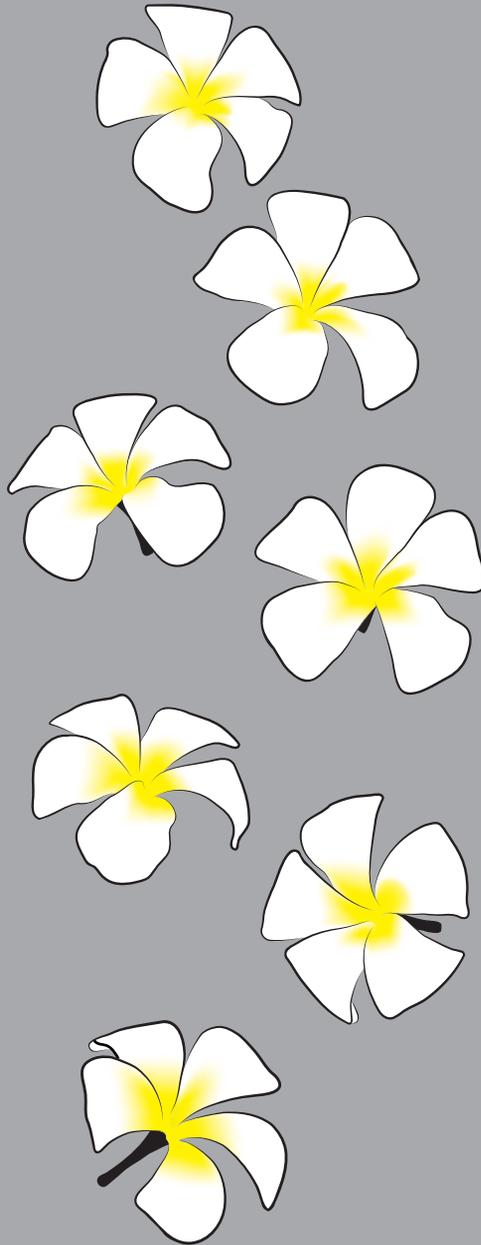


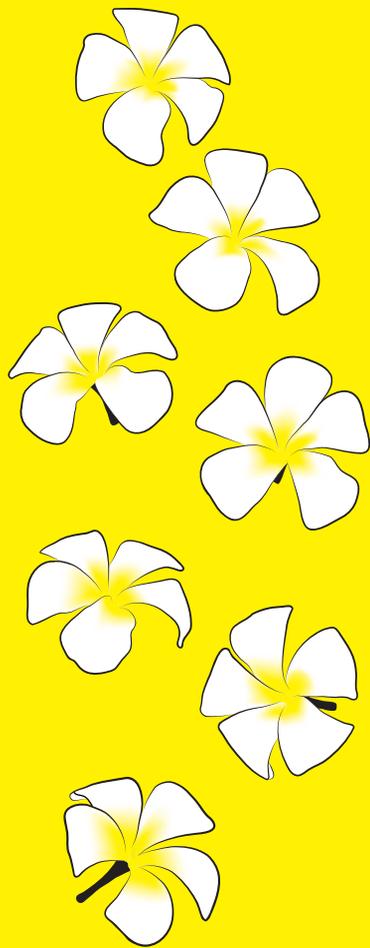
“ANEH DHIVEHI RAAJJE”

The Other Maldives

Manifesto Of
The Maldivian Democratic Party - Alliance
2008 - 2013







Nationwide Transport System



Affordable Living Costs



Affordable Housing



Affordable and Quality Health Care for All



Prevention of Narcotics Abuse and Trafficking



MDP Alliance Campaign Office
M.Redgrass
Riyaaazee Hingun

Our fellow citizens,

All Maldivians now have the liberty to live under a new Constitution which pledges to protect the rights of all. With our hard work, many positive changes have been provided for in this Constitution.

The final step we can undertake to ensure the protection of our rights is to bring about a government that will respect and deliver the provisions of the Constitution. For this, we need a free and fair election.

Within the upcoming presidential elections, we believe that a new president elected through a democratic multiparty system is crucial to guarantee the independence and protection of people's rights.

The MDP-Alliance believes only through such an election can we travel to the Other Maldives.

In the Other Maldives, people will have the freedom to travel in-between the islands through a transport system connecting the entire Maldives. In the Other Maldives, people will live a more comfortable and affordable life closer to their homes.

Under our government, we will bring down the cost of living, provide affordable housing, and make available quality healthcare for all. We pledge to prevent narcotics abuse and trafficking.

We are prepared to take you to the Other Maldives, and we urge you to reflect on what this truly means and ask for your vote.

Sincerely



Mohamed Nasheed (Anni)
Presidential Candidate of the MDP-Alliance



Dr Mohamed Waheed
Vice-Presidential Candidate of the MDP-Alliance

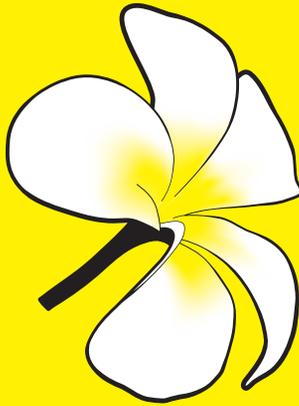
**Affordable and Quality
Health Care for All**

**Nationwide
Transport
System**

**Prevention of
Narcotics Abuse
and Trafficking**

**Affordable
Housing**

**Affordable
Living
Costs**





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Policies for Good Governance related to
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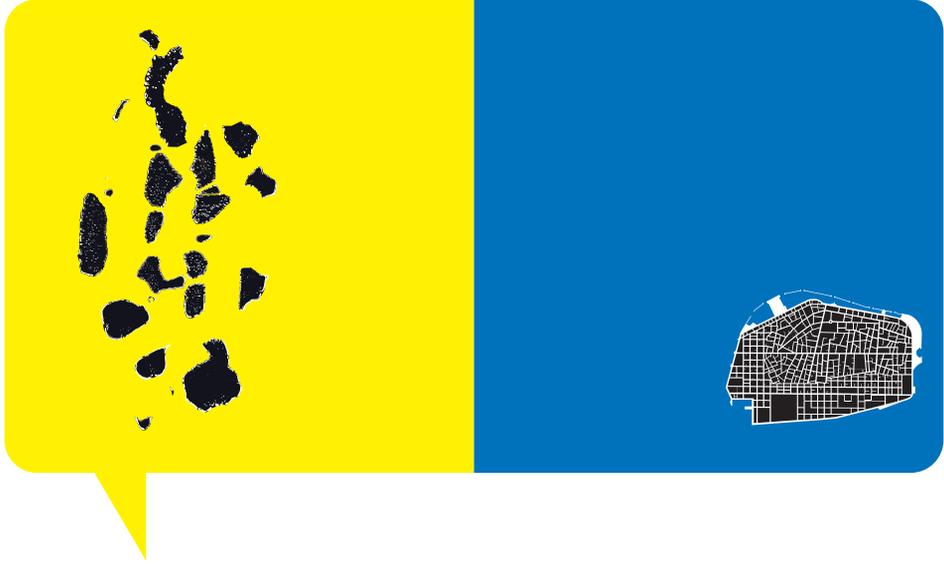


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Nation Wide Transport System



Public Grievances

1. Due to the lack of an affordable transport network, residents are confined to their islands and unable to participate in the country's development or access necessary facilities at other locations. Consequently, residents expect and demand that all their basic needs be met on their home island.
2. Development is obstructed by population dispersion across the Maldivian archipelago with limited transportation of local produce and commercial exchange of services between islands and atolls.
3. The family and associates of the previous presidency used boats which were bought with public funds and highly expensive even by international standards. This was despite ordinary people being unable to afford transportation even for basic medical care.
4. Due to inter-island limited transportation facilities, development has been concentrated solely on the capital Male', leading to congestion.
5. Millions of US dollars have already been wasted on the pretext of finding a solution for people's transportation difficulties without establishing any viable affordable transport system.
6. Harbors have been established on several islands at huge financial cost even though these facilities cannot be utilized due to the lack of any inter-island transportation.
7. A majority of the country's population are forced to travel to Male' for basic needs. However there is no public terminal and citizens face great difficulties in boarding, loading and offloading goods at the Male' harbor.
8. Islands have lacked and regional transportation facilities, resulting in island residents finding it easier to travel long distances to Male' than to neighboring islands.
9. Private investors are reluctant to invest in inter-island transport due to the lack of a transparent legal framework for the sector.
10. Even though the government has established various service centers at regional level, an affordable transport system to access these services is lacking.

Policies

1. An integrated transport network is a top priority of the government in order to foster regional development. Establishment of a nation-wide transport system will facilitate equitable distribution of wealth, encourage economic development, enable social and commercial networking as well as the transportation of goods and services.
2. The establishment of an affordable transport network thereby will provide easy access to essential services closer to home for any citizen, reducing the dependency of island communities on the capital island, Male'.

