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### The President departs for Antigua and Barbuda to attend the 4th International Conference on SIDS



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu departed on an official visit to St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, on Friday to attend the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

During the Summit, President Dr Mohamed Muizzu will deliver the National Statement at the Plenary of the Summit on 27 May 2024. Additionally, he is scheduled to meet with a number of foreign dignitaries, and deliver remarks at some of the side events of the Summit. President Dr Muizzu is also one of the Vice Presidents of the Conference as well as Co-chair of one of the five interactive dialogues, organized by the UN at the conference.



The Conference on SIDS is held once a decade. One of the highlight of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is the adoption of the new Programme of Action, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS. This conference is held under the overarching theme of "Charting the course toward resilient prosperity."

*SOURCE : The President's Office*



### Vice President expresses optimism in incoming parliament

Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef has expressed confidence that the incoming parliament will be highly successful and serve as a testament to public welfare and gain.

These remarks were made following the approval of Abdul Raheem Abdulla as the Speaker of Parliament and Ahmed Nazim as the Deputy Speaker of Parliament by the contested parliamentarians of the People's National Congress (PNC).

Moreover, President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, who also serves as the President of PNC, held a meeting with all contested parliamentarians from PNC at the President's house. During this meeting, President Muizzu presented the names of the contested parliamentarians, fulfilling his role as the party leader. He specifically put forward Abdul Raheem Abdulla for Speaker of Parliament and Ahmed Nazim for Deputy Speaker of Parliament. These nominations were further unanimously approved by the PNC parliamentary group.

The swear-in ceremony for the incoming parliament is scheduled for May 28, with the PNC having secured a supermajority. Following the ceremony, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament will appoint individuals to various positions, with the appointments being determined by secret vote.

66 contested candidates successfully secured their seats with the PNC ticket in the incoming parliament. Additionally, seven independently contested parliamentarians have joined PNC, bringing the total number of PNC parliamentarians to 74.

*SOURCE : PSM*

**MALDIVES AT** |  **4TH INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
Small Island  
Developing States  
2024**  
[presidency.gov.mv/sids4](https://presidency.gov.mv/sids4)





## The Maldives Faces Existential Threat From A Climate Crisis It Did Little To Create. We Need The World's Help Now: President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



For the Maldives, the existential threat of the climate crisis, particularly sea level rise, has been a reality we have grappled with for decades. In 1989, recognising the urgency of our situation, with our islands standing just one metre above sea level, we brought this issue to the global stage for the first time.

This early recognition of our vulnerability sparked a national transformation as we embarked on proactive climate resilience and adaptation measures. Thirty-five years later, has the rest of the world truly been listening? If you look at how the world's reaction to the climate crisis is funded, the answer is clearly "no".

For decades, Small Island Developing States (Sids) like the Maldives have been bearing the brunt of global warming with minimal support. The Maldives is liable for just 0.003% of global emissions, but is one of the first countries to endure the existential consequences of the climate crisis. Wealthier nations have a moral responsibility to communities like ours. Yet Sids are given only about 14% of the finance that the least developed countries receive.

The problem is that the current global financial architecture is outdated and not fit for purpose: its use of legacy metrics such as gross national income (GNI) and gross domestic product (GDP) skews our economic reality, painting Sids as wealthier than we are, barring us from critical funding opportunities. And, thanks to the Maldives' healthy tourism industry, we are ranked as an emerging economy and therefore shut out from the cheaper financing set aside for the lowest income countries.

These institutions are failing to account for the existential threat that the climate crisis poses to our nation. The islands of the Maldives are spread over 90,000 sq km (35,000 sq miles). We are 99% water and 1% land – no income metric can capture that. Unless we urgently reassess how funding is delivered and interest rates are calculated, and what projects are deemed worthy of climate resiliency funding, millions of people living across Sids risk losing their homes. Behind these statistics are 65 million people living on land on which the impacts of climate change are clearly visible. We are seeing average temperatures in the Maldives rising, while storms are becoming more frequent and fiercer than ever. Recently the "feels-like" temperature, which can be attributed to factors such as reduced cooling winds and heightened humidity, soared to a staggering 46C.

The other core issue is what can be funded. The world often thinks of

Sids as simply small idyllic islands, as if they were built solely for foreign visitors. In fact, Malé, our capital city, is roughly twice the size of New York's Central Park and is one of the most densely populated capitals in the world. This is why we constructed Hulhumalé, a reclaimed island in the middle of the Indian Ocean, physically raised two metres above sea level, with many inherent features of climate resilience, such as buffer zones placed between the island and the reef, designed to protect the coast from severe waves. It was a lifeline, a blueprint for survival that has since evolved into a thriving urban centre.

