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President states preserving heritage crucial for nation's independence



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has underscored the pivotal role of preserving the ancient culture and heritage as crucial elements in upholding the independence and sovereignty of the nation. The remarks were made by the president following a social media post, commemorating the International Museum Day.

While President Dr. Muizzu emphasised on the protection and preservation of culture and heritage, the administration has initiated several measures to conserve the nation's cultural heritage. As such, the government established a distinct ministry under the name of Ministry of Dhivehi Language, Culture and Heritage. This initiative aims to preserve the nation's culture and heritage and ensure it is transmitted to future generation.

The ongoing efforts of the ministry include the establishment of the National Institute for Maldivian Heritage Research and the efforts exerted to ensure that the mosques developed in the Maldives using coral stones are included in the permanent heritage list of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

Additionally, efforts are underway to develop a special laboratory, designated to treat the delicate cultural artefacts. The ministry is currently engaged in the creation of a technical group comprised of Maldivian youths, with the objective of overseeing and managing the cultural heritage of the nation.

SOURCE : PSM

“ Preserving our tradition and independence relies on safeguarding the heritage entrusted to us by our forefathers. ”

His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



Maldives records USD 802.2 million in first four months

The Ministry of Finance has disclosed that the state received USD 802.2 million in revenue during the first four months of this year, marking a significant 4.2% increase compared to the same period last year.

This revenue breakdown comprises USD 660 million in tax revenue, USD 129.4 million in non-tax revenue, and USD 5 million in aid to administration.

Tax revenue is primarily derived from Import Duty, Business and Property Tax (BPT), and Goods and Service Tax (GST), with figures as follows:

- Import Duty: USD 60.3 million
- BPT: USD 168.2 million
- GST: USD 375.2 million
- Green Tax: USD 27 million
- Airport Service Charge and Departure Tax: USD 25.1 million

Moreover, financial data indicates that the current administration has notably reduced overall expenses compared to the previous year.

Total government expenditures for the first four months of this year stand at USD 925.1 million, a significant decrease from last year's USD 1.04 billion. This includes USD 724.6 million in recurrent expenses and USD 194.1 million in capital expenditure. Recurrent expenses prominently consist of USD 284.7 million in salaries and allowances and USD 433.4 million in administrative expenses, while capital expenditures primarily involve infrastructural development projects.

SOURCE : PSM





With big projects, the stalled pace of gov't development increased



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has been one of the most practical leaders in implementing major structural projects in the country. It is an indisputable fact that after assessing the ability of his work, the leadership was handed over to President Dr. Muizzu because he had high hopes for the development of the country.

President Dr. Muizzu has proved well that he will work to fulfill the expectations of the citizens for development during the last six months since he took office on November 17. The brightest proof of this is the priority given by the government of President Dr. Muizzu to start major projects as soon as possible without postponing them until the end of the term.

One of the major concerns expressed by citizens during the previous administrations was the initiation of major projects towards the end of their terms, which often did not yield substantial benefits for the people. However, President Muizzu's government is trying to bring the sweetness of development to the people instead of showing them the bottle.

President Dr. Muizzu has already started work on major structural development projects among the 161 pledges he made in the first 14 weeks of his administration. His top priority when he took office was to study the works that had been started and those that had been stalled and to restart them at a rapid pace.

President Dr. Muizzu personally inspected the two most important projects for the economy of the country at the moment, the new passenger terminal at the Velana International Airport (VIA) and the bridge connecting Male' City, Villimalé, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi. As a result, the works have gone backwards and the projects are now being carried out at the speed required by the people.

The two priorities of President Muizzu's government are housing and strengthening the air transport system in the Maldives. The largest housing project in the Greater Male Region, Ras Male', will be developed by the government in the second month. The project alone includes more than 35,000 houses including land and flats. Dredging of 1,153 hectares of land required for the project has already started. The last government

had also accelerated the works under the supervision of the Gulhifalhu and Giraavarufalhu projects which were not completed.

President Dr. Muizzu has issued a resolution announcing 12 airports to be developed by the government. So far, he has started the development of six domestic airports and three international airport projects in various stages.

A Chinese company has been awarded the contract to develop Kadhdhoo Airport in Laamu Atoll, to international standards. In addition, a Thailand company has been awarded the contract to develop the Thinadhoo Airport in Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll, as a new international airport. An agreement has been signed with a Belgian company to develop an international airport in Villingili, Gaafu Alifu Atoll. Survey and feasibility studies of these projects are currently underway. Addu City has also started the long awaited Addu Bridge project. The survey and design works of the Hithadhoo-Hulhumeedhoo bridge have been awarded to an Egyptian company.