Short Term Goals (1 – 3 years)

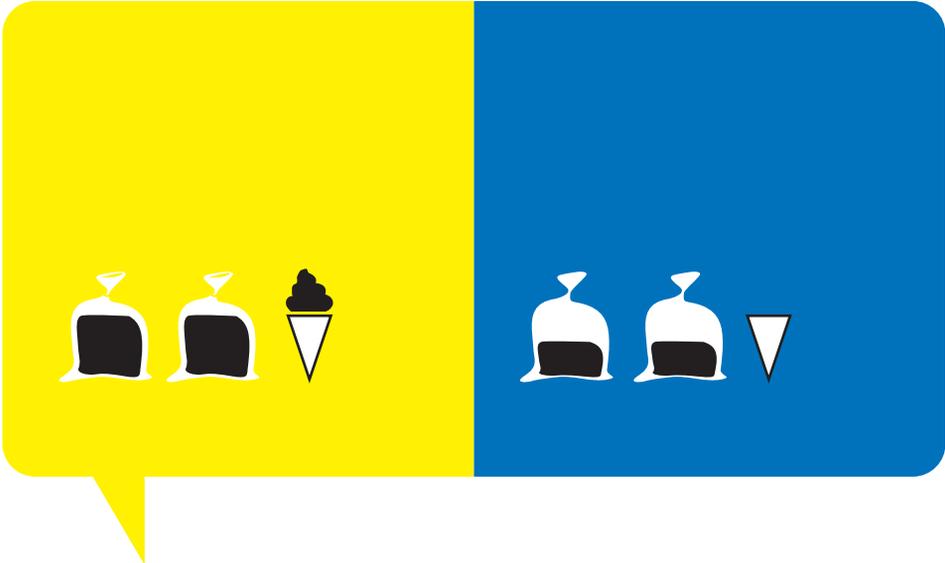
1. Introduction of a ferry system by utilizing existing resources and engaging the private sector

Long Term Goals (1 – 5 years)

1. Assist in the construction of guest houses and ferry terminals in order to facilitate a country-wide transport network
2. Act as a regulator and facilitator as well as provide subsidies in order to facilitate private sector investment.
3. Undertake Research to attain a speedier, more affordable transportation and allow enhanced regional economic development.
4. Link services, markets, people and harbors through an integrated transport system which will ensure equal access to affordable transportation for all citizens regardless of income.
5. Construct passenger and cargo terminals equipped with facilities to better accommodate transferring of passengers and cargo incoming and outgoing passengers and to ease the on and off-loading of inbound and outbound cargo.
6. Construct warehouses at regional ports to ensure direct transportation of goods to designated atolls.



Affordable Living Costs



Public Grievances

1. The previous administration's excessive and wasteful expenditure for political gain, devoid of social or economic benefit to public, has led to high inflation and unsustainable public debt.
2. The recent ad-hoc decision to develop several new resorts has resulted in the sudden rise of construction costs, causing a corresponding increase in the rent of commercial and residential buildings.
3. Living costs have risen exponentially due to indirect public taxation through import duty on all goods. Taxation increases according to rise in price of goods on international markets leading to further deterioration of day-to-day life.
4. The unsustainable and sudden increase in tourist beds in the tourism sector is causing harmful impacts on the sector creating uncertainty over the industry's future.

Policies

1. Plan economic development to stabilize prices of goods and services and to ensure optimum cash flow for economic progression
2. Provide financial assistance to the construction industry to guarantee affordable rate of rent and land price.
3. Immediately stop wasteful expenditure, base government spending on realistic assessments of revenue, and ensure spending on sustainable constructive causes.

Short Term Goals (1 – 3 years)

1. Abolish import tax on all food products and maintain prices of food products at affordable rates.
2. Abolish import taxes on medicine, fuel and oil to facilitate the fisheries, agriculture and transport sectors as well as other related economic activities.
3. Appoint an independent Public Accounts Committee to ensure government expenditure is transparent and accountable.
4. Reduce the cost to store goods by facilitating the transfer of warehouses to unused land plots in Hulhumale', which are currently designated for commercial use. This will reduce cost of goods required for daily living.

5. Open avenues to secure financial loans through banks and open financial markets for the development of small and medium enterprises and the creation of employment opportunities.
6. Plan economic development and government expenditure at sustainable levels in accordance with the country's resources. The greater public good will be prioritized over political gain and all sectors will be managed to ensure affordable stable price of goods.

Long Term Pledges (1 – 5 years)

1. Plan and restructure debt repayment for a realistic time period as the country's debt accrued over years due to negligence—cannot be repaid all at once.
2. Introduce a tax regime that will only tax business profits.
3. Develop the long promised trans-shipment port as the country is strategically located on the trade routes between the East and West, hence reducing price of importing goods
4. Make the Maldives a regional centre in the financial market.



Affordable Housing



Public Grievances

1. Even though four years has passed since the December 2004 Tsunami, 5071 of the 8327 internally displaced persons are still living in temporary shelters which are woefully inadequate for long term use.
2. One-third of the country's population is concentrated in the capital Male' due to the failed atoll development policies. Consequently, the capital is overcrowded and rents have become unaffordable for the ordinary person. One in every five families residing in Male' lives in one room which is also used as a kitchen, living and sleeping space.
3. Although fifty-million US dollars was spent on developing Hulhumale' as a satellite island to ease Male's overcrowding, only a few native families from Male' who have received housing from this development.
4. Families who own land plots have not been provided with financing for the construction of housing.
5. Families seeking low-interest loans for housing do not have access to required financing the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) established by the government has very limited coverage and limited financial resources.
6. Only a minority benefits from land ownership, which has become a high value asset, due to the lack of an affordable means to own land. Consequently, many families live with their extended families. In cases where families have access to land, they do not have savings to build on it.
7. People Resident in the atolls can only purchase construction and building materials at much higher prices than the residents of Male'.
8. Investors are reluctant to enter the housing market due to the lack of a necessary legal framework. The non-existence of a competitive housing market forces families to find their own means for construction of housing.
9. Industrial sites are located in the midst of residential areas due to the lack of a proper land use plan.

Policies

1. Provide housing, in line with humanitarian standards, to all Maldivian citizens.
2. Identify large islands with potential for development and provide building and construction materials at affordable rates at a regional level. Facilitate low interest housing loans, build flats for housing and facilitate the development of a real estate market.

Short Term Goals (1 – 3 years)

1. Provide permanent housing for all internally displaced persons following the December 2004 Tsunami within a period of 6 months to 1 year
2. Create a legal framework to encourage investment in real estate.

Long Term Goals (1 – 5 years)

1. Foster regional development as the Government believes congestion in Male' is primarily due to failed regional development policies by the previous government. A long-term solution to this can only be found through the development of the country based on regions. As such, all necessary facilities, services and goods will be made available from regional zones to reduce dependency of island communities on Male'.
2. Provide avenues for housing for those families most acutely in need.
3. Formulate and implement a Development Plan and a Land Use Plan for all islands.
4. Revive the HDFC as an institution with the capacity to issue low-interest loans to those seeking finance for housing in a sustainable manner



Affordable and Quality Health Care for All



Public Grievances

1. The previous government was not able to provide the most basic healthcare facilities to the public and the health sector has made very little progress in the last five years. There is lack of equipment, facilities and skilled health professionals at regional health centers due to limited training opportunities. As a result, residents of the atolls are forced to travel to Male' at great personal cost for basic health facilities.
2. No preventive mechanisms exist even for commonly recurring flu epidemics. For example, mosquito control in the islands has deteriorated rapidly.
3. Most citizens in the islands do not have access to basic healthcare close due to the lack of affordable transport facilities in the atolls.
4. The lack of accessible and affordable healthcare in the country is a deliberate attempt to keep the public dependant on the whims of the government; financial assistance is often given for medical care through personal requests at the Presidential Palace or the Welfare Ministry. Financial assistance for health care is arbitrary and unfair.
5. The water tables of many inhabited islands have become severely polluted due to the lack of proper sewerage systems. Water collected from rain is impure as few have adequate water collection mechanisms despite distributed water tanks.
6. Wasteful expenditure incurred by visiting teams of health professionals from Male to the atolls.

Policies

1. Create health policies in line with internationally accepted standards and conventions that will ensure basic health care at affordable rates for all citizens. The Government believes access to basic healthcare is a fundamental human right. It is also an integral component of social and economic development.
2. Introduce and implement a basic health insurance scheme accessible to all citizens.
3. Improve the quality of medical services at regional hospitals, eliminating the need to travel to the capital Male' except for specialised treatment
4. Prioritise training opportunities for health professionals, and ensure employment at regional level for local professional in their respective regions.
5. Establish a tribunal to address medical issues to make health professionals and the industry accountable for their services. Furthermore ensure medical employees are not liable for situations that arise from government negligence.
6. Facilitate investment in the health sector through investor needs identification and fostering a conducive environment for international investors through pioneer legislation.

Short Term Goals (1 – 3 years)

1. Provide essential medical services and medicines at affordable rates in all inhabited islands of the country.
2. Introduce and implement a reliable and trustworthy health insurance scheme. Ensure all citizens benefit from the scheme by strengthening the National Registration System which will be closely monitored and updated.
3. Establish facilities for the immediate transfer of patients requiring first aid or urgent medical care from their home islands to medical centers.
4. Conduct regular programs to maintain the quality of the services provided by the medical staff and medical institutions.
5. Reduce repetition of programs in order to reduce wasteful Government spending.

Long Term Goals (1 – 5 years)

1. Establish a system to store water for emergency situations.
2. Provide employment opportunities for health professionals in their native regions
3. Strengthen and establish adequate sewerage systems to reduce the risks of epidemic diseases.
4. Develop regional hospitals to deliver quality and affordable services to eliminate the need to travel to Male' except for specialized medical services.
5. Open up opportunities for the provision of complementary medicine under certain rules and regulations.
6. Ensure that the majority of doctors and senior nurses working in the health sector are Maldivian nationals, and invest substantially in training programs to improve the quality of their services.
7. Establish hospitals with international standard of quality medical care



Prevention of Narcotics Abuse and Trafficking



Public Grievances

1. The exponential growth of substance abuse, narcotics trade and the resulting increase in criminals is a deliberate scheme of the previous government.
2. Substance abuse in the country has reached alarming and endemic proportions with the population of youth addicted to narcotics estimated to reach thirty-thousand. This means one in three of the Maldivian youth is a victim of substance abuse.
3. The previous government is implicated in narcotics trade. Despite the establishment of several institutions, expensive facilities, such as sniffer dogs and scanning machines at ports entry, the import of narcotics into the country has increased dramatically. Meanwhile, other products the previous government wanted to be prohibited, such as alcohol, were successfully restricted.
4. Vigilance is not practiced at ports to eliminate narcotics trafficking. There is widespread suspicion that confiscated narcotics often find their way back into the community. For instance, it is not known what happened to the 2,000 kilograms of narcotics discovered recently on a reef. As a result, innocent police officers are also implicated association.
5. The failed narcotics abuse policy is worsening the situation, with a marked lack of appropriate rehabilitation and corrective facilities for those dependent on psychoactive substances and community rehabilitation despite large government expenditure on the cause.
6. People addicted to psychoactive substances often turn to serious crimes as a way of life because they are treated as serious criminals and marginalized by society, and have often been subjected to torture by the authorities.
7. The previous government has been unable to control the culture of gang violence and narcotic addiction it cultivated to limit political dissent among the large youth population.

