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Gov't spending reduced by USD 285 million compared to last year

The Ministry of Finance has revealed that the government expenditures have reduced significantly compared to last year.

The latest weekly fiscal report publicized by the Ministry indicates that by June 20, the expenses totaled US\$1.1 billion, while during the same period last year, the government expenses amounted to US\$1.4 billion. It constitutes a reduction of USD 285 million.

The report shows that expenditures have significantly been reduced, with US\$920 million spent on recurrent expenses and US\$233 million on capital expenditures. It represents a significant reduction in expenditures compared to the US\$992 million spent by the government as recurrent expenses and US\$447 million as capital expenditures in 2023, during the corresponding timeframe. Recurrent expenses cover US\$356 million for salaries and pensions and US\$551 million for administrative work. Meanwhile, capital expenditure primarily encompasses expenses related to structural development.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced a series of stringent measures aimed at reducing public expenditure, particularly recurring expenses. As such, the president announced several key measures, including a reduction in the number of political posts within the administration and scaling back or cancelling unwarranted celebratory events.

The administration has also halted the printing of Maldivian currency to improve the financial situation of the economy. The administration has also stopped taking loans with heavy repayment requirements. Instead, they have managed to pay public and private companies and make loan repayments from generated revenue without incurring new debt or printing more money.

Malaysian company proposes to build an expatriate accommodation block



Malaysian company Altaiz Digital has expressed interest in building an accommodation block that meets international standards for expatriates in the Maldives. The details of the proposal were disclosed by the Minister of Homeland Security and Technology Ali Ihusan, during a press conference held by the Ministry.

Speaking at the press conference, Minister Ihusan disclosed that the Malaysian company submitted their proposal in March 2023. He disclosed that the proposal submitted includes the development of dormitories for expatriates, free of charge and directly rent the facilities to expatriates for a rent of USD 120 per month. However, the rent of USD 120 has now been reduced to USD 100 after further discussions. The proposal, Minister Ihusan said, has been sent to Invest Maldives on May 13 and reviewed by the Economic Council on July 10th. The Ministry is waiting for the final terms by the company, he added.

Additionally, Minister Ihusan stated that Altaiz Digital wants to set up the accommodation block in the Greater Male' Region. As such, the company proposed to set up an accommodation block of 40,000 expatriates in Male' City and in Hulhumale' Phase one and two.

Minister Ihusan further disclosed that the Malaysian company's proposal includes the establishment of dormitories as well as residential facilities and services. It also includes a clinic for foreigners, recreation areas, washing and cooking facilities and other essential services. In addition, the company proposes to install biometric software in the dormitories to ensure the safety and security of the dormitories, which will be shared with the government.

Minster Ihusan noted that the government aims to build dormitory facilities in areas where more than 1,000 expatriates are living. It is part of their strategic efforts to curb the issues of expatriates in the Maldives by improving the quality of the life for the expatriates.





New MPs elected for Maldivian wings of IPU, GOPAC

Newly sworn in Members of Parliament have been elected to the Maldivian wings of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Parliament Speaker Abdul Raheem Abdullah and Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Ahmed Nazim were elected as chair and vice chair of the IPU and GOPAC Maldives branches respectively. The duo ran for the posts uncontested.

Six MPs were elected for IPU, while five were elected for GOPAC, in addition to chair and vice-chair positions.

The members who were elected for the IPU branch are as follows: Treasurer: Parliamentarian Hussain Imran Latheef

- Member: Parliamentarian Fathimath Saudha
- Member: Parliamentarian Dr. Anara Naeem
- Member: Parliamentarian Asma Rasheed
- Member: Parliamentarian Ibrahim Nazil
- Member: Parliamentarian Abdulla Rifau

The members who were elected for the GOPAC branch are as follows:

- Treasurer: Parliamentarian Ahmed Shakir
- Member: Parliamentarian Husnee Mubarik
- Member: Parliamentarian Mohamed Mamdhoo
- Member: Parliamentarian Mohamed Fazeel
- Member: Parliamentarian Ibrahim Nazil
- Member: Parliamentarian Ibrahim Didi

The IPU was founded in 1889 and promotes democratic governance,

institutions and values, working with parliaments and parliamentarians to articulate and respond to the needs and aspirations of the people. The Parliament passed a resolution on November 4, 2004, to become a member of the union. Guidelines to establish Maldivian branches of the IPU were approved on June 6, 2006.

GOPAC is an international organization made up of parliamentarians from around the world working together to combat corruption, strengthen good governance and uphold the rule of law. Parliament green lit GOPAC membership on March 20, 2023, with Maldives becoming a full member on April 5, 2023.

Finance Ministry to issue T-Bills



Ministry of Finance has announced a fresh sale of treasury bonds worth US\$ 77.7 million.

The Ministry announced that T-bills, with maturity periods of 28-days, 98-days, 182-days and 364-days will go on sale, with the interest rates on these varying from 3.50 percent to 4.60 percent.

As such, T-bills worth US\$ 12.9 million will be sold with a maturity period of 28 days, while T-bills worth US\$ 7.8 million will be sold at a maturity period of 98 days. Additionally, the Ministry will also be selling a T-bill worth US\$ 44.5 million with a maturity period of 182 days and the US\$ 13 million t-bill will have a maturity period of 364 days.

