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The President announces exhibition to improve business and productivity in the country

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has decided to organise an exhibition aimed at boosting the country's productivity and fostering economic growth. The decision was made following deliberations on a paper submitted by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to the Cabinet on Sunday.

Following deliberations at Sunday's Cabinet Meeting, it was resolved to hold an exhibition named the 'Dhivehinge Ufehdhuntherikamuge Maurazu' in May 2025 to increase productivity and expand business in the nation.

The Cabinet further decided that the exhibition will be contested in various fields, including the creative economy district, the digital and innovative district, the entertainment district, and the marketplace district. It was also decided that the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the Business Centre Corporation (BCC) would jointly organise and run the exhibition.

In addition, to ensure the robust annual continuation of the exhibition, the President made significant decisions during Sunday's Cabinet meeting after discussing with the Ministers.

The President decides to build 'Isravvehinge Hiyaavahi' in Addu City

Upon the Cabinet's recommendation, the President has decided to establish an "Isravvehinge Hiyaavahi" facility in Addu City, Feydhoo. This facility will aim to provide quality services to nurture an environment where senior citizens in need of care, due to lack of family support, can spend the rest of their lives happy and content. The decision was made following deliberations on a paper submitted by the Ministry of Social and Family Development to the Cabinet yesterday.

Following the President's decision, the Government will implement a programme rewarding points to individuals who live with or care for senior citizens in newly established housing schemes, allowing families to live with seniors. President Dr Muizzu additionally resolved to amend the laws and regulations protecting the rights of senior citizens.

SOURCE : The President's Office

Minister aims to increase use of renewable energy in fish processing



Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Resources Ahmed Shiyam has revealed the aim of the government's intention to boost the adoption of renewable energy sources in fish processing operations. The remarks were made by the minister during the inaugural session of the globally renowned Info Fish World Tuna Conference.

Speaking regarding the export of fish products, Minister Shiyam disclosed that approximately 100,000 skipjack tuna are caught while 60% are exported unprocessed. However, the minister reiterated the goal of increasing the percentage of processed fish products and diversifying the fish products which are exported. He also revealed his ambitious vision of gaining new international markets and enhancing employment prospects for Maldivians.

Emphasising that the Maldives is a nation which practises sustainable fishing, Minister Shiyam underscored the crucial importance of ensuring the fishing industry of the nation is environmentally friendly. The minister stressed the significance of introducing new measures to reduce the adverse impacts of fishing on the environment, hence utilising sources of renewable energy. He stated that the primary objective of the administration is to guarantee that 35% of the energy utilised in fish processing facilities is converted to renewable energy within a timeframe of five years.

The government has initiated efforts to increase the amount of renewable energy within the fishing industry. Therefore, decisions have been made to enhance the existing fish processing facility located in Felivaru, Lhaviyani Atoll by incorporating an additional section that will utilise renewable energy.

Furthermore, President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu affirmed his commitment to significantly increase the required electricity generated from 4% to 33% by the end of his tenure. Under this initiative, the administration has announced to establish renewable energy systems in 160 islands across the nation.

SOURCE : PSM





Ministry confirms actions against unpermitted drone use

The Ministry of Defense has announced that measures will be enforced against any drones flown across the Maldives without the required permits.

Moreover, the Ministry had previously urged individuals to seek permission before flying drones in areas near airports, as they could pose a threat to air traffic. However, it has recently observed flying of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones in military security areas and near airports.

Furthermore, the Ministry further emphasised that permit applications should be submitted at least three days in advance, excluding non-governmental holidays, to ensure timely processing. It warned that strict actions would be implemented against those who operate drones without the necessary permits.

SOURCE : PSM

Tourist arrivals increase 11.3% so far this year



The Ministry of Tourism has revealed that the number of tourists visiting the Maldives has increased by 11.3% so far this year compared to last year. The tourism sector is growing rapidly and the largest number of tourists are now coming from China.

The latest statistics published by the tourism ministry show that 846,971 tourists visited the Maldives as of May 18, compared to the 761,173 tourist arrivals during the same period last year. Therefore, the number of tourists visiting the Maldives has increased by 85,798 so far this year, an increase of 11.3%.

The largest number of tourists visited the Maldives from China with 95,000 arrivals, while 85,000 tourists visited from Russia, 81,000 visited from the United Kingdom (UK), 74,000 visited from Italy, and 67,000 visited from Germany. A total of 1,193 tourist establishments are open in the Maldives, consisting of 62,501 beds, according to the tourism ministry.

The Maldives aims to attract two million tourists this year. Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) has achieved 25% of its tourism target in the first four months of this year.

SOURCE : PSM

Kadhdhoo tourist area development to commence



Regional Airports Company Limited has declared that the development of a special tourist area at Kadhdhoo Airport is prepared for commencement. The airport transferred management to the Regional Airports on April 11 while an agreement was reached with a Chinese company, CAMC, aiming to enhance Kadhdhoo Airport in Laamu Atoll.