Policies

1. Treat the abuser as a victim, prioritise rehabilitation and bring addicts back to society instead of treating substance abuse as a criminal offense. Conduct awareness on drug addiction and take preventive measures.
2. Close down all ports of drugs trafficking through strict monitoring and vigilance.
3. Take legal action against all drugs traffickers without discrimination
4. Increase the role of families, non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups in addressing substance abuse.

Short Term Goals (1 – 3 years)

1. Utilize modern technology to monitor entry points into the country; strengthen security features at these points.
2. Treat all drug offenders on an equal basis; do all that is possible for the rehabilitation and integration of those dependent on narcotics into the community.
3. Criminalize and ensure the necessary punitive measures against those who supply drugs to those serving prison sentences
4. Separate those convicted of trafficking drugs from the rest of the prison population.

Long Term Goals (1 – 5 years)

1. Revise current drug legislation to differentiate users and dealers and improve rehabilitation facilities.
2. Eliminate the infiltration of narcotics into rehabilitation centers.
3. Ensure Maldives is a safe country free from substance abuse.

Policies for Good Governance related to
Presidential Campaign Pledges



Good Governance

Democratic Governance

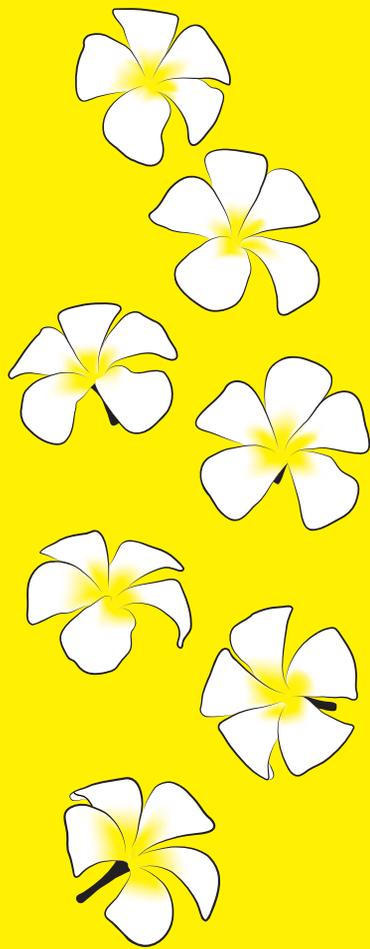
Rule of Law and Justice

Public Sector Reform

Regional Development and Decentralization

Eliminating Corruption

Foreign Policy





Democratic Governance

Policies

1. Make provisions for freedom of expression, bound only by the parameters of Islam and the Constitution, in order to encourage scrutiny on matters of national interest.
2. Encourage public debate on affairs of national interest and encourage constructive criticism of government policy and initiatives.
3. Protect all human rights outlined in the Constitution, the UN charter, international conventions, and expand the role of civil society and the general public to uphold these rights.
4. Facilitate separation of powers between the legislature, judiciary, the executive and the media, and allow them to operate as independent institutions for a system of checks and balances.
5. The government will not file defamation charges against any individuals or groups as protecting integrity and dignity is at the discretion of individuals and groups.
6. Ensure the legislature and judiciary is rights-based.
7. Instil and promote a culture of independent institutions, regulations and principles designed to benefit the public.
8. Encourage community participation in the development process of the country.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Inform the public on their rights as enshrined in the constitution with particular emphasis on educating women and secondary school students on their civil rights.
2. Facilitate and promote an environment that encourages the participation of individuals, civil society groups and political parties in constructive criticism of government policy and other matters of national importance.
3. Facilitate transparent, free and fair elections by expanding the role of civil society groups and political parties in elections monitoring.
4. With the beginning of a new democracy in Maldives, as a new government takes over, particular emphasis will be given to create and promote a culture that values democracy in all spheres of life.

5. Initiate and implement programs through the parliament to prevent activities that may obstruct development and the country's progress by undemocratic elements within the country.

Long Term Goals (1 – 5 years)

1. Ensure that the atoll and island councils are empowered to self-govern.
2. Provide access to information to facilitate social and economic development as well as self-sufficiency among residents of the atolls.
3. Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to regularly scrutinize the progress and effectiveness of government policy and implementation.



Rule of Law and Justice

Policies

1. Ensure the full independence for the judiciary through a policy of non-interference. The executive's role will be solely in the implementation of court verdicts.
2. Protect and promote democracy, justice, human rights and civil rights.
3. Provide administrative facilities to expedite processing of court cases.
4. Establish a parole system.
5. Gain the trust of the public by demonstrating through action that government is willing and determined to promote Rule of Law.

Short Term Goals (1 – 3 years)

1. Rehabilitate criminals through a strong parole system to make them responsible members of the community.
2. Establish a committee comprising of members held in high esteem by the public for the settlement of matters out of court for those who wish to do so.
3. Introduce vocational training programs for those serving prison sentences.
4. Establish a mechanism through which the public can file complaints against the government in situations where they have been deprived of rights and offer compensation for government negligence in order to protect and promote democracy and human rights.
5. Inform and create awareness among the public on civil and social rights.
6. Implement court verdicts without any discrimination and establish a parole system.
7. Award Presidential pardons through a fair and transparent process.

Long Term Goals (1 – 5 years)

1. Develop human resources for a skilled and professional judiciary.
2. Utilize modern technology to expedite completion of court cases.
3. Inform the public of any amendments to the laws and lobby for changes to be made in accordance with public opinion.



Public Sector Reform

Policies

1. Provide good quality, responsible services to ensure social justice, sustainable development and to guarantee equitable distribution of wealth.
2. Plan state expenditure in proportion to government income and reduce wasteful and excessive spending.
3. Introduce decentralised governance within the country based on seven administrative and economic centres to promote autonomy and self-sufficiency.
4. Ensure the government is cost-efficient and its services are reliable, speedy and of high standards.
5. Ensure all government services are responsible, relevant to public needs and utilise current technology.
6. Ensure that secondary laws and administrative structure facilitate governance.
7. Make high authority government staff responsible to create a transparency within the government.
8. Consult the general public when making decisions on matters of national importance and significance.

Short Term Goals (1 – 3 years)

1. Dissolve all rules and regulations that have no practical use and cause undue complications for the public in attaining government services.
2. Improve the capacity and capabilities of civil servants in serving the public and in implementation of laws.
3. Introduce and implement an administrative structure to the Civil Service that is more attuned to the governing system of the country and eliminate interference from politicians in the organizing and functioning of the Civil Service.
4. Introduce e-governance and establish computerized network to connect government offices in Male and in the atolls.
5. Mandate performance supervision of civil servants and other government staff to raise employee productivity and improve work standards.
6. Follow rules and procedures in government spending and align all spending with the Auditor General's instructions and guidelines on government spending.

Long Term Goals (1 – 5 years)

Eliminate discrimination in providing essential services to the public, irrespective their native island.

Set benchmarks for service delivery derived from a country that has achieved success and popularity among its public with regards to service delivery and pursue similar standards.

Introduce decentralization based on seven regional zones and provide autonomy to inhabitants to determine their political, administrative and financial prerogative within the broadest scale possible in the constitution and limit the size and scope of the central government.

Within five years, achieve the following:

- a. A nation where the principles of Islam are upheld;
- b. A nation where the government is truly representative of its citizens;
- c. Establish the Rule of law;
- d. Social justice is achieved in all domains;
- e. An educated, skilled and disciplined youth;
- f. Strong family bonds and an economically self-sufficient citizenship;
- g. Evenly distributed development and wealth;
- h. A nation free from bribery and corruption;
- i. A nation with a safe environment to live;
- j. A unified community where everyone has a sense of affinity and brotherhood with their fellow citizens.

Policies

1. Establish island, atoll and city councils with the authority, autonomy and finances to plan and implement development policies according to the needs of the communities and establish seven regions in the country for decentralized administration.
2. Develop one island in each region as an administrative center and a second island as a commercial center to extend the benefits of development to all regions of the country.
3. Create economic and social opportunities that will create a competitive environment for all related areas. Develop human resources for an educated and professional community to create a socially conducive environment for skilled professionals to reside in their native regions
4. Engage NGOs and civil society groups in the development initiatives planned by the island and atoll councils.

Short Term Goals (1 – 3 years)

1. Provide island and atoll councils with the necessary legal framework that gives them the political and administrative authority to function as autonomous institutions.
2. Facilitate for the issuing of various licenses and permits at island and atoll level.
3. All community development projects will be planned at island level and implemented in connection with the atoll councils.
4. Formulate long and short term infrastructure development master plans for islands and atolls in close consultation with communities and development based on the master plans.

