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### Committed to delivering tangible outcomes by addressing the most pressing issues faced by the people: President



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu stated that the Administration is committed to delivering tangible outcomes by addressing the most pressing issues faced by the people. He made these remarks while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Naares Portal & Operation Kurangi Phase 2, held at Dharubaaruge.

During his speech, the President underscored the gravity of the challenges faced by our society, including the abuse of illicit narcotics, the presence of undocumented expatriate workers, and the prevalence of gang-related crimes. He emphasised that resolving these issues would bring harmony to society and stressed the need for a concerted effort from local councils, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and all other pivotal stakeholders to effectively address these challenges.

The President then highlighted the Administration's key initiatives aimed at strengthening local councils. He reiterated his vision to enable local councils to better serve their constituents by addressing the imbalances in the composition of local councils. However, he stressed that such a decision would only be reached after thorough deliberation among technical experts from relevant authorities and comprehensive research.

At the ceremony, President Dr Muizzu officially launched the Naares Portal. This platform is designed to streamline the processing and issuance of national identification cards.

Speaking further, the President relayed that the two services launched tonight would augment the services already launched under the Administration's commitment to serving the populace more effectively, as they are accessible to residents across all islands.

During the ceremony held this evening, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology and the Ministry of Cities, Local Government, and Public Works. This MoU aims to facilitate collaboration on the exchange of information and assistance in the execution of specialised programmes focused on enforcing the law and reducing crime rates in the islands. The President also launched the target given to the "Home Team" at the ceremony.



SOURCE : The President's Office

### Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer departs to China on an Official Visit

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, Moosa Zameer, has departed on an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 19 to 24 July 2024.

The trip is an invitation extended by is Excellency Mr. Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs.

In this visit, representatives of the two nations will review the progress of the outcome of President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's State Visit to China this January and address key areas of bilateral interest.

During the visit, Minister Zameer will hold Official Talks with His Excellency Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central

Committee, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Minister Zameer is also scheduled to meet with the senior officials from the Government. These discussions are expected to focus on further strengthening the historic and close bilateral ties between the Maldives and China.

In addition, Minister Zameer will engage in discussions with key Chinese companies that have played a pivotal role in the development of the Maldives, exploring avenues for continued and enhanced cooperation.

Minister Zameer will be accompanied on this visit by Dr. Mohamed Shafeeq, Minister of Finance, Dr. Abdulla Muthalib, Minister of Construction and Infrastructure and senior officials of the Government of Maldives.

SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs





## President announces the allocation of 25 million MVR from the Ministry of Youth’s budget to support local artists

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu announced that MVR 25 million will be allocated from the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Information, and Arts budget to support local artists’ work, subject to specific guidelines. He made the remarks while speaking at the “Unveiling Visions 2024” Maldives contemporary art exhibition.

Speaking at the event held at the National Art Gallery, the President emphasised the Government’s commitment to fully support the promotion of local artists’ talents and work, as outlined in the manifesto. He further noted the Government’s initiatives to create opportunities for local artists to showcase and market their work.

The President assured that the Government will support local artists financially to help them develop their talent. He also mentioned that a dedicated space would be established in Hulhumale’ to showcase artists’ talents. Additionally, he stated that the Government would facilitate exhibitions across various islands and encourage artists to present their talents at international forums.

The Maldivian Artist Community (MAC) shortlisted 105 artists from over 200 applications for Unveiling Visions 2024, including drawing, painting, mixed media, calligraphy, and installation categories.

This is the seventh edition of the exhibition, which took place at the National Art Gallery from July 9 to 21, featured both renowned artists and new talents from Maldives.

The Maldivian Artist Community presented the President with a Catalogue. At the event, he autographed the book ‘Unveiling Visions 2024’ that visitors had signed.

*SOURCE : The President’s Office*



## Tourism arrivals increase, boosted by Chinese arrivals



Statistics published by the Ministry of Tourism shows a surge in arrivals, boosted by arrivals from China.

A total of 1.09 million tourists have visited the Maldives up to July 16, which is an increase of 9.4 percent compared with the same period last year. In 2023, a total of 998,330 tourists visited the Maldives during the period.

The average arrivals dipped in May and June, with 3,867 average arrivals in the former and 4,109 in the latter. However, the numbers improved, with averages now at 5,122 arrivals a day.

A total of 76,837 tourists flocked to the Maldives in the first 15 days of July. It is a notable increase of 11.4%, compared to the 68,723 tourists who arrived during the same period last year.

Chinese tourists accounted for the lion’s share of arrivals for the year, with 136,728 visitors. Following China, the top sources of tourists included Russia with 114,981 visitors, the United Kingdom with 98,775 arrivals, Italy with 83,460 visitors, and Germany with 81,895 arrivals

*SOURCE : PSM*





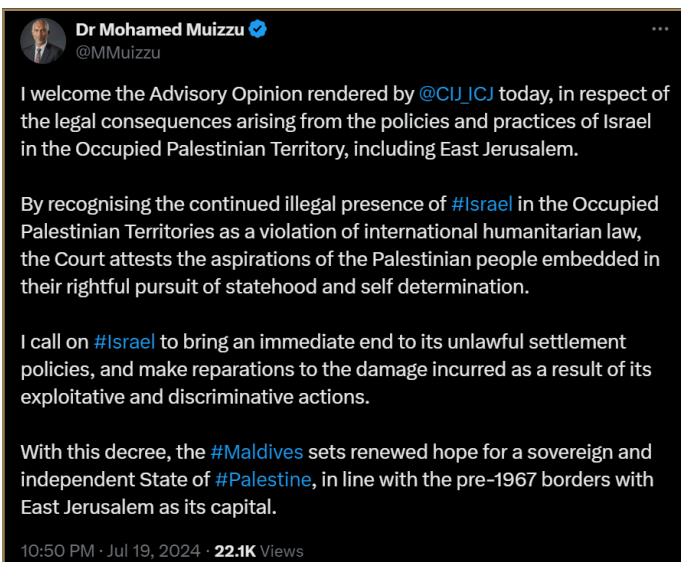
### The President welcomes the Advisory Opinion rendered by ICJ on Israel’s illegal presence in Occupied Palestine Territories

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has welcomed the Advisory Opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) today, in respect of the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. He posted the message on the social media platform ‘X’.