Similarly, our upcoming project, Ras Malé, aims to be the Indian Ocean's first eco city, raised three metres above sea level. This is true climate adaptation if ever I saw it.

However, sustainable construction must coexist with environmental stewardship, a responsibility we take seriously. We recently paused work on crucial development projects due to severe coral bleaching brought on by global heating. Yet because projects like Ras Malé are classed as infrastructure work in the eyes of some climate financiers and multilateral banks, climate funding for such projects – running from the millions to billions of dollars – is not forthcoming.

The international community must understand that we rely on external financing to prepare for and recover from the climate crisis that its overconsumption has caused. With adequate international funding, we could advance critical climate initiatives.

Projects that connect and raise islands through bridges or causeways, along with expanded urbanisation, will enhance access to essential services like education and health, and help create climate-resilient communities ready for the future. Moreover, investments in renewable energy sources like solar will ensure the Maldives continues along its journey through the energy transition. But only if the world's financiers will support them.

That is why, at the UN's upcoming fourth International Conference on Sids for the most climate-vulnerable nations, we will be calling for the global adoption of a multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI), a new measure that reflects Sids' inherent vulnerabilities. The MVI is a vital tool that can help small islands access the resources we urgently need. It is designed to provide a true reflection of our challenges by considering factors beyond mere economic output and acknowledging our unsustainable structural vulnerabilities. If it is adopted, we can start to rethink the criteria used to decide how projects are funded and spark a wave of sustainable development across our nations. Multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank and sovereign governments alike, must be willing to embrace this challenge. The unwillingness to solve this problem threatens every one of those 65 million Sids inhabitants.

When Sids nations convene in Antigua at the end of May, we will confront a stark reality: though responsible for a minuscule fraction of global emissions, we bear the brunt of their consequences. Yet our demands will not be radical. We simply ask the world to step into our shoes and realise how climate financing can be reformed for the better, to support true resilience. We seek not charity but equity and justice, in addressing a crisis we did little to create.

SOURCE : The Guardian





## The President Ratifies the Food Safety Act

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has ratified the Food Safety Act (Act No. 6/2024) today. The Parliament passed the Bill at the twenty-sixth sitting of its first session this year on Monday, May 13, 2024.

The Food Safety Act of Maldives provides a comprehensive framework for the regulation of food safety. It ensures that all food products, whether locally produced, imported, or exported, are devoid of harmful substances and comply with established standards.

The Act outlines the procedures and standards for food safety, which must be adhered to by all stakeholders in the food industry. It also prescribes the necessary procedures and standards to ensure food items are safe for human consumption.

In addition, the Act's primary objective is to establish standards for various aspects of food production and preparation to ensure the safety of food items. This includes, but is not limited to, packaging, labelling, preservation, storage, trade, supply, and distribution. The Act also outlines the standards and licensing requirements for establishments involved in these processes. Moreover, it specifies the hygiene standards that individuals engaged in these operations must comply with to guarantee the safety of food items.

The Food Safety Act was published in the Government Gazette upon ratification and will go into effect in three months.

*SOURCE : The President's Office*

## Current rainfall expected to subside on May 26

The Maldives Meteorological Service forecasts that rainfall will ease by May 26, though continued rain and wind are expected through the weekend.

Meteorologist Abdulla Hafiz highlighted more wind than rain in current conditions. A cyclone in the region is predicted to escalate into a storm by Friday night, moving away from the Maldives towards Myanmar and Bangladesh. If it sustains strength, windy conditions may persist in the Maldives, likely calming by Sunday.

Seafarers are urged to be cautious due to rough seas and strong winds, with a yellow alert issued for heavy rains and winds in specific atolls.

*SOURCE : PSM*

## The Government of Maldives welcomes the order issued by the International Court of Justice calling on Israel to halt all military offensive in Rafah

The Government of Maldives welcomes the Order issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the request for the modification and indication of further provisional measures submitted by South Africa 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)".

The ICJ in its order, today, called on Israel to immediately halt its military offensive in Rafah and open the Rafah crossing for unhindered delivery of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance. The Court also ordered Israel to ensure unimpeded access to the Gaza Strip for any commission of inquiry or fact-finding mission to investigate the allegations of genocide.

