



# IOE ASIA REGIONAL EXCHANGE ON COVID-19

27 MARCH 2020

SPEAKER –  
**MR. MOHAMED ALI JANAHA**

President- National Federation of  
Maldivian Employers (NFME)

# ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Mr. Mohamed Ali Janah** is a well known businessman in the Maldives, awarded the “National Award of Recognition, in the area of Architecture, Construction and Consultancy”, by the Government of Maldives in November 2017 and “Entrepreneur of the year 2018” by Maldives Business Awards.

He is the Chairman of Hotels and Resort Construction Pvt Ltd and also the:

- \* President – Maldives National Association of Construction Industry , MNACI
- \* 45<sup>th</sup> President – International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors’ Associations, IFAWPCA
- \* President – National Federation of Maldivian Employers, NFME

Mr. Janah also held various independent positions in the Government:

- \* Board of Director – Maldives Monetary Authority from January 2018 – May 2019
- \* Chairman – Maldives Building and Construction Board from January 2018 – May 2019

([www.maj-official.com](http://www.maj-official.com))



# CURRENT SITUATION IN MALDIVES

TOTAL CASES	– 13
TOTAL RECOVERED	– 9
ACTIVE CASES	– 4
NATIONALITY OF AFFECTED	– FOREIGNERS ONLY
LAST CONFIRMED CASE ON	– 16 MARCH 2020

\* Government of Maldives (GOM) closed from 19 March 2020

\* All travelers except those booked as tourists to resorts, are quarantined in various quarantine facilities established around the country.

# QUARANTINE FACILITIES IN MALDIVES

\* Various businessmen have donated their islands / resorts to the GOM to be used as temporary quarantine facilities, and we now have 10 facilities with 1158 rooms / 2288 beds.

\* The facilities are managed by the Ministry of Tourism.

\* Tree Top Hospital, the high class tertiary care hospital opened in 2015 in Hulhumale', Maldives, has been donated by their owners to the GOM to be used as an ICU facility in case there is a further outbreak and to ensure there are enough beds to treat the patients in Maldives. Tree Top Hospital has over 200 beds.

**Ministry of Tourism**  
Republic of Maldives

### FACILITY FOCALS BY MoT

Facility	Focal Person	Position	Contact Number
QF-01 Villivaru	Ali Hashim	Executive Director	9555344
QF-02 Hulhule' Island Hotel	Fathmath Dhiyama Ibrahim	Customer Relation Officer	9672767
QF-03 Velidhoo Island Resort	Ibrahim Farhad	Senior Policy Director	9195719
QF-04 Fun Island Resort	Ali Razzan	Senior Executive Director	9777426
QF-05 Malahini Kuda Bandos	Mohamed Khussan	Senior Policy Director	7684940
QF-06 Biyaadhoo Island Resort	Thayyib Shaheem	Executive Director	7864363
QF-07 Dhiggiri Tourist Resort	Ibrahim Fikree	Assistant Director	9997816
QF-08 Holiday Island	Asad Riza	Deputy Minister	7779167
QF-09 Embudhu Village	Mohamed Sinan	Environment Officer	9685119
QF-10 Royal Island	Ibrahim Fikree	Assistant Director	9997816
QF-11 Varu By Atmosphere	Qusayy Ibrahim Mohamed	Customer Relation Officer	9533394

# TIMELINE OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY MALDIVES GOM

- \* First case confirmed in Maldives -7 March 2020
- \* HPA created hotline 1676, HPA sends daily updates on phones – 7 March 2020
- \* Closed the resort from where first case was confirmed – 8 March 2020
- \* Schools closed – 9 March 2020
- \* Confirmed 2 cases in Sandies Bathala Resort and resort closed – 9 March 2020
- \* Temporary ban on travelers from Bangladesh – 9 March 2020
- \* Temporarily closed One and Only Reethi Rah for contact tracing, Kuramathi Island Resort temporarily closed – 10 March 2020 (more resorts continued to shut down and currently 50 resorts are closed)
- \* State of Health Emergency declared for 30 days -12 March 2020.
- \* Excursions banned in Greater Male' area, banned use of public grounds and parks -13 March 2020
- \* Bank of Maldives announced financing packages for tourism sector – 15 March 2020
- \* Extended schools closure / suspended tuition classes / closed cinemas – 15 March 2020
- \* Guest houses and city hotels temporarily closed – 17 March 2020
- \* Imposed 14 day compulsory quarantine for Maldivians arriving Maldives – 18 March 2020
- \* Government subsidized utility – 19 March 2020
- \* GOM closed – 19 March 2020
- \* Closed restaurants and food outlets in Greater Male' – 20 March 2020
- \* Travel bans imposed over time on different countries and totally closed from 27 March 2020

