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The President extends condolences following the passing of the former President Solih's mother



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has extended condolences to former President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and his family following the passing of President Solih's beloved mother, late Moomina Hussain Fulhu.

In a message posted on the social media platform 'X', President Mizzu sought solace for the family during this difficult time. The President concluded his message by praying to Almighty Allah (SWT) to grant the late Moomina Hussain Fulhu's soul eternal peace in Jannah.

SOURCE : The President's Office

Foreign Ministry announces visa exemption for Thailand

The Foreign Ministry has announced that Maldivian nationals travelling to Thailand for the purpose of tourism, business engagements, urgent or ad-hoc work are now entitled to visa exemption for up to 60-days.

The exemption is effective from July 15, 2024.

An additional period not exceeding 30 days may also be granted on request before the permission period expires. Ministry reported that the extension of stay is solely at the discretion of the Royal Thai Immigration.

Diplomatic relations between Maldives and Thailand were established on 21 June 1979. Commercial ties between Thailand and the Maldives predate diplomatic relations. Thailand is one of the key trading partners of Maldives. Over 50% of the Maldives' exports (mainly include chilled and frozen fish) goes to Thailand. Thailand is also the source country for a large variety of products such as motor vehicles, fruits and clothing imported to the Maldives.

SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The Vice President meets with the Island Council of Gdh. Faresmaathoda

Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef met with members of Gdh. Faresmaathoda at the President's Office this morning to discuss the island's essential development needs.

During the council meeting, the Council members relayed several pertinent issues affecting the island. These includes the need to complete the construction of the football ground, the necessity for improvements in the health sector, and the unfinished work at the port. Additionally, they raised concerns about the causeway linking the airport to Faresmathoda and the need to reclaim land for industrial use and housing.



During the meeting, the Vice President stated that he would do everything possible to speed up the construction of the football field on the island. He assured the council members that their concerns would be promptly addressed through relevant Government channels.

SOURCE : The President's Office





Tourism Ministry, MMPRC endorses Future Summit 2024



The Ministry of Tourism and the Maldives Marketing and PR Corporation (MMPRC) has endorsed the upcoming Future Summit.

The Future Summit is organised by Destination Future and will be held on 20th August in Kurumba Maldives

Minister of Tourism, Ibrahim Faisal, commended Destination Future for its dedication to fostering sustainable growth within the tourism sector. He highlighted that the Future Summit would provide a valuable platform for industry leaders to address current challenges and collaborate on innovative solutions. Minister Faisal stated, "The Future Summit aligns with the Ministry's goals, and we encourage participation from key decision-makers to drive meaningful progress in our tourism industry."

In addition to the Ministry's endorsement, the Maldives Marketing and PR Corporation (MMPRC) has also highlighted the significance of the Future Summit. MMPRC emphasized that the event will serve as a pivotal platform, bringing together industry leaders and stakeholders to foster positive changes in Maldives tourism. The Future Summit represents a unique opportunity for collaboration and knowledge-sharing, aimed at driving the sustainable growth of our tourism sector.

The Future Summit will feature a series of discussions, presentations, and panel sessions focusing on various aspects of Maldives tourism, including sustainability, travel trends, and the impact of current decisions on the future of the industry. By bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise, the summit aims to create actionable strategies for enhancing the Maldives' position as a premier travel destination.

SOURCE : PSM

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Govt seeks to expand MTDC role: Minister Faisal

Minister of Tourism Ibrahim Faisal has announced plans to hand over additional islands to the Maldives Tourism Development Corporation Limited (MTDC) for resort development.

He made the remarks during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new office building of MTDC.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Faisal highlighted President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's vision to make state-owned enterprises (SOEs) profitable. He said that MTDC already played a pivotal role in the tourism sector of the country and is one of the state-owned entities that was a profitable venture.

Additionally, Minister Faisal said that the government has already handed over nine islands to MTDC, with plans to acquire more for resort development to further expand the company. He also emphasised that MTDC is developing the entrusted islands under a strong policy framework.