Speaking to PSM News, Managing Director of Regional Airports Ahmed Mubeen stated that the debts incurred and the assets associated with KACL, the former operator of the airport, will be identified within a timeframe of four months. Mubeen revealed that efforts are underway to explore additional measures aimed at enhancing the development of the airport.

Highlighting the airport's poor condition, Mubeen highlighted the ongoing efforts to seek the required financial assistance to overcome the challenge. He disclosed that approximately USD2.5 million will be incurred to develop places under poor condition.

Furthermore, decisions have been made such that an area designated for tourists at Kadhdhoo Airport will be developed. Mubeen revealed plans of enhancing the 10 rooms in substandard conditions, affirming the

commencement of establishing additional 20 rooms within the upcoming two months. Aiming to ensure the provision of more jet fuel from the airport, he stated that the feasibilities are currently under development. He additionally unveiled plans to establish facilities such that diesel can be obtained from the Kadhdhoo port. Land reclamation to expand the airport while safeguarding the reclaimed region have also commenced.

Kadhdhoo Airport, the first domestic airport in the country, inaugurated on December 6, 1986, has seen concerns from residents regarding discontinued development over the years. Addressing these concerns, President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu assured residents that while the airport will be developed to international standards, affirming plans for the development of an airport on an additional island as well.

SOURCE : PSM



Maldives collaborate with Saudi Arabia to conduct religious research programmes



Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed has said Ministry of Islamic Affairs of Saudi Arabia and the Maldives will conduct many religious research and scientific programmes.

Minister Saeed along with a delegation from the Maldives is participating in the scientific programme conducted jointly by the Islamic ministry and Saudi Arabia. These programmes were discussed during his visits to Saudi Arabia.

During the meeting, the delegation was briefed on the activities and projects of the Islamic ministry and the areas in which the Maldives needs assistance and cooperation. Referring to the projects already started by Saudi Arabia and the Islamic ministry, Minister Saeed said that the training of Khateeb, scholars and

those who need to impart religious knowledge will be trained. He said that the two countries discussed joint scientific and social projects.

Additionally, Minister Shaheem said the purpose of such programmes is to explain the true Islamic faith, instill the noble principle of Islamic moderation and raise awareness against extremist principles. He said that such programmes have also been discussed for scholars, youth and associations. He also said that the two countries will also conduct many joint programmes in the future.

Furthermore, Minister Shaheem said that the scientific programmes being conducted in collaboration with Saudi Arabia are the result of his visits to the country.

SOURCE : PSM



Minister affirms finalisation of Hajj preparations

Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed has affirmed the finalisation of all the necessary preparations and arrangements for all pilgrims travelling to perform Hajj pilgrimage this year. The remarks were made by the minister during the discussions held with Hajj facilitators.

Speaking at the meeting, Minister Dr. Shaheem announced that the inaugural flight transporting pilgrims will depart to Saudi Arabia on May 31. The minister assured that the necessary arrangements and preparations have been completed in collaboration with the pertinent institutions, ensuring the provision of essential services to the pilgrims. June 15 marks the Day of Arafat

Furthermore, the administration has made decisions such that all official Hajj quotas granted to the Maldives will be allocated to the Maldives Hajj Corporation Limited. The Maldives receives 1,000 quotas for Hajj pilgrimage annually, as per the policy issued. 50 out of the 1000 quotas issued are sponsored by the administration for financially challenged individuals. The 50 individuals who will be granted the opportunity to perform the Hajj pilgrimage under the commitment of President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has been selected through a draw.

The Maldives have signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia, aiming to advance the facilitation of pilgrims during the journey and to ensure the provision of enhanced services. The agreement was signed during the Hajj and Umrah Conference held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in January. Discussions have also been held between the two nations to increase the number of quotas allocated to the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM

SOURCE : PSM

Installation of oxygen plants in hospitals underway

The Managing Director of Maldives Gas Abdulla Mohamed has announced the installation of oxygen plants in hospitals across the Maldives, highlighting their upcoming placement later this year.

Speaking on a programme aired on PSM News, Mohamed underscored that the oxygen currently optimised by the health sector is produced in Thilafushi, Kaafu Atoll, confirming that oxygen plants are already situated at Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital and Kulhudhuffushi Regional Hospital. However, efforts are underway to ensure the swift and timely delivery of oxygen to hospitals and regional health centers across the atolls.

Moreover, Abdulla Mohamed also shed light on the ongoing discussions between Maldives Gas and the Ministry of Health to facilitate the provision of oxygen to larger hospitals, emphasising that one of the new oxygen plants will be established in a specific region to enhance accessibility.

Oxygen gas is crucial for healthcare and industrial purposes. Maldives Gas initially installed a 99% pure oxygen plant in Thilafushi in 2018 and is currently the only company responsible for supplying oxygen for both health and industrial needs.

SOURCE : PSM

SOURCE : PSM