The Government of Maldives condemns the ongoing attacks on Rafah by Israel Defence Forces and calls on Israel to abide by international human rights and humanitarian law and the measures ordered by the ICJ.

The Government of Maldives reaffirms that a lasting solution for the Palestinian people is through the establishment of an independent and sovereign state with pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

## Green fund surges with USD7.3 million boost in March

The Ministry of Finance has revealed that the Green Fund received a total of USD 7.3 million in March of this year. The Green tax, which is imposed on tourists, is designed to fund environmental initiatives and is payable by resorts, guesthouses, hotels, and tourists staying at safaris.

According to reports published by the Ministry of Finance, the largest portion of the funds deposited in March, amounting to USD 6.60 million, came from resorts. Following resorts, guesthouses contributed USD 420,000, while hotels, safaris, and home-stays contributed USD 161,000, USD 155,000, and USD 902, respectively.

In terms of specific atolls, Kaafu Atoll received the highest amount of funds, totaling USD 2.33 million, followed by Alifu Dhaalu Atoll with USD 776,000, and Raa Atoll with USD 647,000. During the same period, USD 1.23 million was allocated from the Green Fund for various environmental projects, as indicated by Ministry of Finance statistics.

Established in 2016 under the Tourism Act of the Maldives, the Green Fund aims to tackle environmental issues in the country. The fund collects USD 6 as Green Tax per tourist per day for stays in tourist guesthouses or hotels with 50 or more rooms registered, and USD 3 per tourist per day for stays in guesthouses or hotels with fewer than 50 rooms registered.

*SOURCE : PSM*





## Maldives will advocate for financial assistance in SIDS

Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim has affirmed comprehensive discussions will be held in the 4th Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), pertaining to the financial assistance to combat the impacts of climate change in small nations. The SIDS Conference is a significant conference held once in every ten years. President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu will depart for Antigua and Barbuda on May 24 to attend the conference, which will be held from May 27-30.

Providing insight on the SIDS Conference, Minister Thoriq revealed plans to discuss the provision of financial aid for small and developing countries, overcoming the devastating effects caused due to climate change. Highlighting that the Maldives will be organising three activities for the conference, the minister disclosed that the Maldives will shed light on the adaption issues within the nation and projects which can be launched with a public-private partnership, in the National Side Event. He additionally stated that the side events will outline how technology can be utilised to strengthen the progress of the projects and other measures implemented in the nation.

Speaking regarding the conference, Special Envoy for Climate Change Ali Shareef asserted that the conference will advocate for amending the policies in which the financial assistance is provided to small countries. He stated that international authorities, multilateral banks and nations which provide aid often provide the financial assistance depending on the Gross National Income (GNI) and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) index.

The 4th SIDS Conference will focus on strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with other significant issues. A total of 39 countries are members of the SIDS.

SOURCE : PSM

“ Small islands like ours face an uncertain future. We can adapt but climate finance that we badly need must be unlocked ”

His Excellency President  
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu

## Installation of 5 water drainage systems underway

Government has initiated practical measures to install temporary water drainage systems in areas in Male’ city, combating increased flooding.

This initiative aims to facilitate efficient water drainage during the rainy season, thereby alleviating the burden on the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF), which currently undertakes the task of pumping out floodwater.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has entrusted MNDF with the installation of these temporary drainage systems.

Speaking to PSM News, Principal Director of MNDF’s Fire and Rescue Service Colonel Mohamed Nadeem Ibrahim emphasised that prolonged flooding poses severe challenges for residents as water can enter homes. He further noted that space constraints in Male’ make it difficult for the MNDF to effectively drain water, as pipes often need to be installed at a distance or laid across roads. However, the new drainage system is expected to significantly reduce these issues.



The practical work for this project is being carried out by Housing Development Corporation Limited (HDC).

Moreover, Chief Engineer at HDC Badeeu Mohamed confirmed that the installation of drainage systems has already begun in the West Park area, with design plans for other locations underway. He highlighted that the new system will expedite water drainage, and HDC plans to swiftly commence work on drainage grates.

Although this initiative is temporary, the present administration is highly committed to modernising Male’ City’s roads, encompassing tarring all major roads.