Long Term Goals (1 – 5 years)

1. Establish seven regional centres and develop a regional administrative center in addition to the capital island of each atoll. Establish another island as a trade and business center for each of these regions
2. Establish regional councils and any projects planned by the central government will only be implemented on consultation with the regional councils
3. Provide councils with the power to formulate their social and

economic policies for the regions in accordance with the policies of the central government

4. Provide councils with the full autonomy to generate and utilize their own funds in addition to central government funding and the power to plan and implement development projects
5. Plan regional development in a manner that would enable more people to work in their native islands or at a nearby island made accessible through the integrated transport network.



Eliminating Corruption

Policies

1. Make the Maldives a country free from bribery and similar corrupt practices.
2. Facilitate and encourage the Anti-Corruption Commission to function as an independent institution that strives to realize its mandate and exercises its responsibilities.
3. Within the parameters of the laws of the country, give full authority to the Anti-Corruption Commission to pursue all cases of corruption brought to the institution's attention.
4. Establish programs and system to encourage those who expose bribery and corruption.
5. Introduce a law that will facilitate the recovery of any public funds taken abroad through bribery or other methods utilizing corruption.

Short Term Goals (1 – 3 years)

1. Adopt and fully implement the UN 'Convention Against Corruption' in the Maldives.
2. Provide support and all facilities required to align handling of finances and financial matters according to the relevant laws of the country.
3. Evaluate the scale of corruption in the country and initiate and implement specially designed programs to combat corruption throughout the country.
4. Support and assist the Anti-Corruption Commission in their investigations.
5. Encourage investigations of all cases of corruption irrelevant of the perpetrators.
6. Treat those who offer and accept bribes similarly and reveal the identities of those involved in bribery and corrupt practices.

Long Term Goals (1 – 5 years)

1. Ensure the salaries and benefits of the Anti Corruption Commission are adequate to recruit skilled, capable professionals and discourage acceptance of bribery.
2. Demonstrate the priority given by the President and the Cabinet to eliminate corruption from the public sector so as to gain the public's trust.
3. Investigate the embezzlement and misuse of state funds abroad to eliminate corruption.
4. Revise government rules and regulations in order to eliminate corruption.
5. Facilitate the involvement of the media, non-governmental organisation and other society groups to take an active role against state corruption.
6. In recognising that the main reason for increased corruption in the country is due to the low wages. Efforts will be made to increase public and private sector salaries.
7. Establish transparency in government functions, make government officials more responsible and accountable, develop a culture of information sharing in the public sector and ease procedures to obtain services such as permits.



Policies

1. Will maintain a proactive foreign policy with economic and commercial diplomacy as its main focus.
2. Will ensure security and protect sovereignty, territorial integrity, Islamic character and identity of the Maldives and other national interests of the country.
3. Will maintain a foreign policy that will reflect the interests of the public. It will be values-based and principled. There will be no contradiction between our international standards and initiatives or practice at home.
4. Will respect all the international commitments and fulfill all obligations under international treaties and conventions to which our country is party.
5. Will consistently strive to strengthen relations with our neighbours, long time allies and development partners. We will also work to widen the circle of countries with which we have meaningful relationships. We will stand by with those who came to our aid in times of need.
6. Will work through multilateral organisations to further our national interests and promote principles we believe in.
7. Will adhere to all international instruments on democracy and human rights and promote and participate in national, regional and international activities.
8. Will remain strongly committed to regional cooperation.
9. Will strongly support globalization and trade liberalisation as well as support efforts to create a mechanism to compensate losses in transition in respect of small state economies.
10. Will work to obtain all the assistance needed for sustainable socio-economic development of the country.

Short term pledges (1- 3 years)

1. Actively seek international support in stamping out the menace of narcotic drugs in the country.
2. Continue working with like-minded countries, through international and regional organisations, in the areas of environmental protection, global warming and sea level rise, security of small states and terrorism.
3. Play an active role in international organisations in promoting human rights and democracy in the world.
4. Play an active role in strengthening regional cooperation in South Asia.
5. Organise awareness-raising on Maldives' foreign policy at the national level.
6. Work with donors to ensure a smooth transition from LDC and acquire status without adverse effects on the country.
7. Campaign to secure a seat in UN Economic and Social Council and a non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council.
8. Strengthen cooperation with foreign countries in areas such as education, culture, sports science and technology.
9. Encourage friendly countries to open missions in Maldives.
10. Become a signatory to all international conventions on prevention, preparedness and cooperation with respect to oil spills and other forms of marine pollution.
11. Work through World Trade Organisation to gain special concessions for small and vulnerable developing states.
12. Work through international organisations for a strong regime to protect global fish stocks from over exploitation.
13. Work towards opening up new business opportunities and promoting trade fairs in foreign markets for our business community and to attract foreign investment to the country. Explore avenues for our business community to gain access to credit facilities.
14. Explore all avenues to conclude visa waiver understanding with countries Maldives has trade and economic relations.

15. Carryout a thorough review of Foreign Service expenditure with a view to rationalisation.
16. Establish a mechanism to gain input from the public and the members of the Peoples' Majlis for foreign policy related decision making.
17. Ascertain the needs of our non-governmental organisations and help to connect them to regional and international NGOs and potential donors.
18. Focus the work of our missions accredited to foreign countries to trade promotion and the provision of consular assistance. Improve efficiency in provision of consular services and widen the range of services provided.
19. Engage with the business community to get their input and feedback to improve services offered by the Foreign Service and measures needed at the international level for sustainable economic development.
20. Initiate an intensive capacity building programme including foreign language training of Foreign Service officers.
21. Replace all foreign nationals appointed to the diplomatic posts in the Maldivian missions abroad by local carrier Foreign Service officers.

Long term pledges (1- 5 years)

1. Develop a proper Foreign Service cadre and improve their capacity to such an extent that we will be able to facilitate our business community to take full advantage of globalization.
2. Gain a relatively high degree of influence within the international community by gaining respect and prestige through active involvement in the work of regional and international organizations and by maintaining a consistently principled foreign policy.
3. Strengthen cooperation and links with foreign countries to such an extent that the majority of countries would setup their missions in the Maldives.
4. Facilitate trade, commercial and cultural services and further strengthen the capacity in Maldives missions abroad.

Policies for Good Governance related to
Presidential Campaign Pledges



Social Justice

Protection of Islamic Faith

A benevolent State

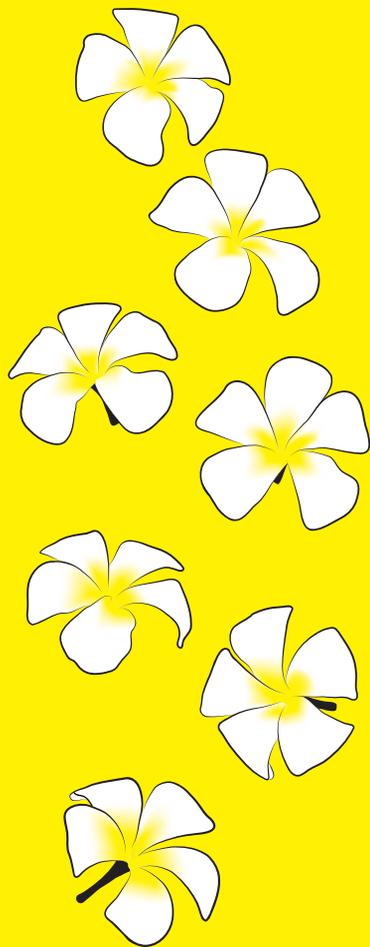
Education and Human Resource Development

Youth Development

Sports

Strengthening Family Ties

Information, Culture and Arts





Protection of the Islamic Faith

Policies

1. Appoint an independent Islamic Advisory Commission consisting of Sunni Muslims to deliberate on and decide on all religious matters.
2. Assist the Islamic Advisory Commission in informing the public on their shared religious identity and heritage, thereby facilitating religious unity in the country.
3. Implement all and any programs pertaining to religious matters recommended by the Independent Religious Advisory Commission or the Parliament.
4. Discourage the use of religion as a tool for achieving political gains.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Give authority to religious scholars to give sermons and advocate the faith within the constraints of the Sunni code.
2. Include a basic religious education component in the school curriculum.
3. Educate students on the tenets of Islam and on the necessity of respecting diverse views and opinions starting from the primary grades.
4. Provide the opportunity for scholars who have completed higher studies in an Islamic University or similar institution to give sermons via the state media without prior state permission.
5. Employ examples from the Quran and the Sunnah to promote ethical values in society.
6. Impart knowledge on the virtues of an Islamic way of life and emphasize the need for respectful dialogue when propagating the faith.
7. Strive to provide all the rights to the public in an equal manner.
8. Facilitate the provision of and easy access to the Dhivehi translation of the Quran to all students and public.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. Include the study of the (Dhivehi) translation of the Quran as an essential component of the school curriculum and facilitate an environment of self-learning within the bounds of the tenets of Islam.
2. Facilitate prayer breaks for students to pray even during school hours and instill respect for religious affairs.
3. Include recitation of the Quran in the school curriculum.
4. Facilitate the teaching of school children by members of the Independent Islamic Advisory Commission and specialist on the history and culture of Islam.
5. Generate tools for religious education and allow for the free use of these tools within the bounds of the tenets of Islam.
6. Impart religious knowledge as a means of combating juvenile crime, through the emphasis of religious values of empathy, peaceful interaction and cohabitation.
7. Implement programs to promote the virtues of Islam.
8. Establish mosques as centres of religious learning rather than solely for the purpose of prayer.



