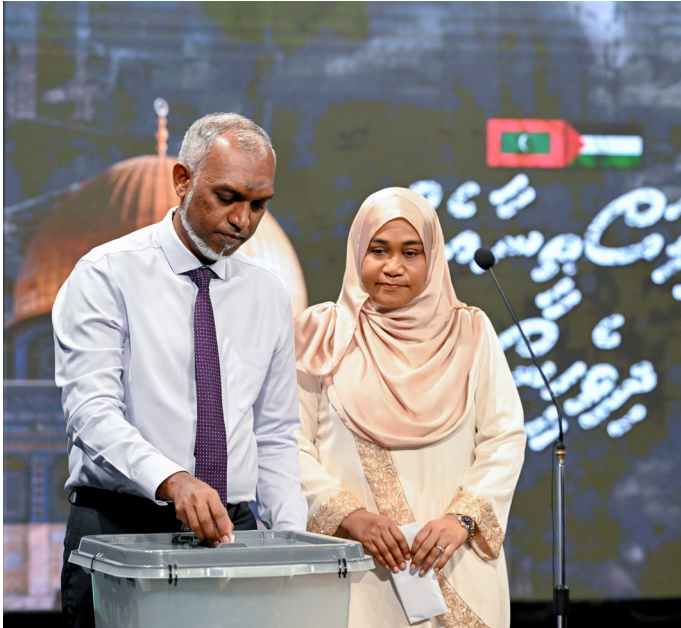


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## President calls for today to be marked by the largest contribution to Palestinians from Maldivians in the nation's history



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has called for today to be marked by the largest contribution to the Palestinians from the people of the Maldives in the nation's history. He expressed hope that the funds raised will have a significant impact on the lives of the Palestinian people. The President made these remarks while speaking at the nationwide fundraising telethon campaign launched today, under the slogan 'Falastheenaa Eku Dhivehin,' which translates to 'Maldivians in Solidarity with Palestine.'

In his address, the President emphasised the urgent need for assistance for the Palestinian people. He highlighted that now, more than ever, the Muslim Ummah must take all necessary steps to ensure that every Muslim is aware of their rights and responsibilities towards the Palestinian cause. He urged people to "display an abundance of generosity" during the fundraising event.

Concluding his speech, the President reiterated his unwavering belief that the Maldivians' solidarity with Palestine would be demonstrated today. He also called on everyone to continue supporting Palestine.

Following the direction of President Dr Muizzu, an independent auditor

has been appointed to ensure the transparent administration of the telethon and that the proceeds of the event reach Palestine as intended. The telethon is organised by the Public Service Media (PSM), in collaboration with other local media, and will continue until midnight. PSM has placed a total of 13 donation boxes in the greater Malé area.

Two dedicated bank accounts have been setup to facilitate online fund deposits for those unable to use these boxes. The account number for MVR deposits is 7730000655865, and for US dollars, the account number is 7730000655866.

A 1948 United Nations Assembly decision established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to aid the Palestinian people. Previously, the Maldivian Government contributed USD 5,000 annually to this fund.

Speaking at today's launching ceremony, Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer announced that the Government of the Maldives will increase its annual contribution to the fund to USD 50,000 during President Dr Muizzu's tenure.

*SOURCE : The President's Office*





## Efforts to resolve Kanneli jetty concerns are underway: Minister



Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Resources, Ahmed Shiyam has revealed that the ministry is collaborating with the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) to address issues concerning the Kanneli Jetty in Hulhumale’.

The Bodu Kanneli Masveringe Union (BKMU) has voiced concerns about the Kanneli Jetty, noting that it is a designated area for fishermen but is currently being used by cargo ships. As such, Minister Shiyam acknowledged these concerns and emphasised the government’s commitment to resolving them in partnership with HDC. He also said that the space in the lagoon is limited due to the ongoing reclamation for the third phase of Hulhumale’.

In an effort to tackle the housing crisis in the country, the government initiated land reclamation for the yacht marina development as part of the Hulhumale’ master plan in September last year. The project will result in the reclamation of 63 hectares of land.

SOURCE : PSM

## 200 projects stalled by coral bleaching to resume : Minister

Minister of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim has announced that over 200 stalled projects due to anticipated coral bleaching will resume operations this year.

The decision follows the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issuing permits to restart the projects, which were initially suspended on May 9 due to concerns about coral bleaching in the Maldives. Coral bleaching, caused by rising sea temperatures, has been a growing concern, prompting EPA to take proactive measures.

Addressing to PSM News, Minister Thoriq emphasised that coral bleaching has been a significant issue across different regions of the Maldives in recent months but noted a gradual decrease as sea temperatures have fallen. With EPA granting permits, some projects have already resumed, signaling a positive step forward. However, Minister Thoriq reiterated that the primary cause of coral bleaching is insufficient oxygen reaching the coral due to increased sea temperatures, particularly near project sites like lagoons.

The Maldives has experienced coral bleaching multiple times in recent years, with the last significant event occurring in 2016. Minister Thoriq highlighted that the peak season for coral bleaching has passed, and if projects adhere to EPA standards, environmental damage can be further minimized. As a result, major developmental projects such as land reclamation, dredging lagoons, and laying pipes and cables near lagoons will now proceed, contributing to the country’s infrastructure and economic revitalization while ensuring environmental sustainability.