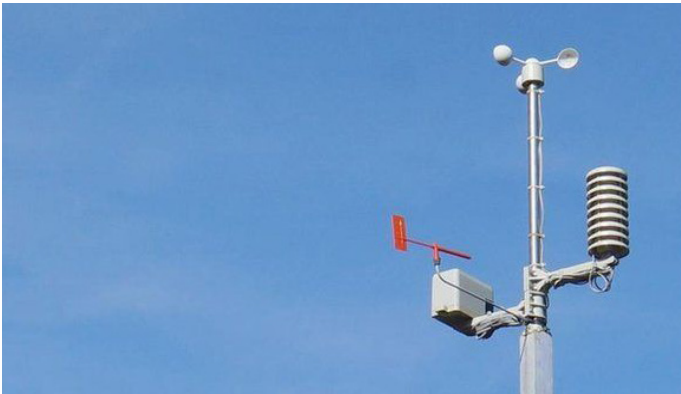
Furthermore, Minister of State for Construction and Infrastructure Ibrahim Nazeem underscored that establishing drainage systems is a top priority for road construction projects under President Muizzu’s administration.

Male’ City roads are prone to flooding due to their construction. Despite past road development projects, flooding remains an issue. The current administration is determined to address this issue as part of the new road development project.

SOURCE : PSM



## Maldives and China to collaborate to enhance weather monitoring systems



Minister of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim has announced ongoing efforts to establish lightning detection and thunderstorm tracking systems in the Maldives with the assistance of the Chinese administration.

Speaking at a conference led by the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy, Minister Thoriq emphasised the reinforcement of these efforts through collaboration with China's civil aviation administration.

Moreover, the minister also highlighted discussions with China's First Institute of Oceanography aimed at strengthening marine observation and forecasting capabilities in the Maldives.

Speaking about the administration's efforts to enhance the weather forecasting system in the Maldives, Minister Thoriq noted the presence of Doppler radar systems in Hulhule however delineated that these systems have experienced problems in the past five years, leading to ineffective repairs and difficulties for aircraft during landing due to insufficient weather information.

Furthermore, Minister Thoriq expressed that repair work on the radar systems is currently underway and nearing completion. He assured that the radar system will soon be operational, providing crucial weather data to support aviation and marine activities in the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM

## Political stability and investor interest ensured: Economic minister

Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed has underscored the enhanced political stability of the Maldives, citing a notable increase in investor interest.

Speaking on a programme broadcast on PSM News, Minister Saeed emphasised that investors consistently evaluate a country's political stability before making investment decisions.

The minister highlighted that the recent parliamentary election outcomes unequivocally mirror the desires of the public. Consequently, there is a pronounced demand for essential housing, a rejuvenated economy, the creation of new employment opportunities, and the fortification of major developmental endeavors.

Furthermore, Minister Saeed spotlighted ongoing investments from banks and businesses, indicating forthcoming positive transformations stemming from these investments. He also provided insights into current government initiatives, affirming the appreciation of the Maldivian currency and an augmentation in national reserves.

Additionally, Minister Saeed confirmed that the present administration has injected USD 30 million into the Sovereign Development Fund (SFD), further solidifying the country's economic stability and growth prospects.

SOURCE : PSM



## Gov't opens opportunity to participate in Kandu Roadhi Ufaa Festival

The Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources has announced that registration is now open for the "Kandu Roadhi Ufaa" festival, organised to celebrate World Oceans Day.

World Oceans Day will be celebrated on June 8, and the ministry is hosting this festival as part of the celebrations. The festival, which features a carnival-like atmosphere, aims to educate children and young people through engaging activities, sports, and other interactive events. It will be held at the beach area in Hulhumale' Phase I.

Participation in the festival is open to institutions, clubs, associations, and individuals. Interested parties are encouraged to submit their completed application forms by May 30.

The ministry is also collaborating with local councils and organisations to facilitate beach activities on various islands across the country. To further commemorate Oceans Day, an essay writing competition and a drawing competition will be held. There will also be a social media campaign to share information about the country's shoreline.

SOURCE : PSM







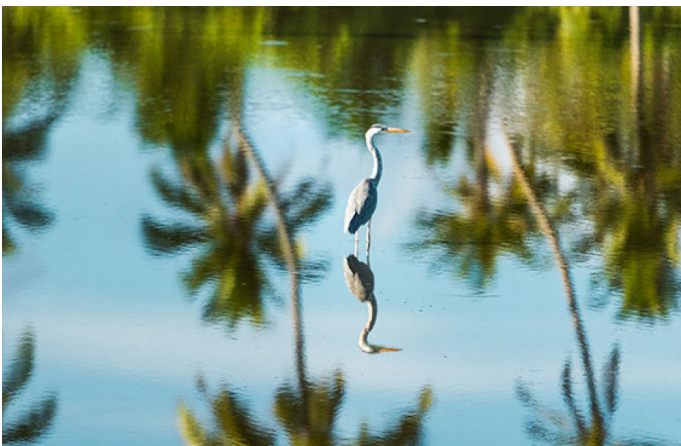
## Interest surges in establishing nature parks across Maldives



Minister of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim has announced that 23 individuals have shown interest in developing a nature park as part of the opportunity to establish such parks in each atoll.

