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President appoints Minister Adam Shareef Umar as Special Envoy to attend the funeral ceremonies of the Late President and Late Foreign Minister of Iran

President H.E. Dr Mohamed Muizzu has appointed the Minister of Cities, Local Government and Public Works, H.E. Adam Shareef Umar, as the Special Envoy of the President, to attend the official funeral ceremonies of H.E. Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, the Late President of Iran, H.E. Dr Hussain Amir Abdollahian, the Late Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, and their entourage, organised by the Government of Iran.

President Dr Muizzu has also expressed his condolences in a message to H.E. Mohammad Mokhber, the Interim President of Iran, following the passing of President Dr Raisi and his entourage in the tragic incident. In his message, the President extended sympathies on behalf of the Maldivian people to the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran and offered prayers to the Almighty Allah to bless the souls of the departed.

The President earlier issued a directive (No. 10/2024), declaring that the national flag to be flown at half-mast for three days, from Tuesday, May 21, 2024, to Thursday, May 23, 2024, in mourning for Iran's late President, H.E. Dr Ebrahim Raisi.

SOURCE : The President's Office

“ We will overhaul the longstanding structure of subsidies and allocate them exclusively to those who are most in need of state assistance ”

His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu

Reform policies underway, improving financial conditions



Minister of Finance Dr. Mohamed Shafeeq has highlighted the current administration's proactive efforts in significantly improving the financial conditions of the state. These remarks were made during discussions on the "Scaling Back and Re-Building Buffers" report formulated by the World Bank about the Maldives.

The World Bank report indicates that although the Maldives has seen substantial advancements in the tourism sector, the overall pace of economic growth has slowed. The report also notes that despite a surge in tourist arrivals, economic efficiency has been stagnant, with the spending value per tourist remaining low.



During the discussions, Minister Shafeeq acknowledged that last year's economic growth forecasts were not met, attributing this to the previous administration's failure to implement strategic measures.

Furthermore, the minister strongly emphasised the current administration's goal of significantly reducing state expenses. This includes initiatives such as amending regulations related to subsidy provision and revising the Aasandha health insurance scheme. He also highlighted the implementation of reform policies aimed at improving the operations of state-owned entities.

Minister Shafeeq also provided insights into the government revenue attained this year, reiterating that it met expectations, affirming that the government will fully utilize reports compiled by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in preparing next year's budget.

SOURCE : PSM





HDC orders removal of huts in Hulhumale' Phase II beach

Housing Development Corporation (HDC) has ordered the removal of huts and objects placed by private individuals for beach development in Hulhumale' phase two.

HDC strongly urged the removal of these structures in the three beach areas of Hulhumale' phase two by June 15. This includes small outlets such as snack carts, coffee stalls, food huts, and other similar setups, which were not issued permits by HDC.

Moreover, HDC affirmed that the removal of these outlets is part of a broader beach development plan, further aimed at enhancing these areas with the necessary resources and infrastructure.

Furthermore, HDC shed light on the persistent complaints that have been received regarding the unplanned placement of these huts. In response, HDC is taking steps to revitalize the beach areas by introducing new resources and ensuring compliance with new regulations once these facilities are introduced.

Additionally, HDC strongly emphasised its unwavering commitment to optimizing the resources available in Hulhumale' for the benefit of residents, ensuring that the development aligns with planned regulations and standards.

Despite some initial developments like benches and a temporary barbecue area, significant work remains to be done to fully develop the beach area of Hulhumale' phase two. HDC has not yet established all the necessary facilities for this area.

SOURCE : PSM

World Ocean Day to be celebrated vibrantly



The Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources has announced a series of activities to commemorate World Oceans Day, celebrated annually on June 8.

In collaboration with island councils and relevant administrative bodies, the ministry will be facilitating beach activities across various parts of the Maldives, aiming to celebrate World Oceans Day vibrantly. One of the key activities, named "Enmmen Moodhah," will be initiated on June 8.

Additionally, the ministry affirmed to organise drawing and essay writing competitions open to all schools, emphasising the significance of World Oceans Day. Winners of these competitions will receive prizes.

To raise public awareness, the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources will share general information on social media from June 1 to 8. Quiz competitions will also be held through these platforms.

Furthermore, a special information session involving industry experts will be conducted with students participating in this session to sign a resolution to reduce beach litter.

Remarkably, the ministry has also planned diving activities specifically for children in the Male' area, with plans to organise a children's evening event named "Kandu Roadhi Ufaa Festival", providing crucial information about World Oceans Day to the younger generation.

SOURCE : PSM

Coral bleaching survey underway

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the initiation of a survey addressing the ongoing coral bleaching issue, as shared in a recent social media post.

The Maldives has been experiencing persistent coral bleaching, exacerbated by rising sea temperatures, with significant occurrences dating back to 1998. EPA has notably observed an increase in coral bleaching cases in recent years, attributing it partly to human activities that disrupt reef conditions.

Furthermore, EPA warns that extensive land reclamation and beach nourishment activities could further delay reef regeneration. The agency is further actively investigating complaints that some project operators are not adhering to the measures that were strategically

reinforced to be effectively implemented.

Additionally, EPA has implemented several initiatives, to extensively mitigate the negative impacts of the "Mass Coral Bleaching Event," encompassing temporary moratorium on all major coastal development projects and land reclamation activities until June 10, 2024. However, some works have been allowed to continue. Concurrently, EPA has requested a halt to activities such as land reclamation, sand mining, beach development, and the construction of reef pipelines, cables, and bund walls.

Currently, the Maldives is at "Alert Level One" for coral bleaching, with reports of bleaching coming in from various areas.

SOURCE : PSM