A Benevolent State

Policies

1. Increase government services and improve quality of government services and reduce the disparities between the rich and poor.
2. Ensure equal distribution of wealth as the nation's wealth belongs to all.
3. Improve the living conditions of the armed forces and the police.
4. Establish a Social Security Fund for those in need and improve the living conditions of all citizens.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Allocate a significant proportion of the state budget for essential services of health, education, housing, safe drinking water, sewerage and electricity.
2. Control the prices of essential products for daily life and eliminate duty on five essential food items for infants, ten other items required for daily living and key economic activities such as fishing, agriculture.
3. Provide the police and armed forces with decent family housing or bachelor quarters during their service as is made available in many other countries.
4. Organize for armed forces and police personnel to serve close as possible to their family homes. Once the nationwide transport network is established, they will be able to travel to see their families during holidays.
5. Take responsibility for providing and caring for elderly persons and children without family or guardians to care for them as well as providing for those in need of special care and assistance.
6. Provide Mrf 500/- for those caring for orphans and another Mrf 1000/- for each orphan's expenses. This amount will be increased according to increases in the cost of goods and services.
7. Provide health care to all through a Health Insurance Scheme.

8. Introduce a four month paid maternity leave for all employed women.
9. Mandate all cabinet ministers and civil servants to take it upon themselves to serve the public to the best of their ability and sincerity.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. Provide financial assistance (course fees) to those enrolling in vocational training, professional development and higher education courses but are unable to meet their expenses.
2. Establish a system to rehabilitate criminals and make them useful members of society.
3. Establish public parks, gardens and social centres for entertainment and leisure.
4. Facilitate the availability of fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the country so as to provide for better nutrition to all citizens.
5. Provide assistance to Maldivians abroad when in need through the Maldivian embassies and missions abroad.
6. Establish a ferry system and a land transport system for affordable transport to travel between islands during emergencies as well as for daily use. The government will provide additional care and assistance in case of life threatening emergencies.
7. Protect the basic rights of citizens in the broadest manner possible within the bounds of Islamic principles and culture of the country.



Education and Human Resource Development

Policies

1. Confirm the mandate of the Education Ministry as the formulation of an educational policy, identification of the knowledge, skills, discipline, well-being and academic standards that student should realize through an education system. Furthermore, the ministry will ensure the provision of the required technical assistance and facilities to achieve the above and monitor the implementation of its mandate.
2. Establish a Local Education Authority in each of the seven regional zones of the country to ensure access to primary and secondary education.
3. Ensure financial and technical independence for the Local Education Authorities to realize their educational goals. They will be responsible to source teachers, determine their pay according to prevalent rates, registration of teachers, provision of in-house training and facilitating the resources required for teachers including laboratories, libraries, computer technologies, et cetera.
4. Ensure schools are child-friendly institutions with sports and entertainment facilities.
5. Entrust the Local Education Authority, schools, the schools' management and teachers with the responsibility for learning in all schools.
6. Facilitate the operation of private institutions under a license issued by the Local Education Authority. Rent will be free for the first two years on land leased for development of schools.
7. Ensure equal educational facilities for children with special needs.
8. Provide all textbooks, stationery as well as exam fees for students.
9. Revise the schools' curriculum to include vocational training, foreign languages, media, music, handicrafts and performing arts in addition to the business, science and arts streams that are presently taught.
10. Introduce one shift for schools during the day.

11. Provide for higher education facilities in seven regions of the country.
12. Provide financial support to those enrolling in higher education and vocational training; the government will finance a certain percentage of the course fees while the rest can be borrowed as a minimum interest loan. Assistance will be greater to those studying in fields which are required more for the economy and nation.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Change the educational system to a regionally based system.
2. Change school shifts from double shifts in a day to single shift basis and provide opportunity for all students, including those with special needs, to study up to grade twelve.
3. Facilitate the establishment of private schools with high standards of education.
4. Revise the national schools' curriculum to better accommodate the technical needs of the economy.
5. Instil a strong work ethic.
6. Establish a national university and offer degree programs. The Kulliyaa (Islamic Education College) will be a department of the university.
7. Link the university to various research institutions.
8. Establish polytechnics to offer vocational skills.
9. Facilitate the establishment of preschools throughout the country without discrimination between islands.
10. Pay course fees for those enrolling in higher education and vocational skills training courses.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. Ensure that eighty percent of all students acquire the skills and academic qualifications at all levels of education.
2. Ensure that sixty percent of all students completing secondary schooling have at least five passes in GCE O-Levels or exams of similar standard.
3. Increase the employment rate of all school leavers to fifty-percent.
4. Establish sports and entertainment facilities for students and youth living in highly populated areas.
5. Spend on and implement comprehensive professional development programs for teachers.
6. Employ the required educational experts, ensure salaries in the educational sector are competitive with other sectors and facilitate for a pay structure based on quality and level of work.
7. Provide benefits to encourage teachers to continue in their profession.



Policies

1. Declare the youth age category to be between eighteen to twenty-four years, ensuring consistency with international norms.
2. Increase priority given to religion among youth with the help of moderate religious scholars as well as educational and infotainment outlets such as schools and the media.
3. Fulfil the presidential pledge of closing all ports to drugs trafficking to protect the youth.
4. Encourage youth to be ethical, respectful of others' rights, responsible, capable, aware and farsighted; provide all facilities to ensure youth are disciplined, in good health, educated and professionally trained to face future prospects for developing the country.
5. Encourage youth to be self-sufficient, dedicated to their profession, be enterprising and willing to take risks and responsibility for the betterment of themselves and the community.
6. Encourage youth to be active in the civil and political life of the country.
7. Prioritize the development of educated youth; encourage them to fully utilize their talents, knowledge and skills in national developmental endeavours.
8. Create awareness among the youth on the fragile environment of the country, and how to utilize the natural resources for economic activities and ensure youth are defenders of the environment.
9. Invest significantly in youth development as they are one of the most valuable resources of the country.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Declare the youth age category to be between eighteen to twenty-four years, making it consistent with international norms.
2. Start the process of increasing the priority that the youth give to religion through the help of moderate religious scholars and educational and infotainment outlets such as schools and the media.

3. Rehabilitate drug addicts to become productive members of the community and fulfil the presidential pledge of closing all ports to narcotics to protect those youth who are as yet unaffected by the impact of drugs.
4. Formulate and implement a nationwide program for youth development in consultation with the youth.
5. Establish a youth development fund in collaboration with the businesses; the fund will assist youth in the area of commerce. The fund will be financed by a percentage of the state and trade organizations' budgets.
6. Run orientation programs for the youth to find meaningful employment opportunities. Provide course fees for youth joining vocational training and other (academic) educational programs. Increase the opportunities for vocational training and employment opportunities for youth.
7. Collaborate with the private sector to provide internship programs for youth in order to equip them with skills required in a work environment.
8. Enable youth to acquire the life skills necessary for a healthy lifestyle.
9. Recognize and value the role of non-governmental organisations and other civil society groups in youth development. Assist them further by linking them with the international community.
10. Create awareness among youth on the country's natural wealth and how best to utilize the wealth and ensure youth are defenders of the environment.
11. Introduce a national award to outstanding youth who make significant contributions in the areas of education, business, creativity, entertainment and the protection of environment and provide opportunity for more progress. The winners of the award will be determined through an independent and transparent poll that will be strictly political.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. Create an environment for the operation of Youth Lobby Groups who will advocate on behalf of all youth of the country.
2. Establish a board consisting of representatives of the youth at the ministry responsible for youth development. The board will monitor the formulation and implementation of national youth development policies. The board will be consulted in planning development projects.
3. Ensure the board consists of members elected by the youth to encourage political activism.
4. Establish a small and medium enterprise business centre to create employment and business opportunities for youth and provide access to finance business ventures through a low interest loan scheme.
5. Provide leadership training and implement programs in the areas of arts and culture to further engage youth in the country's development.
6. Facilitate educational and vocational training for youth who wish to make their career in entertainment and sports; develop the necessary infrastructure and programs for the promotion and marketing of their skills.
7. Develop youth friendly sectors such as Information Communication Technologies (ICT) to create employment and business opportunities for youth. ICT communities will be established in the south, north and central regions of the country.



Policies

1. For the purposes of this policy, 'sport' is defined as physical activities that have a social, economic, cultural as well as health aspect to it and are conducted in a competitive manner.
2. As the countrywide transport network is being established, all national sports events will be open to those living in the atolls and will be implemented through a 'National Competition Structure' and in a 'home and away' manner.
3. Sports strategies and activities will be implemented by independent civil society groups, including non-governmental organizations. The national sports associations will have their regional focal points in these associations and groups and the government will fund them and provide technical assistance as well as develop sports infrastructure and other required facilities for the development of sports in the country.
4. Develop the sports sector in three tiers.
 - a. Sports for All: a national program conducted mainly to offer entertainment and general well being. Sports activities in schools will be in this category.
 - b. Spectator Sports: Activities for which there is an audience and which take place both at the national and international levels and are competitive in nature. These will include activities that involve individuals as well as clubs.
 - c. Sports Tourism: Introduce the Maldives to the world as a 'natural water sports stadium', through integrating beach sports and water sports into the tourism sector.
 - d. As sports personalities are role models for youth, provide those sports professionals who are especially popular with opportunities to continue being active in their respective fields in technical, administrative and promotional capacities through providing them with the required training.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Conduct a survey from an independent panel consisting of existing experts in the field and formulate a strategy based on the findings of the survey. Implement the strategy.
2. Determine the sports sector to be independent, where the initiators would be independent civil society groups. These groups will work in collaboration with the public and private sectors. The government will facilitate the development of Sports for All, Spectator Sports and Sports Tourism.
3. Facilitate sports programs of a similar standard in the schools in Male' as well as in the atolls.
4. Facilitate for 'Home and Away' sports events for youth living in the atolls through a National Competition Structure.
5. Lay a foundation for Sports Tourism through organizing water sports and beach sports. Promote the Maldives as a destination for sports tourism.
6. Training sports professionals to enable them to organize various events and tournaments.
7. Facilitate for the establishing of cultural sports associations and fund the organizing of various cultural sports competitions.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. Attract foreign and local investments to develop beach and water sports infrastructure and facilities to launch the Maldives as an international standard Sports Tourism Destination.
2. Train physical education teachers, provide sports equipment to all schools and facilitate the organization of various tournaments even in the atoll schools.
3. Recognize sports professionals of exceptional talent and provide them with the necessary training to continue being active in the sector even after their sports careers in technical, administrative, media and promotional roles.
4. Identify the sports where the Maldives have a competitive advantage and facilitate for the country's participation in these sports at regional and international levels. Facilitate exchange programs for sports professionals with countries who have cordial relations with the Maldives.