Speaking at a press conference, Minister Thoriq reiterated that the development of nature parks in every atoll is a pivotal element of the present administration’s manifesto.

While the opportunity to express interest in developing nature parks was opened in late January, Minister Thoriq disclosed that 23 individuals have already expressed interest in this initiative. The ministry is currently evaluating the documents submitted by these individuals.



Furthermore, the minister stated that once the evaluation of expressions of interest (EOI) is completed, other tasks related to the development of nature parks will commence later this year.

In addition to the establishment of nature parks, the present administration is dedicated to establishing three biosphere reserves within the presidential term. So far, only one application expressing interest in establishing a biosphere reserve has been received, with the ministry currently evaluating it.

These initiatives are in line with President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu’s commitment to establishing nature parks in each atoll and developing three additional biosphere reserves during his term in office.

SOURCE : PSM

## Discussions underway to relocate seaplane terminal to Full Moon resort

Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Mohamed Saeed, has announced the conversion of the existing seaplane terminal at Velana International Airport (VIA) into a private jet terminal as part of the airport’s master plan.

This transformation aligns with President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu’s introduction of VIA’s 20-year master plan in January, which underscores a commitment to substantial growth and development. The plan includes provisions to accommodate 25 million passengers annually, with the capacity to handle 4,000 passengers per hour.

In a programme aired on PSM News, Minister Saeed detailed significant changes anticipated with the master plan’s implementation. The airport will be expanded, and the seaplane terminal will be relocated to Full Moon resort. Discussions are currently underway with the resort management to facilitate this move.

Additionally, a new domestic terminal with a capacity of 2,000 passengers per hour will be developed. The current airport infrastructure, which supports the simultaneous parking of 34 flights, will be expanded to accommodate 73 flights, significantly increasing the number of airlines that can operate in the Maldives.

The VIA fuel farm will also undergo improvements, with aircraft refueling services upgraded to meet modern standards. Minister Saeed emphasized that the development project is progressing rapidly under President Muizzu’s directive, with the new terminal expected to open in September this year.

Furthermore, the second phase of the VIP terminal is nearing completion. The present administration is optimistic that the public will take pride in the significant improvements made to the airport, transforming it into a modern and efficient hub.

SOURCE : PSM



“ sustainable construction must coexist with environmental stewardship, a responsibility we take seriously ”

His Excellency President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



## Opportunities open to participate in India Steel Expo



Opportunities have been opened to participate in the India Steel International Exhibition and Conference. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade has disclosed that the conference will be held from April 24-26 in Mumbai, India, as announced by the Indian government.

The ministry revealed that pertinent information on the exhibition and conference will be provided to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), trade chambers and associations in India. The ministry stated that the conference will provide a golden opportunity for businessmen to strengthen their relationships in the field of trade and investment, while enhancing their knowledge in the field. It has further urged local firms interested to participate in the conference, to complete the registration procedures.

The India Steel Expo is a significant event for companies involved in the construction sector. The expo will showcase the most recent advancements and deliberate on potential resolutions to obstacles encountered in the construction sector.

In the previous expo, over 250 exhibitors from 11 countries took part, while over 800 participants engaged in the conference.

SOURCE : PSM

## State records increase in revenue so far this year



The Ministry of Finance has recorded an increase in state revenue so far this year compared to last year.

The Weekly Fiscal Development Report released by the finance ministry show that the state had received USD860 million in revenue as of May 16 this year, marking a 4% increase from the USD820 million received during the same period last year.

The statistics show that tax revenue constituted the largest portion of the state's income during this period, amounting to USD707 million, up from USD630 million last year. Non-tax revenue also rose to Rs 2.1 billion. In addition, the state received more in free grants this year, with USD6 million as of May 16, compared to USD4 million last year.

The report also shows a significant decline in government expenditure during this period, with expenditures totaling USD966 million, down from USD1 billion in the same period last year.

