainability of tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean. Key agenda items include urging the adoption of robust management measures for drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and shark conservation. Additionally, Maldives will push for the adoption of a management procedure for skipjack tuna.

Maldives aims for the IOTC to lead Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) in adopting science-based conservation and management measures. The commitment reflects the nation's dedication to the well-being of coastal communities and the health of tuna stocks.

SOURCE : PSM

Parliament approves participation in Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Parliament has approved the participation of Maldives in the Minamata Convention on Mercury. This initiative was proposed for parliamentary endorsement by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, following the recommendation of the Cabinet.

The implementation of this convention obligates the identification and substitution of mercury containing equipment. The convention additionally advocates for the proper disposal of such equipment to alleviate any adverse effects on both human health and the environment.

Decisions have been formulated to facilitate the provision of requisite financial aid. The enforcement of this initiative will undoubtedly serve as a crucial measure in mitigating the adverse impacts on human health arising from mercury exposure.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a multilateral environmental treaty drafted in 2013 on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, aiming to protect human health and the environment from the detrimental effects of mercury.

SOURCE : PSM



Aasandha facilitates over USD50 million in first three months

Over USD50 million has been facilitated from the Aasandha scheme in the first three months of this year.

The latest statistics published by Aasandha show that a total of USD54 million was spent from January to March this year, which is an increase of 4.8% over the same period last year. In the first three months of last year, USD52 million was spent under the Aasandha scheme.

The statistics show that the number of individuals seeking services under the Aasandha scheme has also increased in the first three months of this year. There were 276,439 services in the first three months of this year, compared to 273,434 in the same period last year. The Aasandha scheme also covers transportation from one island to another for emergency treatment. In the first three months of this year, the scheme has transported patients from one island to another 1,599 times in emergency situations. In addition, 1,691 individuals were sent abroad for treatment during the first three months of this year.

The government has decided to strengthen the Aasandha scheme and make additional services available under the scheme. Free medical check-ups are now available under the scheme. The increase in the cost of health services also increases the cost of Aasandha services. Therefore, the price of health services provided in the Maldives and abroad will be reviewed.

SOURCE : PSM

Travelers must reveal currency sources if exceeding specified amounts



news.mv

Maldives hopeful bid to list stone mosques as heritage sites will succeed



The Maldives has held discussions to list its coral stone mosques on the Permanent List of World Heritage Sites under the Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (ICESCO).

The discussions regarding the inclusion of the historic mosques on ICESCO's list took place during the official visit of Minister of Language, Culture, and Heritage Adam Naseer Ibrahim to Azerbaijan. His visit was made to attend "Shusha - the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World 2024".

One main agenda during the minister's visit is the advocacy for the incorporation of the historical mosques of the Maldives into the list of World Heritage Sites. In pursuit of the objective, he held discussions with Director General of ICESCO Dr. Salim Al-Malik.

During their meeting, Dr. Al-Malik expressed his commitment to advancing the cause,

pledging to take necessary steps towards the potential inclusion of the Maldives' historical stone mosques into the list. With the Ministry of Dhivehi Language, Culture, and Heritage signaling its approval, momentum for the inclusion has been bolstered.

ICESCO, as a key organ of the organisation, holds responsibility for the selection and preservation of mosques and other significant architectural marvels within its Permanent List of World Heritage Sites. In a recent session convened at its headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, from December 18-19, 2023, ICESCO's committee added 213 new monuments and objects to its World Heritage List, bringing the total count to 634. Among these additions are sites awaiting inclusion in the Permanent List of Heritage Sites, marking significant progress in safeguarding cultural treasures worldwide.

SOURCE : PSM

Amendments have been brought to the Customs Cash Declaration such that travelers are required to disclose the sources of currency when transporting amounts internationally that exceed specified thresholds. The amendment was announced at a joint press conference with agencies from the homeland ministry.

Addressing the media, Minister of Homeland Security and Technology Ali Ihusaan revealed that this amendment was introduced to address issues related to criminal proceeds being sent overseas. Noting that this was the biggest modification brought to the Customs Cash Declaration, the minister disclosed that this regulation will be implemented for those who transport sums exceeding USD 10,000 abroad. He further stated that this measure was taken

under the regulations imposed by international administrations.

Furthermore, Minister Ihusaan revealed that upon assuming office, he observed a significant number of immigrants entering the Maldives as labourers, only to depart within a brief period with substantial sums of money. The minister stated that the implementation of this modified regulation applies to locals and immigrants as well. This initiative of the administration has remarkably reduced the illegal withdrawal and transportation of large sums of money internationally.

SOURCE : PSM