Strengthening Family Ties

Policies

1. The policies on the nurturing of family ties in an MDP Alliance will be aimed at providing the necessary care and protection to under-privileged families, children, elderly citizens and those in need of special assistance. Based on the foundation of the policies, the alliance will strive to nurture families with strong ties.
2. The rights of underprivileged families, children, elderly citizens and those in need of special assistance will be fully protected. To encourage a social atmosphere that will treat these groups with compassion and kindness.
3. Establish proper legal structures to deal with all forms of abuse (physical, sexual, psychological) faced by underprivileged families, children, elderly citizens and those in need of special assistance, be it at home, public spaces or work environments.
4. Create an atmosphere where underprivileged families, elderly citizens and those in need of special assistance will be able to fully participate in economic activities and in the political domain.
5. So as to enable the economic sufficiency of families, encourage more economic activities in which women can engage in while attending to their domestic duties at home. Facilitate women wishing to work outside home.
6. Policies affecting family life and education will be formulated in a manner that will facilitate more time for families to be and spend time together.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Introduce and implement various programs to alleviate the difficulties of underprivileged families and elderly citizens.
2. Establish partnerships with non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups to introduce family protection units and manage them through a decentralized system.
3. Establish centers to help and give assistance to underprivileged families, children, and elderly citizens in need. Train the personnel working in these centres.
4. Make all public service facilities friendly and accessible to those in need of special assistance.

5. Facilitate more opportunities for those requiring special assistance to obtain education, skills training, employment and participation in sports activities.
6. Expedite drafting and revising of laws pertaining to dealing with those who harm, harass or abuse children, elderly citizens or underprivileged families.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. When families breakup, women and children suffer the most. To enable them to better deal with family breakups, an MDP Alliance will advocate families to save a portion of their earnings for such situations.
2. Establish an environment in schools where students will be informed and educated on cultivating strong family ties and socially acceptable behaviour from a young age.
3. To enable equality among the sexes, more girls will be encouraged to take part in all the educational programs in schools as well as skills training programs. They will be further facilitated with a secure and protective environment in which to take part in these programs.
4. To minimize conflicts within families, the necessary laws that will enable women to claim an equal share of inheritances will be drafted and proposed to the parliament.
5. Facilitate and encourage civil society groups to establish and manage care centres for children and elderly citizens.
6. A National Resource Centre on the Family will be established and the financial assistance necessary to run and manage the centre will be provided. The objectives of the centre will be to conduct the necessary research to understand the requirements of families and how best to serve their needs.



Policies

1. Information, culture and arts will contribute to make the lives of citizens more meaningful while they will also be economically viable sectors for the public and country at large.
2. Provide for the full exercise of freedom of expression, the right to information and media freedom as outlined in international conventions, to the broadest possible extent within the parameters of the constitution.
3. To make Maldivians a cultured community with appreciation and enthusiasm for writing, reading and other creative activities.
4. Document and preserve the historically significant architectural sites and artefacts of the country. Research and document the history of the Maldives.
5. Develop cultural tourism.
6. Document the regional dialects. Encourage the use of regional dialects at national levels.
7. Promote and market the qualities unique to Maldivian culture and identity.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Will facilitate a print media free from all state interference and allow it to develop as a Self-governing body. Journalists will formulate their code of ethics and the government will facilitate them in professional development.
2. An Independent Broadcast Commission will be established to regulate the broadcast media.
3. The Independent Broadcast Commission will oversee the regulation of the media according to codes established for the independent and state broadcasters.
4. The state media will be governed by a board approved by the Parliament.
5. A legal framework will be provided to facilitate licenses for private broadcasters issued through a transparent and fair mechanism that is accountable to the public. The procedures of issuing licenses will also be eased.

6. Increase the capacities and facilities for research at the National Centre for Historic and Linguistic Research and affiliate the Centre with the university that will be established under an MDP Alliance government. The rich linguistic heritage and history of the country will also be documented.
7. Document the diverse dialects of Dhivehi used in the different regions of the country through text and electronic media.
8. A Centre for Heritage Protection will be established and the Centre will manage the heritage sites and historical artefacts of the country.
9. The National Museum, which will function under the Heritage Protection Centre, will organize exhibits aimed at tourists as well as the public at large. Arrangements will be made to tour these exhibitions to different regions of the country.
10. State Broadcasters will act through the educational system to familiarize Maldivians on Dhivehi and the history and culture of the country.
11. A National Arts Council will be established which will oversee the functioning of the National Centre for the Arts, the National Art Gallery and the National Library. An Arts Development Fund will be established, which will also be overseen by the National Arts Council.
12. The National Arts Council will also initiate a program to train and develop the human resources required for the information, culture and arts sector. Collaborative partnerships will be established with private companies and NGOs working in the sector.
13. The National Arts Council will also oversee the development of the various artistic traditions of the country in a manner that artists will be able to gain economic benefits from their practices.
14. The unique features and aspects of Maldivian culture and identity will be marketed and promoted through the National Arts Council.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. A Heritage Act to be put in place and begin implementing the act.
2. The National Museum will as much as possible be managed on a self-financing model. To enable this, exhibitions and other programs of the museum will be aimed at visiting tourists to the country.
3. Exhibits on the culture and history of the Maldives will be developed in different regions of the country, aimed at both the (local) public and tourists. These regions will be developed and facilitated with trained professionals to manage them.
4. An inventory of the heritage sites of the country will be compiled and the historical significance of the sites researched and documented. They will be further linked with the tourism sector to facilitate for cultural tourism. The sites will also be managed in a manner that will generate revenue from visitors and other activities.
5. The National Library will house and conserve historically significant and important texts of the country.
6. Establish libraries which will house books and magazines as well as online and digital media of academic, general interest and current affairs. With the transport network connecting all the atolls and islands of the country, these libraries will be within easy reach from all the regional centres of the country.
7. Encourage the use of different dialects spoken in the country in the parliament.
8. The National Arts Council will be financed mainly through local and international grants and with minimum state funding.

Policies for Good Governance related to
Presidential Campaign Pledges



Economic Development

Tourism

Fisheries

Agriculture

Small and Medium Enterprises

Employment

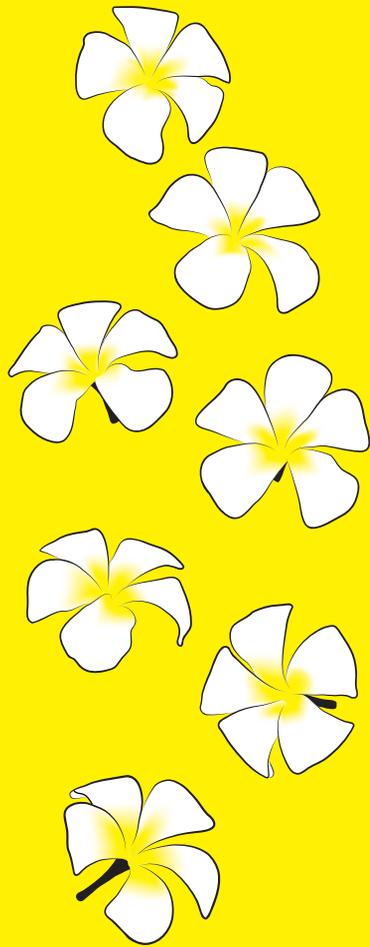
Environment

Water and Sewerage Services

Energy

Land Reform

Science and Technology





Policies

1. Free the tourism sector from political influence and facilitate sustainable development based on available resources in a manner that will limit negative impact on the entire economy.
2. Establish an environment that will facilitate training and development of human resources required for the industry.
3. Utilise tourism profit tax as public finance for national development.
4. Establish adequate infrastructure and facilities such as sea and air transport, ports and waste management systems.
5. Engage the public and the industry in seeking ways and means to expand and diversify the tourism sector, establishment of a fair tax regime, and revision of the Tourism Master Plan.
6. Enforce laws to make resort management comply with environmental protection guidelines and encourage resorts to be socially, culturally responsible and environment friendly.
7. Formulate the necessary laws and regulations for the ancillary industries of the tourism sector.
8. Prioritize protection of the natural environment for future generations as the defining feature of the Maldives tourism industry is the natural beauty of the country.

Short Term Goals (1 - 3 years)

1. Expedite amendments to the Employment Act to better protect the rights of tourism sector employees. This will be done in consultation with resort owners and resort workers.
2. Discontinue the practice of obtaining advance payment from developers of new resorts to ease the financial burden on investors.
3. Survey the current status of the tourism industry and revise the tourism master plan with the consultation of the tourism industry and relevant government offices.
4. Recognize and reward socially responsible resorts in order to encourage the social responsibility of resort owners and extend tourism benefits to local communities.
5. Establish basic guidelines of a fair and justifiable tourism tax regime on the consultation of resort owners, relevant government offices and the public.