The government is implementing measures to increase revenue and reduce expenditure, contributing to a rapidly growing economy. Officials have expressed optimism about the future economic outlook, citing the positive impact of these measures.

SOURCE : PSM

## Religious programmes to begin targeting elderly citizens



Isravvehinge Naadhee has initiated discussions with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to organise religious programmes specifically for elderly citizens.

The discussions centered on the feasibility of hosting a monthly religious event at Isravvehinge Naadhee, an institution developed by the Ministry of Social and Family Development to enhance the mental and physical well-being of individuals over 55.

The meeting took place at the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, where the content and objectives of the proposed programmes were thoroughly reviewed. The ministry committed to supporting various religious activities, including the Risalat programme, Q&A sessions, religious quiz competitions, and a Holy Quran competition.

While a formal agreement is still pending, there are plans to begin these programmes promptly. Both the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Isravvehinge Naadhee aim to foster a spiritually enriching environment for the elderly in the Maldives.

The government emphasises that such initiatives are part of a broader effort to provide equal opportunities in social affairs, ensuring no segment of society is excluded, according to the Islamic ministry.

SOURCE : PSM





## Maldives research teaching Dhivehi phonetics

The government has decided to conduct a scientific research on how the pronunciation of the letters of Dhivehi Language can be taught in schools. The research will be conducted by the Ministry of Dhivehi Language, Culture and Heritage in collaboration with the Maldives National University (MNU).

As such, the ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MNU outlining three primary initiatives, including: the commencement of the research by MNU, exploration of effective strategies for teaching Dhivehi Phonetics, and methods for incorporating poetic therapy in Dhivehi Language. The MOU was signed by Minister of Dhivehi Language, Culture and Heritage Adam Naseer Ibrahim and Vice Chancellor of MNU Dr. Aishath Shehenaz Adam.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Minister Adam Naseer Ibrahim stressed the significance of prioritising the pronunciation of letters when teaching language from a scientific perspective. Therefore, the minister emphasised the necessity of seeking effective methodologies to teach the respective pronunciations of each individual letter, within the educational institutions.

Furthermore, Minister Adam Naseer highlighted the pivotal role of the research when teaching topics relating to Dhivehi Language and history. The minister affirmed that students attain more information pertaining to these topics, in comparison to the current syllabus.

Additionally, MNU will conduct a research with the objective of identifying efficient methods for providing poetic therapy in the Dhivehi Language. Highlighting the numerous discussions held regarding the provision of poetic therapy, Minister Adam stated that several individuals working within the field lauded the initiative.

During the signing ceremony, Vice Chancellor Dr. Shehenaz revealed the university's unwavering commitment and support to assist in the researches and projects initiated by the ministry. Shedding light on the importance of conducting researches in Dhivehi Language, she underscored that the mother tongue language is integrated with the culture and history of the nation.

The ministry has launched several initiatives and exerted efforts, aiming to preserve and enrich information related to the language, culture and heritage of the nation. As such, the ministry has established an institution called the National Center for Heritage Studies to create and revive a knowledge of Maldivian language, history, culture, heritage, customs and nationalism through the system of reviving heritage. The ministry declared that the centre will commence its researches within this year.

SOURCE : PSM

## Heavy duties are a significant challenge in the fishing industry



Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Resources Ahmed Shiyam has stated that the biggest challenge for countries like the Maldives in the fisheries industry is the high duties levied by developed countries on the exported fish commodities. He made the remarks during the 18th INFOFISH World Tuna Trade Conference and Exhibition.

The globally renowned conference was attended by ministers representing countries actively involved in the fishing industry and senior officials representing the sector and relevant organizations. During the conference, discussions were held pertaining to various obstacles faced in ensuring the sustainability of the fisheries' industry while identifying potential solutions to address the issues.

Speaking at the Ministerial and Industry High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Tuna Fisheries, Minister Shiyam stressed that the foremost impediments to developing nations such as the Maldives, which is actively engaged in utilising eco-friendly sustainable methods of fishing, is the high duties imposed by developed countries in the fish products exported. Highlighting that this results in an increasing competition within the international markets, the minister stated that small nations thriving in the industry will eventually be driven out.

Additionally, Minister Shiyam underscored another obstruction faced in tuna fisheries is the illegal fishing from unsupervised fishing vessels. The minister emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts at international levels in order to resolve this issue.

The 18th INFOFISH World Tuna Trade Conference and Exhibition was held from May 20-22 in Bangkok, Thailand.

SOURCE : PSM