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President Dr Muizzu underscores the pivotal role of writers in the preservation of Dhivehi language



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu underscored the pivotal role that writers play in preserving and advancing the Dhivehi language. He made this statement in a social media post on the occasion of National Writers' Day.

This year's National Writers' Day theme is "The role of writers is important in sustaining a civilised society."

Observed annually on July 8, National Writers' Day is a momentous occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first literature publication "Al-Islah."

SOURCE : The President's Office



The Vice President underscores the importance of integrity and honesty as crucial aspects of sustaining national progress and success

Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef has underscored the importance of integrity and honesty as crucial aspects of sustaining national progress and success. He made the remarks while speaking at the inauguration of the digitised platform for the Corruption Risk Self-Assessment Toolkit developed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice President highlighted the concrete measures President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu implemented to curb corruption since assuming office. He noted that the most significant assurance President Dr. Muizzu gave in his inaugural address on November 17 was his commitment to ending the government's influence on the judiciary. This step was considered paramount in the fight against corruption.

The Vice President also encouraged the ACC to prioritise conducting awareness programs for the public and school children. These programs aim to combat corruption issues alongside the focus on investigating corruption crimes.

At the ceremony, the Vice President inaugurated the digitised platform for the Corruption Risk Self-Assessment Toolkit developed by the ACC. He also presented the "service award" to two long-serving employees of the ACC who had served the institution for 30 years.

SOURCE : The President's Office



Cabinet Meeting on 30 June 2024 - File photo





Economic Minister says launch of Ihavandhippolhu bunkering services in July



Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed has revealed that bunkering services will commence in Ihavandhippolhu Haa Alifu Atoll before the end of July. Speaking at a campaign rally held at the main office of the People’s National Congress (PNC), Minister Saeed emphasized that while previous governments have discussed diversifying the Maldives’ economy, no practical efforts were made to introduce new industries until now.

The initiative to start bunkering services in Ihavandhippolhu aims to establish a new industry in the Maldives. This initiative is progressing rapidly. Minister Saeed stated that the government has acquired two tankers from the State Trading Organisation (STO) to launch these services within six months. Updates to navigation charts are being coordinated with the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

Additionally, he highlighted ongoing efforts to secure necessary resources, ensure environmental safety, and implement preventive measures against potential issues. He assured that preparations would be completed within a month. The projection is an increase in productivity worth USD 400 million by July next year. This increase is expected to significantly boost the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), currently at USD 6.5 billion, contributing to economic diversification.



SOURCE : PSM



Defence Minister commends President’s national security efforts

Minister of Defence Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon has praised President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu for elevating the national security of the Maldives. Speaking at an assembly held at the main office of the ruling party People’s National Congress (PNC), Minister Ghassan emphasized the president’s commitment to national security. This commitment was prominently addressed during his campaign for the presidential elections.

Minister Ghassan highlighted President Muizzu’s strategic move to initiate the withdrawal of Indian troops stationed in the Maldives. The president, acting as the Chief Diplomat, negotiated with India to ensure the withdrawal was conducted diplomatically without causing any disadvantages to the Maldives. The minister reiterated that no foreign troops would remain in the country after May 9.

Following this initiative, President Muizzu has focused on strengthening the capabilities of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). The minister noted the creation of the army air force and the introduction of military drones as significant achievements that all citizens should take pride in.

Minister Ghassan reassured the president of the military’s unwavering commitment to safeguarding the country’s freedom, sovereignty, and independence.



SOURCE : PSM



Gov't affirms that Maldives will not undertake burdensome debt

Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed has assured that the Maldives is on a path to economic improvement. He emphasized that the current administration will avoid undertaking burdensome debts.

At a gathering held at the main office of the People's National Congress (PNC), Minister Saeed addressed concerns about the nation's economic health. He reflected on past challenges and outlined the government's approach to future financial strategies.

Minister Saeed highlighted the current administration's efforts to enhance the nation's economic standing. He attributed the economic struggles faced by businesses to the previous government's financial practices. He said that the current administration is committed to making responsible financial decisions rather than exacerbating the situation through additional debt.

He explained that while the government is currently not seeking new loans for economic development, it is concentrating on managing existing debts and improving the country's financial health. He noted that the administration is diligently working to establish repayment arrangements for significant foreign loans. This includes USD 400 million to be paid annually from 2024 to 2026, with a total of USD 1 billion to be paid in 2026.

Furthermore, the minister expressed optimism that through strategic financial reforms and responsible economic management, the nation will overcome its current challenges. The goal is to achieve a stable and prosperous economic future. The focus is on enhancing economic growth and ensuring that the country does not fall deeper into debt during President Dr. Muizzu's tenure.

Additionally, Minister Saeed noted that the economic deterioration under the previous administration had hindered the Maldives' ability to obtain financial assistance from international developmental banks. However, the current government is working to rebuild trust with these institutions. They are transparently explaining the economic situation and demonstrating the measures being taken to address it.



Six expatriates detained for illegally operating businesses

Six expatriates involved in operating businesses illegally have been arrested. Maldives Immigration stated that on July 7th, two local markets were raided under special operations targeting expatriates illegally running small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

During the raid, six individuals, including four men and two women, were arrested. The Immigration revealed plans to continue and expand the operations. Under joint operations with the Maldives Police Service (MPS), two foreigners involved in illegal foreign exchange activities and eight individuals running coffee shops were also taken into custody. The individuals are being held at the Detention Centre.

Addressing the issue of illegal immigrants, Controller General of Immigration Mohamed Sham'aan stated that identifying expatriates involved in unpermitted business activities and taking legal action against them are current priorities. Sham'aan emphasized the Immigration's efforts to resolve the issue, affirming that the current operations will not be halted.

The government aims to expand this operation across all islands nationwide within the next year. It will also collect information about immigrants to be easily accessed in a single database. The government also targets solving the issue of illegal immigrants completely within three years.

SOURCE : PSM

Agriculture zone to cultivate 70% of 15 vegetable and fruit varieties

Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed has announced the establishment of an agricultural economic zone in Uthuru Thilafalhu (UTF). This zone aims to cultivate 70% of approximately 15 varieties of vegetables and fruits commonly used in the Maldives.

Speaking at a meeting at the main office of the People's National Congress (PNC), Minister Saeed highlighted the nearing completion of the feasibility study for the UTF agricultural zone. The project aims to market 70% of the country's chicken eggs and chickens along with various vegetables and fruits.

Significant international work is being conducted on the project. Studies on soil quality and light exposure in the Maldives are carried out in international laboratories. Minister Saeed emphasized the project's potential to generate around 800 job opportunities in the Maldives. Local production of agricultural products is expected to reduce reliance on imports and lower food prices. This could lead to a 10-20% decrease in food costs and a significant reduction in imports, easing the burden on foreign exchange.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has prioritized food security challenges in the Maldives. In line with this, the Maldives Industrial Development Free Zone (MIDFZ) signed an agreement with China Harbor Engineering Company Limited (CHEC) in March this year. The agreement aims to establish an agricultural economic zone in UTF. This includes dredging UTF, developing primary infrastructure, creating an agricultural industrial park, and establishing passenger and freight terminals along with other related infrastructure facilities.

SOURCE : PSM