Long Term Goals (1 - 5 years)

1. Establish the best international hotel school in the region.
2. Enable access for Maldivians to long-term loans via banks in order to encourage locals to invest in resort development, hotels, safari vessels and other ventures which require large amount of finance.
3. Introduce new products such as water sports, cultural and health tourism, private islands and time share arrangements to diversify the tourism sector.
4. Facilitate access to investment finance for resort developers and provide meaningful benefits to those tourism industry operators who sell shares to the public through the financial market. This will further enable broader public participation in the tourism sector.
5. Equip the tourism industry with the means to face the many challenges that come with climate change.
6. Establish an international airport in the north, similar to those in the centre and south of the country and develop these airports in proportion to development in the tourism sector.



Policies

1. Expand the scope of the fisheries sector in the country's economy. Open up the market to ensure that local fishermen benefit from the increases in the buying price of fish in international markets.
2. Ensure sustainable development of fisheries to the benefit of present and future generations.
3. Provide training and financial assistance to fishermen.
4. Promote research in fisheries, increase fish breeding and productivity and diversify the fish products.
5. Bring the Exclusive Economic Zone under the full control of the Maldivian government as the fishery industry is the main source of livelihood for fishing communities.
6. Direct foreign aid received to the sector to the fishermen without making any attempts to mislead the public on the foreign aid received for the fishery sector.

Short Term Goals (1 - 3 years)

1. Revise fisheries sector laws and regulations for the benefit of the fishermen and those working in the sector.
2. Introduce a boat building code to improve the standards of fishing vessels.
3. Assist small and medium enterprises in the sector to increase the variety of fishery products and manufactures in the country as well as to maximize benefits from the sector.
4. Enlist the help of financial institutions to ease the burden on boat-owners in repayment of loans.
5. Acquire the international copyright for the brand name 'Madivefish' and make it the property of the Maldivian people.

Long Term Goals (1 - 5 years)

1. Implement promotional campaigns to garner the interest of youth in the fishery sector and revise the school curriculum to include practical training to fisheries science students.
2. Protect The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and ensure sustainable fishing of yellow fin tuna in EEZ to extend maximum benefits to Maldivian fishermen.
3. Establish a Fisheries Institute to provide training and to create interest among youth to join the fisheries sector.
4. Introduce mariculture and provide the private sector with financial and technical assistance to develop this segment within the fisheries industry.
5. With the assistance of international fisheries experts, implement a nation-wide project to increase bait breeding in Maldivian reefs.
6. Establish the Maldives as the leading destination on conducting fisheries research in the South Asia Region.
7. Establish modern fisheries harbours in different regions of the country for the benefit of fishermen and ease fishing within the EEZ of Maldives.



Policies

1. Create awareness among individuals, groups, small and medium enterprises on the agriculture sector and provide technical, technological and financial assistance to farmers, especially women who grow crops in their homes as a livelihood to eliminate the possibility of a countrywide famine.
2. Assist and encourage farmers to determine crops that can be grown and cultivated at low cost and grow these in a manner that will help them to achieve financial self-sufficiency.
3. Facilitate the production of fertilizers using locally available materials. Inform farmers on sustainable energy sources, minimal usage of pesticides and chemicals as well as establish facilities to diagnose various plants and crop infections.
4. Provide the required assistance in marketing agricultural products and facilitate for the availability of seed and fertilizer at affordable prices in the agricultural regions of the country.
5. Expand the use of technology, such as hydroponics, in the agricultural sector to help develop and diversify the sector.

Short Term Goals (1 - 3 years)

1. Introduce more crops that are conducive to the climate and geography of the Maldives.
2. Survey the inhabited islands of the Maldives to determine those with the most agricultural potential, and establish a system which will facilitate the use of these islands to the benefit of the public.
3. Creating a market and encouraging new solutions to utilize excess and surplus produce and minimize wastage.
4. Establish a Central Laboratory and provide skilled professionals to diagnose and treat various plants and crops infections.

Long Term Goals (1 - 5 years)

1. Provide safe storage for agricultural produce in order to keep them fresh and facilitate the trade and transportation of agricultural products between islands and atolls.
2. Provide subsidies to young agricultural farmers and eliminate tax or duty on their products for the first three years to encourage the development of the sector.
3. Establish training centers throughout the country to encourage home gardening and farming as well as develop extension officers able to cater to all regions of the country.
4. Implement programs to promote the manufacture of value-added products from the surplus agricultural produce to cater to local and foreign markets.
5. Provide financial and technical assistance to farmers who utilize environment friendly technology.
6. Introduce and implement new measures for the equitable use of uninhabited islands as part of the policies on land use.



Small and Medium Enterprises

Policies

1. Provide Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with subsidies to minimize the difference between the rich and the poor and to encourage a business environment that will extend more economic benefits to the public.
2. Establish an institution and develop human resources required for the development of SMEs within the Food Security sector.
3. Create more opportunities for SMEs participation in the three main industries, tourism, fisheries and agriculture, through the formulation of relevant policies. Assist and facilitate SME participation in agriculture, transport and infrastructure development sectors.
4. Provide technological capacity for SMEs to expedite the growth and development, given that the development of SMEs is crucial to economic progress.

Short Term Goals (1 - 3 years)

1. Facilitate the growth and development of SMEs through the development of human resources.
2. Encourage the participation of women in the SME sector.
3. Revive the crafts industry by utilizing modern machinery and facilitate the trade of local souvenirs in the tourist market.
4. Give priority to SMEs when awarding regional government contracts.
5. Formalize the SME sector and facilitate for the registration of SMEs at the regional administrative centers of the country to further expedite the registration process for the start up SMEs.

Long Term Goals (1 - 5 years)

1. Promote local products in the domestic market and facilitate their export.
2. Establish a training facility for those wishing to establish or promote SMEs in the Faculty of Management and Computing.
3. Facilitate access to low-interest loans for the SME sector and provide technological support training and assist in marketing and promotion.
4. Support and develop traditional crafts practices in the atolls.



Policies

1. Formulate policies on economy and trade to provide employment to all those within the working age category.
2. Increase employment opportunities in all regions of the country and facilitate employment for job seekers in their native regions.
3. Employ expatriate workers in sectors which lack skilled Maldivians while increasing opportunity for Maldivians, especially women, in jobs in the middle and high-income categories. 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.
4. Create a 'Women's Economic Development Fund' to provide training for women. Apart from government finance, the Fund will be open to contributions from the private sector.
5. Test the skills of those employed in jobs which require technical expertise.
6. Develop the Maldivian workforce as a skilled, competitive and disciplined workforce with high standards and a strong work ethics.
7. Ensure the provision of basic services to employees and create more employment opportunities.
8. Establish a Labor Relations Authority for conciliation and mediation and a Labor Tribunal for Arbitration to resolve differences between employee and employer.
9. Develop human resources in accordance with the requirements of various industries.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Implement programs to provide Job Shadowing opportunities especially for the youth.
2. Establish a Labour Relations Authority and a Labour Tribunal to resolve differences between those employed and employers and train develop human resources for these institutions.
3. Establish a Civil Service Training Institute to improve the quality of civil service.
4. Mandate the implementation of human resource development plans submitted along with bids for resort development or other large infrastructure developments.
5. Recognize and support large corporations and enterprises that invest substantially on human resource development and prioritize such enterprises in the provision of certain government benefits.
6. Examine the job market to understand skills required by the Maldivian market, conduct short-term intensive training courses for the unemployed and equip them with skills to compete in the job market.
7. Facilitate for the increased employment of women in the tourism sector and make provisions for a safe and secure environment for women to work in.
8. Clear the backlog of cases resulting from the large number of expatriate workers now working and living as 'illegal immigrants'.
9. Introduce and implement laws and regulations required for the operation of labour unions for the protection of workers' rights.
10. Become a member of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and establish benchmarks based on ILO standards in managing the employment sector.
11. Increase the capacity to monitor the movements of expatriate workers between islands and atolls.
12. Establish a Trade Testing Centre to monitor the levels of skills and training of those employed in the professionals sector. Establish a similar centre to identify and implement the required training prior to civil servants joining the service.

Long Term Goals (1 - 5 years)

1. Begin a countrywide program in schools to impart practical knowledge of the work environment and work ethics in order to create a responsible, trained and disciplined workforce dedicated to their professions.
2. Encourage public and private sector offices and enterprises to offer at least on-hundred hours of training to employees to improve performance.
3. Identify and solve problems concerning migrant workers on consultation with stakeholders and implement an efficient system to monitor expatriate workers.
4. Survey marriages undertaken by foreigners to Maldivians with the intention of establishing businesses in the country, and align all regulations pertaining to the matter with mature legislation in other countries.
5. Facilitate for the employment of Maldivians high-income jobs.



Policies

1. Prioritize the protection of natural environment in development.
2. Utilise environment friendly systems in the provision of essential services such as waste management, water, sewerage and electricity.
3. Establish a system to oversee the prevention of land erosion and assist communities affected by land erosion.
4. Take safety measures for protection against global warming and other natural disasters.
5. Minimize the pollution of the natural environment.
6. Strengthen the guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and monitoring of development projects to ensure minimal pollution and destruction of environment.
7. Plan for the sustainable use of natural resources, land, reefs, and open sea.
8. Advocate and lobby for the protection of island nations from climate change at international forums.

Short Term Goals (1-3 years)

1. Allocate funds for environmental protection in the state's annual budget based on realistic estimates for environmental protection.
2. Formulate and implement guidelines on modification of coastlines such as dredging and reclamation to minimise erosion. Include measures for climate change adaption in the guidelines.
3. Lay the foundation for provision of equitable waste disposal, water, sewerage and energy services and as well as access to the legal, financial and technological assistance necessary to sustain the services.
4. Plan and facilitate for the establishment of waste management centers in the seven regions and a recycling center as well as facilitate for safe methods of waste disposal.
5. Include environmental protection and adaptation to climate change as a crucial component in development policies in all sectors including fisheries, agriculture and land use.