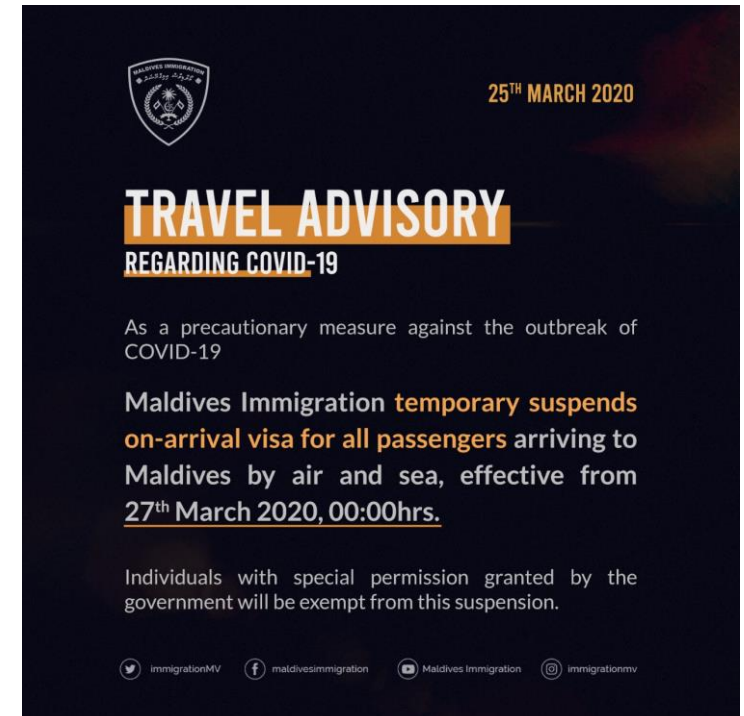
# STEPS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES HAS TAKEN TO COMBAT THE PANDEMIC

\* GOM extended the closure established on 19 March 2020, by another week, from Sunday 29 March onwards. This includes Schools and Universities.

\* All staff at resorts will be quarantined for 14 days from the date of the departure of the last guest, and then allowed to leave the resort.

\* Unless the disease is controlled globally we cannot say it will not spread in Maldives.

\* On arrival visa has been temporarily suspended.



# ECONOMIC DAMAGE MITIGATION MEASURES IN PLACE

- \* Bank of Maldives announced a moratorium for all loan payments allowing deferment of loan repayment by 6 months, which is added to the tenure.
- \* Utility bills are currently subsidized: 30% for water and 40% for electricity
- \* Reduction of internet pricing
- \* MVR2.5 billion economic aid package has been established. Loan applications for this package will be open from next week onwards.
- \* Loan scheme for wild tuna export companies has been established. Other measures for this industry will be announced next week.
- \* Farming – GOM plans to make a trading platform through State Trading Organisation Plc (STO), to enable sales of agricultural products while avoiding the transportation barriers
- \* Student loans – repayments suspended for 6 months.

# ECONOMIC PACKAGE BY THE GOM

- \* MVR2.5 billion economic aid package established.
- \* GOM established economic packages for tourism facility operators on condition no Maldivians will lose their jobs due to this crisis.
- \* SME and home owners with housing loans can use the economic package to reduce burden on people who live on rent.
- \* Small businesses who operate without loans can apply for the economic package as GOM anticipates COVID-19 related repercussions on businesses for the next 12 months.



# SOCIAL WELLBEING OF COMMUNITY

- \* STO assured availability of stock of staple food for 1 month, which will be available through their outlets in the atolls. STO estimates to increase the stock enough for 10 months by 15 April 2020.
- \* Oil stocks to be replenished and STO assures no disruptions.
- \* Currency swap transactions with India will be utilised to prevent a 3- 4 month of currency shortage. Foreign loans will also be sourced to prevent dollar shortage.
- \* All Maldivians, NGOs and opposition has the opportunity to assist the COVID-19 prevention measures.
- \* Maldives has gone into lockdown. People cannot enter Maldives after 27 March 2020. No disruptions will be faced to essential services.
- \* GOM housing scheme flat rents also postponed for 6 months.
- \* GOM has plans to invest a lot more on fisheries storage package, farming and shipping investments will be detailed via the economic package, Maldives State Shipping Company will be established next month.

# FOREIGN AID

## \* International Aid:

- World bank awarded a US\$ 10 million grant.
- OPEC, AIIB, ADB – GOM in discussions with these parties for aid now.

\* If the anticipated aid from foreign countries don't materialize GOM assures financial institution like ADB, WB and IDB will be our alternative.

\* No plans to take IMF loans. Terms would entail lowering number of civil servants. So this is not the time to privates and layoff civil servants.

\* No international aid from individuals have been confirmed yet. Saudi promised US\$ 50 million. The aid agreement will be signed as soon as Saudi open borders.

\* Alibaba CEO's aid to Maldives will reach Singapore tomorrow. If there is a need to bring the Chinese aid to Maldives, it will be brought via a special chartered flight.

# CURRENT PICTURE OF TOURISM IN MALDIVES

\* Tourism is the largest sector responsible for bringing foreign currency into the nation.

\* Currently 50 resorts have suspended their operations. All resorts may go to shut down in the next 2 to 3 weeks temporarily with the entry ban which has come into effect as of 27 March 2020.

\* Once the last passenger leaves from the local resorts, all staff will be quarantined for 14 days and then allowed to leave the resort.

