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The President appoints Ambassador and High Commissioners

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu appointed an Ambassador, and two High Commissioners to foreign countries.

The President today appointed Shiuneen Rasheed as the High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Lieutenant General (Retd) Abdul Raheem Abdul Latheef as the Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the Republic of Türkiye, and Uz Mohamed Thoha as the High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

SOURCE : The President's Office

Education Ministry and DNR Sign Cooperation Agreement

The Ministry of Education and the Department of National Registration (DNR) have signed an information exchange Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure children's right to education. The MoU was signed during a special ceremony held at the Education Ministry.

Key details about the agreement include:

- State Minister Dr. Ahmed Mohamed signed the MoU on behalf of the Education Ministry.
- Deputy Minister Ahmed Ali signed on behalf of DNR.
- The purpose of this agreement is to guarantee every child's right to education from age 4 to 18, covering preschool through grade 12, in accordance with Article 6 of the Education Act.

SOURCE : PSM

Maldives Signs the "Samoa Agreement"

The Maldives has signed the "Partnership Agreement between the European Union (EU) and its Member States of the one part and the Members of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) of the other part," also known as the "Samoa Agreement." The signing ceremony took place at the OACPS headquarters in Brussels.

Key details about the agreement include:

- Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the Kingdom of Belgium, Geela Ali signed on behalf of the Maldives.
- The Maldives also submitted declarations and reservations to specific articles of the Agreement at the time of signature.
- The Agreement serves as an overarching framework for the relationship between the European Union and OACPS for the next twenty years.
- It will strengthen the capacity of OACPS member countries to address global challenges.
- The priority areas include democracy and human rights, sustainable economic growth and development, climate change, human and social development, peace and security, and migration and mobility.
- The Agreement also marks the first partnership agreement that the Maldives has signed with the European Union and will enable further enhancement of cooperation in a multitude of areas including economic development, trade, environment, and climate change. It will also enable OACPS Member States to realise several benefits from the EU.

The Samoa Agreement brings together 79 member states of the OACPS and 27 member states of the European Union, representing close to 2 billion people with diverse socio-economic backgrounds, representing more than half of the Member States of the United Nations. The OACPS, comprising African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, was established in 1975 under the "Georgetown Agreement." The Maldives became a full member of the OACPS on December 9, 2022, and has been working together with members of the OACPS and the European Union to address global challenges.

SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs





President Renames Institutions Under the Purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has renamed some institutions under the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and designated official English names. The President's Office released two directives making the announcements public.

Key changes include:

- The renaming of institutions such as the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva.
- The Embassy of the Republic of Maldives to the Kingdom of Belgium and Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the European Union.

The President made the decision at his discretion, as accorded by Section 116 (a)renaming of the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives, and it went into effect on June 25, 2024. The President also designated the official English names to be used effective on the same date. The two decisions were publicised through directives issued by the President's Office today, numbered 12/2024 and 13/2024, respectively.

The following table outlines the official names of the institutions in English language:

DESIGNATED OFFICIAL ENGLISH NAMES

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations	Consulate of the Republic of Maldives in Jeddah
High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in the People's Republic of China
High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in the Kingdom of Belgium and Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the European Union
High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in the Republic of India	High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Consulate of the Republic of Maldives in Thiruvananthapuram	High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Malaysia	Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in the United States of America
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva	Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in the United Arab Emirates
Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in Japan	Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in the Federal Republic of Germany
High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in the Republic of Singapore	Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in the Kingdom of Thailand
Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in the Republic of Türkiye

SOURCE : The President's Office

Parliamentarians Support Limiting Increasing Numbers

Parliamentarians have supported halting the regular increase in the number of parliament members every five years. This resolution, introduced by Parliamentarian for Baarashu constituency Ibrahim Shujau, aims to address concerns over the escalating size of the parliament with each new administration.