T-bills are a short-term financial instrument. Finance Ministry issues T-bills at discounted prices in the local currency, with the face value repayable at the end of the specified repayment period. T-bills are mostly purchased by banks, Maldives Pension Administration Office (MPAO), as well as public and private companies.





MACL announces two new checkpoints at VIA for enhanced security

Minister of State for Higher Education, Employment and Skills Development Ahmed Shafeeu has highlighted the need to increase the participation of Maldivians in the tourism sector. He made the statement during the graduation ceremony for the fifth batch of the Certificate 3 Hospitality Course under the Discover Hospitality Programme at Villa College.

State Minister Shafeeu cited that while there was a significant labor market in the sector, employers still needed to source employees from other countries. He pointed out that the government and the tourism sector need to collaborate to understand the underlying reasons for this and develop effective solutions.

The State Minister commended the graduates for choosing a field with significant growth potential. He also congratulated them on their achievements and urged them to seize every opportunity for further education and training. He also underscored the important role of the tourism sector in serving the community. He encouraged individuals to be kind and to connect with others in their professional environment. He also noted that the youth's involvement in this sector is crucial for the economic development of the Maldives.



Service provision hampered by “cosmetic” projects in previous administrations: Minister Thoriq



Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim has stated that the issues on the lack of electricity provision in some islands were due to previous government's decision of launching unnecessary projects in islands, labelling those projects as “cosmetic”.

The Minister stated that the previous administration targeted to launch as many projects as possible, regardless of whether it was sustainable or not.

Providing insight on the works pertaining to the energy sector, Minister Thoriq stressed that projects of developing power plants in 60 islands were halted in various stages. He disclosed that these projects were contracted hastily, costing 114% more than the market prices. Underscoring that several projects of establishing power plants and administrative offices were initiated in various islands by the previous administration, he observed that this includes islands with a population of less than 500–1,000 individuals.

During a press briefing, Minister Thoriq revealed that the habit of previous administration to contract projects without securing finances and then halting the projects was a major concern. The minister highlighted that no efforts were taken to address the issue of electricity provision, despite the development of numerous buildings. He added that while some islands had buildings developed, they were not facilitated with adequate resources or power plants to resolve the issue.

Furthermore, Minister Thoriq disclosed that among the utility service providers, Fenaka Corporation Limited had undertaken wasteful expenses. As such, the minister revealed that the corporation had paid contractors 20-15% in advance, seeking resources and cables to upgrade networks, and the halted the projects. He stated that efforts are underway to identify such issues and resolve them.





Gov't urges Maldivians to use opportunities in tourism sector



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CWU to launch training programmes for Maldivian students

China Women's University (CWU) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development have discussed initiating training programmes for Maldivian students.

The discussions were held during Minister of Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development Dr. Maryam Mariya's visit to CWU, which was part of her official trip to China for the China-South Asia Political Leaders Programme.

During her visit, Minister Mariya, who was invited by the university, explored potential training and exchange opportunities for Maldivian students in collaboration with CWU. She also highlighted that such initiatives would significantly enhance higher education in the Maldives.

China Women's University, which co-organizes the China-South Asia Political Leaders Programme, has a distinguished 75-year history. It operates in partnership with the All-China Women's Federation and is renowned for its research and advocacy in women's rights, providing educational opportunities to women globally.



Cabinet Meeting held on 30th June 2024 = Archive Folder



Parliament Speaker meets opposition MDP leadership



Speaker of Parliament Abdul Raheem Abdulla has met with the leaders of the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP).

Parliament Secretariat reported that discussions centered on Parliament work. As such, chairperson of MDP Fayyaz Ismail urged the speaker to protect the rights of the minority party in the Parliament and ensure them the opportunity to work.

Deputy Speaker Ahmed Nazim and Majority Leader Ibrahim Falah accompanied Speaker Abdul Raheem during the meeting. MDP's Chairperson was accompanied by the party's Vice Chairperson Ibrahim Waheed and other officials.



Maldives Immigration cracks down on undocumented migrants



In a series of sweeping reforms, Maldives Immigration has cracked down on undocumented migrants.

A total of 2,013 undocumented migrants had been deported from the Maldives, as revealed by the Controller General of Maldives Immigration Mohammad Sham'aan, during a press conference held by the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology.

Speaking at the press conference, Sham'aan disclosed that the Maldives Immigration has deported expatriates involved in illegal business and serious criminal cases. He noted that the authority will be disclosing the details in the near future.

The Agency, in collaboration with Maldives Police Service (MPS) launched a special operation to track down undocumented migrants living and conducting businesses in the country. One hundred and twenty such individuals were arrested during this operation.

Sham'aan reiterated that the authority would not stop the operations, until the issues of undocumented migrants are solved.

Strategic efforts to tackle undocumented migrants was launched as part of "Operation Kurangi". "Operation Kurangi" is being executed in two phases and is expected to conclude within three years. During the initial phase, authorities will ascertain the countries of origin, exact numbers, and employment details of migrant workers. The subsequent two-year phase will focus on identifying undocumented workers based on the biometric data collected.

Undocumented migrants face significant challenges, with access to healthcare, proper working conditions and human trafficking as key concerns.