MTDC Managing Director Ahmed Niyaz also spoke at the ceremony, highlighting that the new office premises will boost company revenues further. The 11-floor complex, located in front of Central Park in Hulhumale', will feature a convention hall, meeting lounges, and office space for rent. The new building is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

MTDC was established in 2006, to increase the stake of Maldivian citizens in the tourism sector. While initially unprofitable, recent policy changes and internal restructuring had strengthened the company and boosting revenues to a profit making venture.

MTCC to launch shipbuilding services

The Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC) has announced plans to start shipbuilding services. MTCC's CEO and Managing Director, Abdulla Ziyad, made the announcement during the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday.

Responding to shareholders' questions at the AGM, Ziyad stated that the company is working to provide shipbuilding services. He expressed optimism that the service would be operational by the company's next AGM.

Ziyad said the previous management of MTCC had aimed to expand the company's activities, and the new management is continuing to work towards these goals.

MTCC already operates a boatyard on the industrial island of Thilafushi, which provides the largest docking service in the Maldives. The facility can simultaneously dock 20 vessels of different sizes, and offers marine mechanical works, underwater welding, and various docking and handling services.



Parliament pushes for more accountability, disclosure



Parliament's General Purpose Committee has reaffirmed their commitment to more accountability, passing to submit every Parliamentarian's financial statements within three months of taking office.

The current law mandates that Members submit their financial statements one year after taking office. As per the current laws, the financial statements should reflect the financial standing of the MP, spouse, and children. These statements should be filed every financial year, on or before August 31.

Transparency Maldives had expressed their concern over the delay in disclosure, citing accountability and transparency.

Members of the General-Purpose Committee had passed to amend the law, giving MPs 90 days to file their statements. The financial statements should reflect the financial standing of the MP, spouse, and children. Once the initial disclosure is made, then the statements must be disclosed annually. The recommendations were put forth by Parliament Counsel General Fatimath Filza.

Speaking in the Committee session, MP for Feydhoo South Constituency Ibrahim Didi supported the motion, lauding the amendment's intention to increase transparency and accountability among MPs. The MPs cited that this would increase public faith in the Parliament and Parliamentarians.

The motion passed the Committee floor with full votes.

SOURCE : PSM



Hanimaadhoo Airport nears completion

Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure has revealed that they expect Hanimaadhoo Airport construction to be completed by next March.

Sixty-seven percent of the project, the Ministry said, was already completed.

High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Maldives Munu Mahawar, Construction and Infrastructure Minister Dr. Abdullah Muhthalib and Transport and Civil Aviation Minister, Mohamed Ameen made a site visit on Wednesday.

A statement released by the Ministry revealed that 67 percent of the entire project was already completed. This included 97 percent of the 2,400 meter runway and apron. The passenger terminal is also nearing completion, with 51 percent of the work completed. The support network for the airport, including the roads leading to the airport and MNDF operations building is also nearing completion.

The entire project is expected to be completed by March 2025.

Hanimaadhoo Airport is being developed under a line of credit agreement extended by India's Exim Bank.

Once operational, the airport will be able to cater to Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 aircraft and 1.3 million passengers annually.

SOURCE : PSM

Changes to the operations of the carrier vessels will ease concerns of fishermen: MIFCO

Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO) has stated that the new changes brought to the operation of the carrier vessels of the company would address concerns raised by the fishermen.

MIFCO has brought significant changes to the operations of the carrier vessels used by the company to weigh skipjack tuna.

As such, the vessels Randhi 23, 24, 25 and 26 vessels will now be operated by Felivaru Fisheries Complex. The four vessels were previously used at the Kooddoov Fisheries Complex. With the new changes Jazeera 102, which was operated at Felivaru will now be operated from Kooddoov.

MIFCO General Manager Ahmed Zahir said the relocation of these four vessels to the north will allow fishing vessels to be docked in more ports. This, he said, will reduce the queue for weighing the fish caught by the fishermen.

Jazeera 106 and Jazeera 105, the latest additions to MIFCO's fleet, are also engaged in operations now and Jazeera 104 will also be brought into operation in coming weeks. Jazeera 104 is currently in the port of Male' and the final preparations are underway to bring the vessel into operation.

MIFCO believes that its fleet will be able to freeze an additional 150 tonnes of fish by the start of the upcoming fishing season.