# AFFECTS ON INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE MALDIVES

- \* GOM is in discussions to find the lightest ways for existing loan repayments.
- \* The largest loan is currently from China and HEP has requested the Chinese President for a more relaxed loan payment terms.
- \* Thilafushi, Male' Bridge construction will go on as planned. It is being built using a pre-agreed loan from India.
- \* There are no plans to halt the 10 billion worth PSIP projects in the pipeline now.

# STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TO PROTECT OUR STAKEHOLDERS

There has been several discussions with the board members and relevant authorities. The association has reached out to the members and liaised with the Maldives National Association of Construction Industry- MNACI to reach out to the following ministries and banks, explaining our concerns and proposals. We are proud that the GOM's economic package and other decisions have been built on the input of such entities.

- The President's Office
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure
- Maldives Monetary Authority
- Bank of Maldives
- Habib Bank
- Mauritius Commercial Bank
- HSBC
- Bank of Ceylon
- Commercial Bank of Maldives
- Maldives Islamic Bank



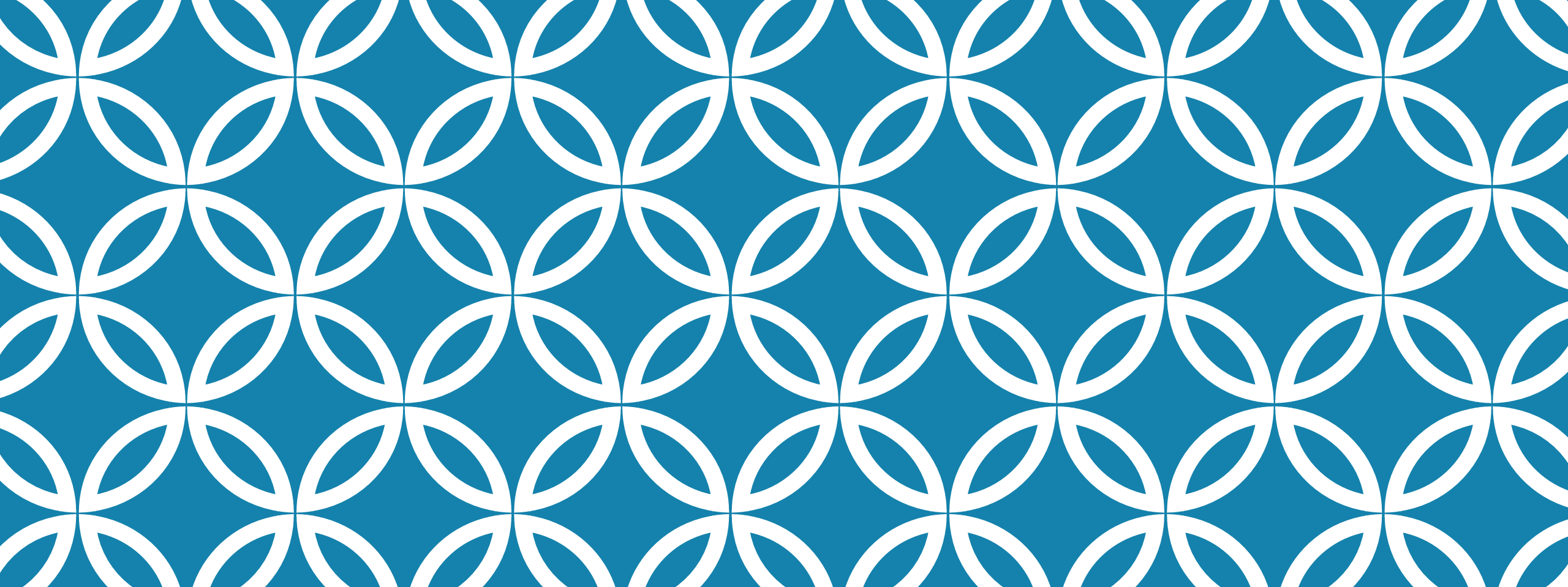
# FORECAST

\* We are aware how millions are getting unemployed in Europe and USA due to COVID-19. And we are happy to note that this is not the case in Maldives. Economic packages offered by GOM to the businesses are expected to help this process.

\* HEP's first estimate was 6 months and he still believes that. But we do have to factor in the status of destinations which tourists come from. HEP believes that in Maldives there will be a huge tourism boom in the last Quarter of 2020 and 1st Quarter of 2021.

\* The effects of the pandemic is expected to stretch at least for a year.

\* President's target is to cure all cases who are already positive to COVID-19 in Maldives and prevent new cases.



**WISHING YOU ALL GOOD HEALTH!**

**Thank you**

Main Information Sources:

[www.covid19.health.gov.mv](http://www.covid19.health.gov.mv)

[www.presidency.gov.mv](http://www.presidency.gov.mv)

[www.bmi.com.mv](http://www.bmi.com.mv)

[www.immigration.gov.mv](http://www.immigration.gov.mv)

[www.health.gov.mv](http://www.health.gov.mv)