Shujau highlighted that the public has expressed growing apprehension regarding this trend, especially in light of the increasing financial burden it places on the state. He pointed out that major democracies around the world maintain a consistent number of parliamentarians, suggesting that the Maldives should adopt a similar approach. Specifically, Shujau advocated for maintaining the number of parliament members at 77, which was set when the Constitution was adopted in 2008. He criticized constitutional provisions that automatically increase the number of members based on population growth, viewing them as contributors to unnecessary expansion.

Echoing these sentiments, Deputy Speaker of Parliament and parliamentarian for Dhiggaru constituency Ahmed Nazim proposed alternatives to curb this growth. He suggested implementing the cube root formula used by some international democracies, which would currently reduce the Maldivian parliament to 73 members based on current population figures. Nazim also proposed amending the Constitution to adjust the threshold for adding new members from every 5,000 to every 10,000 people, thereby limiting future expansions.

Parliamentarian for Inguraidhoo constituency and Parliamentary Group Leader of the People's National Congress (PNC) Ibrahim Falah emphasized the importance of cost-effective governance. He criticized the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) for failing to address this issue during their previous super majority in the 19th parliament despite promises in their Agenda-19 campaign. Parliamentarians from the MDP voiced agreement with the resolution, highlighting concerns over the strain increased numbers place on the state budget and the administrative capabilities of the Parliament. The parliament has witnessed a significant rise in membership over recent years: from 77 members in the 17th Parliament to 93 members in the current session.

SOURCE : PSM





Maldives Holds Discussions with Huawei



The Maldives has initiated discussions with Huawei Technologies of China to explore opportunities for leveraging technology in promoting decentralization. These discussions occurred during Minister of Cities, Local Government, and Public Works Adam Shareef’s visit to China to participate in the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA).

GSMA, known for its association of individuals and companies involved in mobile phone manufacturing and development, hosted Minister Adam Shareef for talks with member companies and mobile operators.

Minister Adam Shareef shared details of his discussions with GSMA and Huawei via social media, highlighting their focus on enhancing telecommunications infrastructure and advancing decentralization efforts in the Maldives through technological support. The minister underscored the potential for GSMA and its member companies to contribute significantly to these initiatives.

During his visit, Minister Adam Shareef also attended the Mobile World Congress (MWC), the premier conference for mobile networking professionals, held annually in Shanghai, China. At the MWC, he participated in a round table meeting chaired by GSMA’s Regional Leader for neighboring countries. These sessions included discussions on cybersecurity challenges posed by advances in artificial intelligence, strategies to mitigate these threats, and plans for developing digital cities.

GSMA boasts a membership of over 750 mobile service providers and 400 companies engaged in mobile phone manufacturing and development globally. The organization plays a pivotal role in shaping global telecommunications standards and innovations, making it a key partner for countries like the Maldives seeking to enhance their digital infrastructure and capabilities.

SOURCE : PSM



Gov’t Provides 100 Scholarships to Study Chartered Accounting

The Ministry of Higher Education, Labour, and Skill Development has opened 100 scholarship opportunities for studying chartered accounting. The deadline for interested students to apply for the Professional Accountants Training Scholarship Scheme 2024 is set as July 31, 2024, at 1300hrs. The 100 scholarship opportunities are distributed into a public category and an open category.

Key details include:

- 50 opportunities for individuals working in state-owned enterprises.
- 50 opportunities for individuals who are unemployed or work in private enterprises.

The scope of the scholarship includes the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) at skills level and professional level, and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) at management level and strategic level.

The Ministry has outlined the criteria required for all interested participants:

- Individuals must meet the criteria required to enter ACCA at skills level and professional level, and the criteria to enter CIMA at management level and strategic level.
- Individuals must fit into the criteria required to enter CIMA at management level and strategic level.
- If the individual previously took a loan from the ministry or through the Department of Higher Education, they must be repaying the loan regularly without default.
- The requested course must be of a higher level than the course the individual has already completed, and the student should not be currently completing a course at the same level as the requested course on state expense.

Interested individuals can submit applications via the MyEdu portal of Ministry of Higher Education, Labour, and Skill Development

SOURCE : PSM