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### President wishes Saudi King a speedy recovery

President Dr. Muizzu has extended his wishes for a speedy recovery to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, who is currently ill.

In a social media post, President Muizzu expressed his concern for King Salman's health and extended well-wishes on behalf of the government and the people of the Maldives. He also prayed for the Almighty to bless the Saudi King with good health and a long life.

Similarly, Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef posted on social media, wishing King Salman a quick recovery and expressing his condolences.

King Salman has been ill for several days, diagnosed with a lung disease. He underwent tests after experiencing severe fever and joint pain and is currently receiving treatment at the Al-Salam Palace in Riyadh, according to media reports.

SOURCE : PSM

### Gov't assures on-arrival visa for Maldivian travellers to Sri Lanka

Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that that Maldivian travellers visiting Sri Lanka will not experience any challenges in obtaining on-arrival visas. The announcement was made during a time in which the government of Sri Lanka brought some amendments to the tourist visa arrangement services for the tourists travelling to the nation.

Providing details on the on-arrival visas, the ministry stated that Maldivians will continue to receive visas upon arrival, valid for a timeframe of 30 days, as per the policy. For visits exceeding 30 days, travellers can apply for a six-month visa through the e-visa portal. However, the ministry disclosed the implementation of an administrative fee if tourists request for a visa extension, unlike previously. It additionally assured that discussions are underway to waive the fees charged.

Furthermore, the ministry affirmed assistance from the High Commission of the Maldives in Colombo in Sri Lanka, to extend visas for Maldivians currently residing in the nation, who require visa extensions. It emphasised ongoing discussions to uphold the visa waiver agreements between both nations, ensuring mutual benefits and arrangements.

SOURCE : PSM



### HDC orders to remove vessels in Hulhumale' Phase III lagoon

Housing Development Corporation Limited (HDC) has issued a directive mandating the removal of safaris within the coastal vicinity of the reclaimed land of Hulhumale' Phase III.

HDC issued this directive stating that the entry of landing crafts into the dredging area causes significant damages to safaris, noting that dangerous incidents have occurred. Therefore, the corporation ordered the removal of safaris by May 30.

Following the completion of the first phase of dredging 10 hectares of land in Hulhumale' Phase III, the second phase commenced on December 30, 2023. Five out of the 29 hectares have been reclaimed up to date under

the second phase of the project. Meanwhile, the third phase involves dredging an additional 24 hectares of land.

On a previous stance, HDC stated that the reclaimed land will be allocated for housing, industrial and marina purposes. Additionally, decisions have been made to allocate land plots specialised for the residents living in Male' City.

SOURCE : PSM





## Gov't affirms Maldives will play a pivotal role in the SIDS Conference



Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer has affirmed that the Maldives will play a pivotal role in the 4th Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The conference will be held from May 27-30 in Antigua and Barbuda.

The 4th SIDS Conference will be attended by a high-profile delegation led by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu. The President's Office disclosed that Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Housing, Land and Urban Development Dr. Ali Haidar Ahmed and the Special Envoy for Climate Change Ali Shareef will also attend the conference.

In a post circulated on social media, Minister Zameer highlighted the dedicated efforts of the Maldives to organise the conference, as the Co-Chair of the Preparatory Committee of SIDS 2024. The minister further revealed plans to address the various challenges faced by small and developing countries in overcoming the devastating effects caused due to climate change.

Furthermore, Minister Thoriq affirmed comprehensive discussions pertaining to the financial assistance to combat the impacts of climate change in small nations. Highlighting that the Maldives will be organising three activities for the conference, he disclosed that light will be shed on adaption issues within the nation and projects which can be launched with a public-private partnership, in the National Side Event.

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.

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. This year, the theme of the conference is Charting the Course Towards Resilient Prosperity, aiming to implement significant initiatives to the way for vulnerable and small countries to achieve prosperity. A total of 39 countries are members of the SIDS.

SOURCE : PSM

## Housing Committee is examining and making recommendations

Chair of the Housing Committee Aminath Eenaas has revealed that important recommendations have been sent to the Ministry of Housing, Land and Urban Development. The Housing Committee, established on February 24, aims to provide advice and assistance in resolving issues related to the Binveriyaa and Gedhoruveriyaa housing schemes.

The permanent list of flat recipients under the housing scheme was released just days before the end of the last government's tenure. Even then, over 7,000 complaints were filed alleging that flats had been granted to individuals who were not entitled to the list.

Addressing the case, the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) issued an order to the ministry, requesting the rectification of the flat allocation and resolving other such problems. Despite the submission of over 300 complaints and no action by the ministry, ACC ordered the allocation of flats to be suspended until the matter is thoroughly investigated.



Statistics released by the ACC indicate that 59.6% of individuals were granted flats without the necessary information and failed to meet the necessary requirements. Meanwhile, only 20.7% of the forms were determined to be free from any issues.

Speaking to PSM News, Chair of the Committee Eenaas revealed that a total of 26 committee meeting were held so far. She highlighted the ongoing efforts to further investigate cases closely and address the complaints filed regarding the list of flat recipients publicised. Noting that the committee was not permitted to disclose any details on the investigations, all the necessary information pertaining to the cases were shared with Minister of Housing, Land and Urban Development Dr. Ali Haidar Ahmed.

Furthermore, Eenaas underscored the significance of consulting every recommendation given by the committee, as the cases are sensitive issues interrelated with the lives of individuals. She additionally emphasised the collaborative efforts with ACC to oversee and investigate the criminal cases filed.

ACC has not published the flat list composed, the commission has circulated the list to relevant authorities and the Parliament. Eenaas affirmed that efforts are underway to hand over the flats and submit the reports to the ministry in a timely manner. She further revealed hopes to expedite the process and ensure the allocation of flats to the eligible beneficiaries as soon as possible.

SOURCE : PSM