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The Vice Chairman of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Pays a Courtesy Call on the President

The Vice Chairman of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Bater, paid a courtesy call on President H.E. Dr Mohamed Muizzu this morning at the President's Office.

During the meeting, President Dr Muizzu emphasised the cordial relationship between the Maldives and China. He highlighted his visit to China earlier this year, and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity. The President mentioned key developmental initiatives such as the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge and looked forward to strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries.

Vice Chairman Bater conveyed warm greetings from Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping and congratulated President Dr Muizzu on securing a majority in the parliamentary election. He also highlighted the historic relations between the two countries. He reiterated that the Chinese government respects and supports the Maldives' sovereignty and promotes mutual respect while advancing cooperation between the two nations. He also noted that the 2014 State Visit by President H.E. Xi Jinping to the Maldives and the recent visit by President Dr Muizzu significantly contributed to the advancement of cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries.

Concluding the meeting, the President and Vice Chairman expressed their eagerness to work closely on future collaborations.

SOURCE : The President's Office



Maldives raises contribution to UN Palestine Fund to USD 50,000



Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer has announced the Maldives' annual contribution to the United Nations (UN) relief fund for Palestine this year will be raised to USD 50,000. This remarks were delivered during the "Maldives with Palestine" telethon organised by Public Service Media (PSM) to aid Palestinians.

The decision marks a tenfold increase from the previous annual contribution of USD 5,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA), which was established in 1948 following a UN resolution.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Zameer emphasised that this substantial increase aligns with President Muizzu's resolve to bolster support for Palestinians in response to the ongoing violence by Israeli forces. He detailed that the funds would be facilitated through the Ministry of Finance and the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA), with oversight from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To ensure transparency, the process will be audited by Crowe Maldives LLP, and the proceeds from the telethon will be channeled through a special UN fund dedicated to Palestine.

Moreover, Minister Zameer also highlighted key policies formulated during the cabinet meeting on June 2, addressing the Palestinian issue comprehensively. The Maldives' stance includes the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied since 1967 and the advocacy for Palestinian self-determination. The policies also call for the recognition and establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Additionally, the Maldives played an active role in supporting Palestine at the international level, co-sponsoring a resolution submitted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to recognize Palestine as a full UN member. This resolution, adopted by the UN General Assembly on May 10, reflects the Maldives' ongoing commitment to advocating for Palestinian rights and seeking an end to the conflict in Palestine. Minister Zameer reiterated the Maldives' strong support for the UN Security Council's efforts to address the situation and ensure peace and justice for the Palestinian people.

SOURCE : PSM





PSM reassures funds will be delivered to beneficiaries transparently



Managing Director of Public Service Media (PSM) Zeena Zahir has affirmed that an independent auditor has been recruited to ensure the transparency of the special “Maldives with Palestine” telethon and to verify that the donations reach the intended beneficiaries. She made these remarks during the inaugural ceremony of the telethon, which was officiated by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu in the presence of ministers and Managing Directors of state-owned enterprises.

Speaking at the ceremony, Managing Director Zeena underscored the crucial importance of widespread participation in the telethon. She announced the selection of Crowe Maldives as the independent auditor responsible for ensuring the transparency and proper distribution of donations. Zeena expressed optimism about the telethon’s potential to raise significant funds.

A total of 13 charity boxes have been 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 at 2200 hrs. To safeguard these fund boxes, police officers, girl guides, and scouts will monitor the areas. Unlike past telethons, PSM will not charge any fees for this event.

For individuals unable to visit the fund boxes, online donation options are available. Zeena disclosed that two accounts have been designated specifically for securing funds obtained through online platforms. Donations in Maldivian Rufiyaa can be transferred to 7730000655865, and those wishing to contribute in US dollars can send funds to 7730000655866.

Additionally, children’s activities, including face painting, drawing, and coloring, will be hosted at the TVM building during the event.



SOURCE : PSM



China Embassy provides higher education opportunities for 15 students

Embassy of China to the Maldives has decided to provide assistance to 15 Maldivian students pursuing higher studies from The Maldives National University (MNU) and Islamic University of Maldives (IUM).