Major infrastructure development projects have also been launched. One of the tasks is economic zones and bunkering facilities. The term sheet for the Ihavandhippolhu bunkering project has been signed with a foreign company while a Chinese company has been awarded the contract to start the bunkering facility with a maritime hub in Laamu Atoll. The projects also include cruise terminals and tourism components. This will significantly increase foreign exchange and tax revenue.



The government has changed its decision to develop the Male' Commercial Harbour in Gulhifalhu and moved the project to Thilafushi. This project has also been promised in several previous governments but has not yet been implemented. In addition, he has started planning and administrative works for the development of education, health and sports.

The government aims to implement many projects in line with the vision of the new government by the end of its five-year term. There is no doubt that the government of President Dr. Muizzu has proved to the people in the last six months that resuming the stalled development work and accelerating the pace of development is the top priority.



Technical Chinese team to assist in 5M tree planting programme

The Ambassador of China to the Maldives Wang Lixin has affirmed that a technical team from China will visit the Maldives to conduct a soil analysis, prior to the commencement of the five million tree planting programme.

Addressing the media, Ambassador Lixin stated that the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy is engaged in collaborative efforts with the Chinese company, Fujian Forestry Administration regarding the programme. The ambassador further disclosed that the technical team will conduct a comprehensive study on the soil and will identify and elucidate the various types of plants which can be cultivated in the Maldives easily.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced the national initiative to plant five million trees across the country at the high-level segment of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai.

The programme will commence annually on June 5, commemorating World Environment Day. Trees will be planted in all residential islands and resorts under the programme. The administration previously revealed that neighbouring nations will be contributing trees to the initiative.

SOURCE : PSM



Education minister partakes the 22nd Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers



Minister of Education Dr. Ismail Shafeeu has recently participated in the 22nd Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers, held from May 16 to 17 at London's Marlborough House.

The conference convenes once every three years, bringing together educational experts to collaboratively develop comprehensive educational policies.

This year's theme, "Driving Resilience, Equity, and Skills for an Inclusive Future," underscores the importance of education in empowering individuals with knowledge, resilience, fairness, and diverse skill sets to shape a thriving and inclusive future.

Accompanying Minister Shafeeu on this trip was the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Ahmed Mohamed.

Moreover, discussions at the conference primarily focused on formulating and

strategizing educational policies to ensure equal access to all levels and types of education, as well as facilitating smooth transitions between educational levels to narrow learning disparities. These discussions involved education ministers and senior government executives from various countries, providing a broad perspective on educational challenges and opportunities.

Remarkably, the two-day conference emphasised three thematic streams: "Resilience and sustainability of education systems and learners," "Resilient societies, economies, and innovative technologies," and "Transitions within and outside the education system." Concurrently, participants actively exchanged views on proactively promoting digital literacy using innovative tools to strengthen the economy, ensuring equal access to education at all levels, and removing barriers to education, particularly for girls, women, and vulnerable groups.

SOURCE : PSM

International coaches to be deployed in Maldives

Minister of Sports, Fitness, and Recreation Abdulla Rafiu, has announced the deployment of international coaches, signaling a significant boost to the sports industry in the Maldives. This move aligns with President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's commitment to increasing the number of athletes and coaches and expanding training opportunities within the country.

During a press conference, Minister Rafiu emphasised the government's strategic focus on training sports coaches locally, eliminating the need for overseas travel. This initiative aims to revitalize the sports industry and support

relevant associations by reducing the significant expenses associated with training abroad.

Recently, Minister Rafiu celebrated the launch of training programs in Faafu Atoll, with support from the University of Alaska Foundation (UFA) and Italy's consulate in the Maldives. The program, which commenced on May 6, is a collaboration involving Italy's University of Milano-Bicocca, renowned football club "Milan," and UAF Foundation for Children. Over the course of two years, the program will provide football training while also promoting environmental conservation and sustainability.

Notably, the initial plan to train two coaches from each island has been expanded to four coaches per island. Additionally, the program aims to train 200 children over two years, ensuring they gain environmental awareness alongside sports skills. This comprehensive approach highlights the Ministry's commitment to nurturing both athletes and environmental stewards within the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM

