

## Establishing a transport network

The new government is committed to establish a unified transport system in which everyone can conveniently travel (at affordable prices) to the service centres established in the regions.

- ✓ Held discussions with local business people and foreign investors on the government's policy to establish a unified transport system
- ✓ 19 companies submitted their Expressions of Interest, following the government's call for expressions of interest to form joint venture partnership to develop Male' International Airport
- ✓ The Cabinet decided to open the opportunity for all registered airlines to operate international flights, as well as international airlines to operate domestically in the Maldives.
- ✓ Held discussions with the people of Upper North and South Provinces on the establishment of a unified transport system. Discussions are now being held with the people of Upper South Province.
- ✓ Bill on the protection of air passengers sent to the People's Majlis
- ✓ Created a working group on developing and improving the services being provided by Male' International Airport

## Ensuring affordable cost of living

The new government is determined to ensure that money circulating in the economy is directly related to the development of the country. The government is also committed to maintain the rent of land and housing at affordable prices and curtail wasteful expenditure by government offices.

- ✓ The government sent an Amendment Bill on import/export to the People's Majlis, as part of the government's policy to cut import duties on food items,
- ✓ The Maldives Monetary Authority is working with foreign banks in forming expressions of interest, to establish development banks in the Maldives that would facilitate the growth of small and medium business in the Maldives,
- ✓ Ministry of Economic Development is compiling information to analyze the financial status of companies registered at the Ministry, to introduce a corporate tax system in the Maldives
- ✓ Recognizing the geographical position of the Maldives as an important trade route, the government plans to establish a transshipment port in the Maldives. In this regard, a Bill on the establishment of special economic zones has been sent to the People's Majlis
- ✓ To make the Maldives an important regional trading link, discussions are being held with Foreign Banks investing in the Maldives by the Capital Market Development Authority
- ✓ With the mandate of improving the country's economy and developing Thilafushi, (the main waste disposal centre), the President established Thaliafushi Corporation Limited

## Ensuring affordable housing for all

The government is committed to provide housing, in line with humanitarian standards, to all Maldivian citizens. The government's policy is to identify large islands with potential for development and provide building and construction materials at affordable rates at a regional level. The government would also facilitate low interest housing loans, build flats for housing and facilitate the development of a real estate market.

- ✓ Allocated land and made Land Use Plans to build 1,100 flats in Male' as part of the government's plan to build 10,000 housing units and 1,000 luxury villas in the country
- ✓ Identified potential islands to build the 7000 flats allocated for the provinces
- ✓ Identified potential islands to build 1,000 luxury villas
- ✓ Created content of training programmes to create technical expertise needed to make Land Use Plans in the provinces
- ✓ Provided information on how to use land in accordance with Land Law, the Constitution and regulations on land use, for all stakeholders
- ✓ Moved 3143 people of Kandholudhoo who lost their homes in the tsunami to the newly built Dhuvaaafaru Island.
- ✓ The government changed the name of Hulhumale' Development Corporation to Housing Development Corporation, to expand its mandate to cover housing development in all regions of the country.

## Ensuring affordable and quality healthcare

The present administration recognizes that access to proper health services is a right of each person. In this regard, the government's health policy includes the introduction of a basic health insurance scheme for all people and improving the quality of medical services in the regional hospitals.

- ✓ Started giving health insurance under the 'Madhana' scheme to people registered as poor.
- ✓ Started giving health insurance under the 'Madhana' scheme for people over 65 years of age.
- ✓ Expanded 'Madhana' scheme to provide its services at the health centres in the atolls
- ✓ Started giving a subsidy of Rf10,000 to pharmacies run by private organizations/groups.
- ✓ Started reviewing the capacity of basic health facilities and drugs available in all inhabited islands
- ✓ Began extending financial assistance to established community pharmacies
- ✓ Discussions being held with Island Aviation to speed up processes in the instances of medical emergencies
- ✓ Two ambulance speedboats has been sent to Upper South and Upper North Provinces

## Preventing the entry of narcotics

The new administration is committed to rehabilitate drugs offenders facilitating them to rejoin society as responsible citizens. The government is determined to increase awareness among youth about the dangers of drug addiction. The policy of the government is to strictly check and close down the channels that are being used to smuggle narcotics, take legal action against drug dealers and to widen the roles played by NGOs, societies and families in curbing drug use in the country.

- ✓ Criminal records of people appealing for parole, are being sent to the Parole Board
- ✓ Psychological and social assistance to those being released under the parole programme are being provided
- ✓ Assessment reports are being done on people released under the parole programme
- ✓ Government has sent several prisoners overseas for drug rehabilitation treatments
- ✓ Information on suspected drug smugglers are being shared between the Maldives Customs Service and Maldives Police Service
- ✓ Information on suspected smugglers are being shared with foreign agencies
- ✓ The government facilitates transfer of those people who seek drug rehabilitation treatments from other countries
- ✓ Lower-security jails have been set up in Himmafushi and Feydhoofinolhu to incarcerate offenders who require drug rehabilitation treatment while in detention.

## Establish a good governance system

The new administration is committed to establish a good governance system, increase participation of the people in all areas of development and to impartially enforce fair legal frameworks as well as to increase transparency, responsiveness, and accountability with the government.

- ✓ The expenses of the president's residence has been considerably reduced
- ✓ During the first 100 days in office, the President visited 55 islands and inquired about the well-being of the people
- ✓ The President urged all government officials to foster better relations with the members of the public. In this regard, the President called on senior officials to meet with the members of the public as often as possible, listen and address their concerns and further improve relations between the public and the government
- ✓ President said that criticizing and protesting against the government do not amount to rebelling against it. He also called on NGOs to create greater awareness among the people about democratic and peaceful ways of expressing protest.
- ✓ Information Officers at government offices has been trained. They were trained on how to acquire and impart information in a more transparent way.
- ✓ An information session for Ministers and other senior government officials on how the government's policy on acquiring and imparting of information was held.
- ✓ The President's Office complied fully with the country's first independent Anti-Corruption Commission, by disclosing all its documents and files that the commission asked for. The President also called on other government offices to fully cooperate with the Anti-Corruption Commission in their inquiries and investigations.
- ✓ A wide range of successful measures have been taken to curb corruption.
- ✓ The President at a Cabinet meeting reiterated that he would not influence the media nor the People's Majlis
- ✓ As a measure to extend press freedom, the Ministry of Information has been abolished. Also, state broadcasters - the Television Maldives and Voice of Maldives – are now grouped under the Maldives National Broadcasting Corporation.
- ✓ No political opponent of this government has been arrested for political reasons and measures have been taken to stop torture of detainees.

## Improving the Economy

The policy of the government is to develop and expand the tourism, fishing and agriculture; promoting small and medium businesses; creating more job opportunities; training people and promoting science and technology.

- ✓ To strengthen government finances, the government assigned the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to issue all government cheques and cash payments.
- ✓ During the president's state visit to India, the Maldives signed trade MoUs with the Confederation of Indian Industry
- ✓ Government submitted the following Bills to the People's Majlis: Parliamentary Elections Bill, Taxation on Business Profit Bill and Administrative Bill on Taxation
- ✓ The government has been working to open new banks in the Maldives, which would help the flow of foreign currency (including US Dollars).
- ✓ Seven Parties have expressed interest in the banking sector (including three overseas parties)
- ✓ A social marketing campaign has been undertaken to change attitudes towards jobs
- ✓ Cabinet decided to provide stimulus package for resort developers by allowing an extra period of twelve months to develop the resorts that are still under development, and postponing due-date of rents by twelve months. The government also decided to obtain loans from international financial institutions.
- ✓ Government signed an MoU on trade cooperation with Cosmos International
- ✓ The World Bank welcomed the government's request to give priority to private sector in providing loan facilities
- ✓ Adaptive research instituted in Hanimaadhoo agriculture centre.
- ✓ To expand internet service provision in atolls, the communication authority of Maldives opened retail opportunities for the provision of internet services.

## Decentralization

The policy of the government is to group the Maldives into 7 provinces and to make available basic utilities including electricity, water, sewerage and gas in each province at affordable prices.

- ✓ The government abolished the Atolls Ministry
- ✓ Appointed 7 provincial state ministers
- ✓ Appointed island councillors
- ✓ President visited the 7 provinces and provided information on decentralization
- ✓ Announced for experts to collaborate with the utilities companies which are established for provincial development
- ✓ Steps taken to implement decentralized administrative services of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Southern and Northern provinces
- ✓ Signed 15 MoUs with the Confederation of Indian Industry on different areas including skills development, healthcare, information technology, macroeconomics, infrastructure development, renewable energy, trade, and tourism.
- ✓ Northern Utilities Company signed MoU with Cosmos International Limited to obtain soft loans from India and other parties in order to provide utilities in the province
- ✓ Draft Bill on Decentralisation compiled and published for public opinion

## Religions policy

The policy of the government is to foster religious harmony; implementing the decisions of an independent, deliberative religious council; discouraging politicizing of religion.

- ✓ Opened opportunity for impromptu religious sermons
- ✓ Expanded freedom for religious expression, including preaching, writing on religious issues, etc
- ✓ Formed *Fiqh* Academy and held its first meeting
- ✓ Conducted religious awareness programmes through media
- ✓ The Ministry of Islamic Affairs has been responding to public queries on religious issues
- ✓ Set up an arrangement to decide controversial religious issues after discussion among a council of religious scholars

## Youth Development

The policy of the government is to improve the spiritual character of youth; guiding them to the path of becoming responsible citizens; increasing youth involvement in civil and political spheres, through creating more opportunities.

- ✓ Democratised the administration of Maldivian Association for Youth Associations
- ✓ Established a job centre in Lh Naifaru, which will create awareness on job opportunities.  
This was the first of such facilities that are planned to be instituted in all regions.
- ✓ Established Employment/Labour Tribunal and appointed members
- ✓ Established Maldives Volunteer Corps to expand voluntary service in the country

## Improving Foreign Relations

The foreign policy of the government includes maintaining a proactive foreign policy with economic and commercial diplomacy as its main focus; respect all the international commitments and fulfil all obligations under international treaties and conventions to which our country is party; maintain a foreign policy that will reflect the interests of the public; and, to strive to strengthen relations with our neighbours, long time allies and development partners.

- ✓ President Nasheed conducted his first visit abroad as President to India and held successful talks with Indian authorities
- ✓ Signed two agreements including an air service agreement and standby credit facility agreement.
- ✓ Concluded a successful state visit to Sri Lanka
- ✓ Extended full diplomatic recognition to the Republic of Kosovo
- ✓ Expressed desire to establish diplomatic relations with Kosovo
- ✓ Released a statement expressing concern over the Israeli attacks in Gaza
- ✓ President signed a letter to the United Nations' Envoy for Burma encouraging his mission and calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other Burmese political prisoners
- ✓ Commenced a visit to Italy to explore investment possibilities and to increase tourist arrivals from Italy.
- ✓ Signed MoUs with Italian authorities on cooperation in the areas of tourism, health, trade and other basic services
- ✓ Chinese government decided to provide interim assistance worth of 30million Yuan.

## Improving the Education Sector

The policy of the government includes the establishment of a Local Education Authority in each of the seven regional zones of the country to ensure access to primary and secondary education; provide financial and technical independence for the local education authorities to realize their educational goals; and, ensure schools are child-friendly institutions with sports and recreation facilities.

- ✓ Started teaching Quran as a separate subject from grade 1 to 5
- ✓ Launched 'intensive reading programme' to improve English standard
- ✓ Created a new structure for local educational authority
- ✓ Changed the previous system of each school facilitating two or three different batches of students in that many sessions, and introduced single sessions in a number of schools as a measure to ensure students spend most of their day in the school participating in extra-curricular activities.
- ✓ Opened opportunities for privatizing the provision of education, including outsourcing computer and library facilities
- ✓ Achieved improvement over previous year in obtaining teachers for the new academic year,
- ✓ Identified islands from northern and southern provinces to establish local education authority
- ✓ Set up a technical committee which will deliberate and advice on long term visions for the education sector
- ✓ Reconstituted and re-mandated the Council of Higher Education
- ✓ Began construction work of Institute of Fisheries Training and Extension Building

## Human Resource Development and protecting labour rights

The government is committed to establish an environment that will facilitate training and development of human resources required for the country and to prioritize the development of human resources for the middle and high-income category jobs to ensure more Maldivians can be employed in highly-paid jobs.

- ✓ President signed a letter of intent, addressed to the Secretary General of International Labour Organisation, accepting the obligations of the Constitution of ILO.
- ✓ Established a National Career Guidance Centre to provide career counselling at a national level
- ✓ The Government intervened to peacefully resolve, for the first in the country's history, a major dispute between striking employees and their management. The dispute broke out between the employees and the management of Reethi Rah Resort.
- ✓ Held a training programme to review and implement the Employment Act, to protect the workers in the tourism industry
- ✓ Decided to inject an extra Rf1 billion to the salary budget of civil servants starting from 1 February 2009

## Social Justice

The policy of the government is to provide good quality, responsible services to ensure social justice, sustainable development and to guarantee equitable distribution of wealth.

- ✓ Started giving allowances of up to Rf2000 for people over 65 years age
- ✓ Provided office premises for Care Society, in recognition of its services to the society
- ✓ Expanded the services of the FM station of the State Broadcaster to all the atolls
- ✓ The Government continued subsidising newspapers and media companies sympathetic to the former administration (presently seen as the opposition press.)