In his post, the President stated that by recognising the continued illegal presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as a violation of international humanitarian law, the Court attests to the aspirations of the Palestinian people embedded in their rightful pursuit of statehood and self-determination.

President also called on Israel to bring an immediate end to its unlawful settlement policies and make reparations for the damage incurred as a result of its exploitative and discriminative actions.

President noted that with today’s decree of ICJ, the Maldives sets renewed hope for a sovereign and independent State of Palestine, in line with the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.



SOURCE : The President’s Office

### Decentralization study to be available in August: Minister Adam Shareef



Minister of Cities, Local Government, and Public Works, Adam Shareef Umar has announced that the results of the study on the amendments to the Decentralisation Act will be opened for public consultation in August.

Speaking at the launch of the Naares Portal and the second phase of Operation Kurangi, Minister Adam Shareef spoke on the need for improvements to the country’s decentralisation system. He also said that the that local councils should evolve into agencies capable of delivering services that meet public expectations and gain their approval.

Additionally, Minister Adam Shareef said that the study results on strengthening the decentralisation system will be available by mid-August. Considering these findings, he said that the councils, clubs, and associations will be invited for consultation. He also highlighted the positive changes introduced under President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu’s leadership, empowering councils and enhancing their financial stability.

#### Minister Ihusaan pledges integrity of all under the Homeland Ministry

Minister of Homeland Security and Technology Ali Ihusaan has pledged to ensure that all individuals working under the homeland ministry maintain integrity. He made the commitment during the inauguration ceremony of the Naares Portal and the second phase of the Kurangi operation.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Ihusaan highlighted that many institutions in the Maldives have become rife with corruption. He also said that it posed a significant challenge to law enforcement, including those within the Homeland Ministry.

Additionally, Minister Ihusaan emphasised that President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu had issued clear directives to eradicate corruption. He stated that the current administration will adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards it.

The Minister pointed out the recent operation targeting 18 officers from the Maldives Correctional Service (MCS) in Maafushi Prison as a crucial step in addressing corruption. He also reiterated the government’s commitment to ensuring the integrity and honesty of all personnel within the homeland ministry.

Furthermore, Minister Ihusaan stressed that security and safety are paramount for the public, and he assured that he would continue to serve with integrity. He also said that the ministry’s goal is to create a safe environment on every island in the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM



## PSM attends Global News Forum



Public Service Media (PSM) has taken part in the 2024 Global News Forum. The Forum was held from July 17 to 19 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Managing Director Zeena Zahir and Deputy Managing Director Abdulla Yamin represented the company at the Forum.

The Global News Forum, under the theme The Future of News, explores how news is becoming increasingly influenced by artificial intelligence and algorithms, and how to build best practices in the news industry. International news leaders are taking part in the forum.

The forum included the launch of the Future of News report, the Asiavision Awards Gala and meetings of the ABU News Group. Furthermore, topics such as the changing relationship between news organisations and social media companies, climate change in the newsroom – more disasters, more emergency coverage and the battle for relevance; listening to and learning from audiences are discussed during the forum.

The sessions at the forum focused on a range of crucial topics including the future of news amidst digital transformation, the impact and ethical considerations of generative AI, and the evolving relationship between news organisations and social media platforms. They highlighted the importance of truth and trust in democratic societies, the growing significance of climate change coverage, and the need for newsrooms to engage and learn from their audiences.



SOURCE : PSM

## Proposals open for tourism development of islands under cross-subsidies

The Ministry of Tourism has announced invitation for proposals to develop tourist facilities on uninhabited islands under cross-subsidisation.

Cross-subsidisation grants a land plot, island, or lagoon to an investor who finances a project aligned with the government’s economic or social policies. Leased areas require a formal agreement, with provisions for government repossession if the lessee fails to meet project obligations. The investor’s project expenses are deducted from the land rent. A minimum investment threshold for such projects is established annually by Presidential decree.

The Ministry included Dhigufaru and Dhekenenfaru in Noonu Atoll, along with six other islands, for tourism development under this process. Six islands have already been allocated for tourism purposes as cross-subsidies. These islands were designated under the previous administration, though the list may change in the future. Allocating islands for cross-subsidisation was a policy of previous governments.

The Ministry said that proposals can now be submitted under the regulation, with application forms available on the ministry’s website.

SOURCE : PSM

## HDC to reorder traffic flow in Hulhumale’



The Housing Development Corporation Limited (HDC) has announced plans to reorder traffic flow in Hulhumale’ in a bid to reduce traffic congestion.

The changes come following an increase in road accidents due to heavy traffic.

HDC said that traffic flow in 11 areas of the suburb will be reordered, based on traffic data issued by the Maldives Police Service (MPS). As such, the company will be establishing roundabouts and installing new road signs in the areas.

The initiative is to start this month and is expected to be completed within the year. Completion of this work will greatly improve the traffic flow of Hulhumale’, reducing congestion on the roads and making the roads safer for vehicles and pedestrians.

SOURCE : PSM