6. Mandate consultation with the island communities including elderly citizens and experts, before embarking on any projects that will change or alter the natural environment of the island.
7. Facilitate for the import and production of environment friendly goods and encourage the use of such products.

Long Term Goals (1-5 years)

1. Identify areas to be protected and areas that are allocated for specific economic purposes.
2. Enable information dissemination on environment protection and establish a monitoring system for environmental protection.
3. Establish a system to examine the accuracy of EIAs.
4. Develop the capacity of island communities to deal with land erosion and introduce a mechanism to assist those affected by land erosion.
5. Establish an efficient disaster warning system accessible to all Maldivians that will convey the latest information available through modern technology on climate change, earth quakes, storms and other natural disasters.
6. Introduce regulations on the use of chemicals especially those used in the agriculture sector regulations.
7. Increase the use of renewable energy and facilitate research into economizing energy.
8. Implement tree planting programs and construction of green-buildings on all islands.
9. Facilitate research into environmental issues affecting the Maldives as well as the ways and means of further sustainable use of natural resources.



Water and Sewerage Services

Policies

1. Designate the provision of safe drinking water and sewerage systems to all as a basic human right in national policies and implement these policies.
2. Prioritize provision of safe drinking water and adequate sewerage systems when formulating government policy and designing developmental projects.
3. Increase the technical capacity and financial means required to provide water and sewerage systems.
4. Take on the role of a facilitator in attracting investment in the water and sewerage systems rather than being the service-provider of these services.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Provide essential water and sewerage services on a rational and impartial basis without political influence or favouritism.
2. Formulate a National Project for the provision of water and sewerage systems. The project will be implemented in phases, prioritizing islands most need of such services.
3. Ensure the participation of atoll, island councils, communities, private sector and civil society groups in the formulation, design and implementation of projects.
4. Formulate and implement the necessary legislation required for the provision and regulation of safe drinking water and sewerage systems.
5. Increase the technical and financial capacity water and sewerage service providers.
6. Create a business-friendly environment for those investing in the sector.
7. Formulate and implement a national program to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to all.
8. Establish a system to manage and maintain the water and sewerage systems already established in various islands. Fund Atoll Councils to oversee these systems.
9. Seek the most appropriate sewerage systems for the Maldivian island eco-systems and seek ways to implement these systems in the most cost effective way.

10. Seek immediate measures to stop the pollution of water tables due to the seepage of sewerage.
11. Find out waste disposal means most suitable to the Maldivian islands and implement such systems.
12. Establish means to test safety levels of collected rain water at island level.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. Establish water stocks in designated regions of the country for use in an emergency or during a natural disaster.
2. Establish adequate sewerage systems and availability of safe drinking water in the seven regions of the country.
3. Introduce the use of renewable energy and other modern technologies so as to minimize the cost of providing drinking water and sewerage systems.



Policies

1. Open up the fuel market for competition.
2. Increase the capacity to generate electricity. Identify ways to generate renewable energy and increase the use of renewable energy.
3. Provide electricity to all citizens without discrimination and facilitate the sustainable supply of electricity.
4. Open up the generation and supply of electricity for private entrepreneurs through a competitive market at the island level.
5. Eliminate import taxes and duties on renewable energy products to encourage the use of these products in the country.
6. Implement programs to create awareness on energy efficiency and minimizing waste of electricity.
7. Increase energy security through the use of renewable sources of energy in Energy Security facilities during an emergency or natural disaster. Establish these facilities in hospitals, schools, communication centres, broadcasting stations, government offices, jetties and other avenues for basic and essential services. Increase energy security through decentralization.
8. Encourage the use of alternative fuels such as bio gases and reduce the use of natural gases so as to cut down on the amount of imported fuel products. This will also serve as a defense mechanism from various fluctuations in the international oil markets.
9. Formulate a Hydrocarbon Exploration Act.
10. Conduct all necessary surveys to determine the possibility of finding oil in the country.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Open up the domestic oil market for competition. Bid for the supply of oil and fuel products in the seven administrative regions of the country.
2. Facilitate for the reliable supply of energy for all social and economic activities.
3. Inform the public on the use of renewable and environmentally friendly sources of energy to make the country dependant solely on these sources of energy.
4. Eliminate import tax on oil and fuel products.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. Facilitate and assist in utilizing renewable energy sources in generating electricity throughout the country.
2. Invite those engaged in the study of renewable energy to the country to increase the usage of renewable energy in the country.
3. Establish an oil reserve after determining the levels of oil usage in the country.
4. Formulate a Hydrocarbon Exploration Act.
5. Conduct all necessary surveys to determine the possibility of finding oil in the country.
6. Seek ways to economize the use of electricity to increase energy efficiency.
7. Explore ways to utilize energy released as waste heat.
8. Explore a replacement for fuels used in transport vehicles and facilitate the availability of these in the domestic market at affordable prices.

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Policies

1. Introduce land reform, establish and maintain a modern land-tenure system. Formulate and implement the necessary legislation and establish required institutions to oversee land reform.
2. Facilitate access to finance for land development through an adequate legal framework which enables Maldivians to own land. Ensure land is a valuable product that can be bought and sold in a competitive market without undue restriction.
3. Stop the unplanned reclamation of reefs and shallow lagoons for developmental purposes. Facilitate community consultation in the development of islands under guidelines set by the government on the consultation of the parliament.
4. Facilitate for broad-based consultation with island and atoll councils as well as civil society groups in the formulation and designing of land use plans and other relevant policies of the government. Mandate an Environmental Impact Assessment study on these ventures.
5. Make provisions for regional councils, instead of the central government, to evaluate and permit the implementation of regional development projects.
6. Ensure compatibility of all land use and urban development plans with the National and Regional Development Plans of the country.
7. Facilitate for communities to be the main beneficiaries of their native land.
8. Utilize Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) as widely as possible to enable the easy accessibility of information on land issues.

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

1. Revise the land use and land allocation laws to increase investor and consumer confidence.
2. Establish regional and national centers and develop the required human resources for land surveying, evaluation, financial estimates, compilation and management of a cadastre, planning and approval of land use plans and monitor the implementation of these systems.

3. Establish a 'Lands Tribunal' composed of experts in the sector to ensure fair resolutions to various cases arising from the use and allocation of land.
4. Attract developers through hassle-free foreign investment regulations.
5. Re-evaluate all the planned land development projects and programs to further align them with regional and national development objectives and sustainable development practices and guidelines. Such projects will be open to tender after consultations with the parliament, island and atolls councils as well as civil society groups, investors and the public at large.

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. Establish regional and national institutions to survey and estimate the price of land and to compile and maintain a cadastre and to formulate and implement land use plans.
2. Facilitate ownership of private land by ordinary citizens.
3. Increase government revenue generation by correcting the practice of the leasing government lands at below market rates on the basis of political favouritism.
4. Levy a business-profit tax on businesses that operate on land allocated for residential purposes.
5. Create the positions of Surveyor General, Valuer General, Registrar of Titles, Director of Country and Town Planning to conduct a survey of all islands in the Maldivian archipelago within internationally accepted professional guidelines for the purposes of estimating their financial value and to compile a cadastre and establish a mechanism to maintain the cadastre.
6. Establish a 'land bank' in order to allocate land for future use, to identify various plots of land that can be used and to create a 'land reserve'.



Science and Technology

Policies

1. Prioritize the science and technology sector in the government's political agenda for increased productivity and rapid growth in the field.
2. Identify the science and technology development required for the economic development of the country particularly in fisheries, agriculture and tourism, and utilize new technology in the sectors
3. Facilitate for the technology required for social, health and education sectors
4. Encourage graduate students returning to Maldives to participate in the country's development and conduct research. Provide the facilities required for the above.
5. Establish a National Science Foundation to facilitate research and coordinate national development projects.
6. Facilitate the establishment of a extensive network to provide Internet access on all islands
7. Link all government offices through an Internet network and establish an e-government service
8. Open the ICT sector for private investors and encourage provision of ICT services by non-governmental organisations and other civil sector groups and encourage the development of the sector on a commercial basis and offer special assistance to women entrepreneurs in the field through financial assistance

Short Term Goals (1- 3 years)

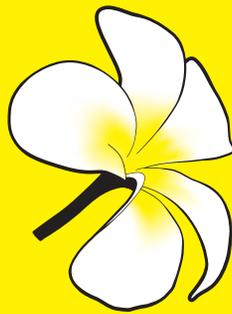
1. Formulate a National Development Program in accordance with present developments in science and technology
2. Establish a Science Foundation that will coordinate nation-wide research and development programs and activities
3. Establish an interactive science centres to promote interest in science and technology among children, youth and the public in general
4. Enlist the participation of the private sector in developing science and organize programs with individuals working in research at universities and colleges to promote and develop science

5. Facilitate Maldivian researchers to work in regional and international research centres
6. Include science education in all levels of the education
7. Utilise ICT in a cost-effective manner to develop the education and learning sectors

Long Term Goals (1- 5 years)

1. Increase productivity and revenue generating activities
2. Establish the Maldives as a nation with a culture of conducting research among the SAARC countries
3. Develop the capacity to conduct research at the national university and college
4. Enable an environment conducive for research in the country
5. Patent the research undertaken in the country so as to secure its benefits to the research community and the country's economy
6. Develop an ICT economy and seek ways to broaden the software and programming sector for economy's benefit.





THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE (Date Of Original Document Prepared On 1 February 2009)

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The Other Maldives

Manifesto Of
The Maldivian Democratic Party - Alliance
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