SOURCE : PSM

## HPA launches Dhafaraa campaign

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has launched the “Dhafaraa” campaign, aiming to abstain tobacco consumption among children and youth, with a specific focus on strengthening parental involvement in national anti-tobacco efforts.

Minister of Health, Dr. Abdulla Khaleel, inaugurated the campaign during a special ceremony held to commemorate World No Tobacco Day. In his address, he highlighted a significant rise in tobacco consumption in the Maldives, particularly among young people, with increased use of cigarettes, vapes, and shisha.

Expressing concern over the prevalence of tobacco use in Maldivian society, Minister Khaleel emphasised the crucial role of parents in guiding their children away from such harmful habits. He underscored the importance of parental engagement in safeguarding children’s well-being and instilling positive values and habits, ultimately contributing to their overall health and development. He further urged all parents to actively participate in this endeavor, stressing the pivotal role they play in shaping a healthy future generation.



As part of the campaign, the present administration has announced plans to conduct training programs to implement the Dhafaraa initiative across all atolls. Additionally, strategic systems will be established in each atoll hospital, supporting individuals who wish to quit smoking.

These measures reflect the administration’s unwavering commitment to combatting tobacco use and promoting public health at both national and community levels. The Dhafaraa campaign represents a holistic approach to addressing tobacco consumption, with a strong emphasis on parental involvement and support networks for those seeking to quit smoking.

SOURCE : PSM





## Over 1,000 students to receive student loans

The Ministry of Higher Education, Employment, and Skills Development has published the list of students who will receive the government loans intended for higher education, vocational training, and international study opportunities.

The higher education ministry revealed that over a total of 1,709 students submitted applications for the loans while only 1,153 students were eligible. Of these, 1,015 students were selected to be given the loans under the loan scheme.

Speaking at a press conference, Minister of Higher Education, Employment, and Skills Development Dr. Maryam Mariya disclosed that 148 students submitted applications under the loan scheme for pilot studies. However, after observing the capacity of the Maldivian Aviation Academy (MAA) only 10 students who got the highest marks on merit basis were given the opportunity for pilot studies.



Furthermore, the ministry affirmed that the students selected for the loan scheme will be issued sponsorship letters by June 13. The application process for the loans, which began on February 29, concluded on May 2.

Initially, the ministry offered 500 opportunities for student loans, covering studies from diploma to PhD levels. Of these, 370 slots were reserved for students pursuing new fields of study, while the remaining 130 slots were allocated for other categories. However, President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu extended student loan eligibility to all qualified students.

Additionally, the ministry has made arrangements for non-selected applicants to review the reasons for their non-selection on the ministry's website. Any inquiries or complaints regarding the list can be submitted within a one-week window through the provided email address: [loan2024@mohe.gov.mv](mailto:loan2024@mohe.gov.mv).

Under the student loan scheme, students have the opportunity to study abroad in any country of their choice, provided their field of study aligns with the National Needs List. This list includes critical sectors such as infrastructure, aviation, and agriculture, as outlined in President Dr. Muizzu's manifesto.

SOURCE : PSM

## Dollar ATM Service Commences in K. Maafushi as Pledged by President Dr. Muizzu

Dollar ATM service has been installed in K. Maafushi as part of President Dr Mohamed Muizzu's presidential pledge. This marks the first time the service is being provided outside Malé City.

During the first round of the presidential election campaign in K. Guraidhoo on August 19, 2023, President Dr Muizzu pledged to install dollar ATMs on Maafushi Island. Recognizing that Maafushi is one of the islands that extensively transacts in dollars, the President stated that Maafushi would be the first island outside Malé City to house dollar ATMs to better support the island's economic development.

In addition to the campaign pledge, in the 'Raees ge Javaabu' Q&A series on February 15, 2024, the President reiterated his promise to install the dollar ATM service in Maafushi in response to a question from K. Maafushi resident Ahmed Sameer.

The President has launched initiatives to boost the nation's economy and provide convenient, safe, reliable, and modern financial transaction systems. The past six months have seen successful advancements in this area.

SOURCE : The President's Office

## PSM to place 13 fund boxes in Male' City for Palestine telethon

A special telethon, "Maldives with Palestine," organised by the Public Service Media (PSM) to provide assistance to Palestinians, is scheduled to take place from June 8–12. The telethon will be officiated by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu.

During a programme aired, Managing Director of PSM Zeena Zahir discussed the final arrangements for the telethon, emphasising the priority given to placing fund boxes in popular gathering spots. A total of 13 charity boxes will be placed in the Male' City region. All fund boxes will remain open until sunset, except for the one at the TVM building, which will close on June 12 at 2200hrs. To ensure the security of these fund boxes, police officers, girl guides, and scouts will monitor the areas.

For individuals unable to visit the fund boxes, online donation options will be available. Zeena disclosed that two accounts have been designated specifically for securing funds obtained through online platforms. The account details will be revealed at the commencement of the telethon.

Additionally, activities for children will be held at the TVM building on the evening of June 12, including face painting, drawing, and coloring. Zeena also mentioned that unlike past telethons, PSM will not charge any fees for this event. Efforts are underway to secure an independent auditor to ensure transparency, with the auditor recruited under corporate social responsibility (CSR) guidelines. The funds raised through the telethon will be channeled to Palestinians with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will be sent through a United Nations (UN) administrative body. Opportunities are open for all individuals interested in participating in the telethon.

SOURCE : PSM