A special ceremony was held at the Ministry of Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development, to sign the agreement to assist the students pursuing higher education under the Chinese Ambassador Bursary Programme. The agreement was signed by Ambassador of China to the Maldives Wang Lixin, Vice Chancellor of the Maldives National University (MNU) Dr. Aishath Shehenaz and Vice Chancellor of Islamic University of the Maldives (IUM) Dr. Ali Zahir.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Minister of Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development Dr. Maryam Mariya recognised the consistent support in the realm of higher education for the Maldives. Acknowledging the diverse scholarship opportunities provided to local students, the minister commended China’s commitment to nurturing human resources and expressed gratitude for the financial aid extended through the Chinese Ambassador Bursary Programme.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Wang Lixin reaffirmed the nation’s dedication to supporting the Maldives in higher education. She highlighted the diligent efforts of many students who juggle employment alongside their studies to meet financial obligations such as tuition fees, accommodation, and daily expenses. Ambassador Wang emphasized that the Bursary Programme aims to alleviate the financial strain on students, thereby enhancing their academic pursuits. Bursaries are financial and other assistance to students studying in higher education institutions and universities. Hence, the Chinese Ambassador Bursary Programme will provide assistance to 15 students seeking education in IUM and MNU. Opportunities are now open for those students to request for financial assistance.

The ministry disclosed that eligible students will receive MVR 10,000 each through the programme. Criteria for eligibility include financial hardship hindering academic pursuits, attainment of at least four passes in O Level and A Level examinations (inclusive of Dhivehi Language and Islamic Studies), maintaining a GPA between 3.0 and 3.5 in all semesters beyond the Diploma level, not being recipients of other scholarships or financial aid for education and being a student studying or having applied to study at IUM/MNU. The Embassy of China provided 10 students financial assistance under the Bursary Programme in 2023.

SOURCE : PSM



Minister Zameer sends a message of condolence to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malawi



SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Moosa Zameer has sent a message of condolence to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi, Her Excellency Nancy Tembo, MP, following the death of Malawi's Vice President in a tragic airplane crash.

Minister's message reads as follows:

"It is with great shock that I learnt of the unfortunate incident involving a plane crash, which led to the untimely death of His Excellency Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, Vice President of Malawi.

During this time of profound grief and sorrow, I wish to express my sincere condolences to Your Excellency and the people of Malawi. I am confident that the late Vice President will be remembered with much admiration for his distinguished services towards the progress and prosperity of Malawi.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

MFDA urges caution when buying 15 medicines from Thailand



The Maldives Food and Drug Authority (MFDA) has urged consumers to be cautious when purchasing 15 medicines manufactured in Thailand.

The MFDA has issued an alert regarding the withdrawal of 15 drugs produced by Thailand's Seven Stars Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited due to the presence of a harmful chemical. The drugs are prohibited from being imported into the Maldives. Therefore, the agency advises caution for individuals buying medicines from Thailand for personal use.

The affected drugs include some of the company's liquid painkillers, such as paracetamol, as well as liquid medicines for allergies, colds, flu, and respiratory diseases. Therefore, the MFDA emphasises the need for caution when dealing with such drugs from Thailand.

The agency also said that while these drugs are not licensed for import into the Maldives, special attention will be given to inspections at Maldivian harbors in response to the alert.

SOURCE : PSM



Maldives, UNESCO discuss bringing culture experts for local training

The Maldives and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) have discussed bringing experts in culture and heritage to the Maldives for local training.

The discussions occurred during a meeting between the Minister of Dhivehi Language, Culture, and Heritage, Adam Naseer Ibrahim, and Tim Curtis, Director of UNESCO and Representative to the Maldives. He also serves as the UNESCO Senior Representative to Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

At the meeting held at the Ministry of Dhivehi Language, Culture, and Heritage, Minister Naseer expressed a preference for bringing experts to the Maldives to conduct training programmes locally, rather than sending Maldivians abroad for training. Representative Curtis also committed to seeking expertise in heritage and culture for this purpose.

Additionally, the meeting covered the protection and preservation of Maldivian poetry, the conservation of museum artifacts, and training in museum work. Efforts to also include Maldivian coral stone mosques in the permanent list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites were also discussed.

SOURCE : PSM