



Domestic & Foreign Policy

The Government of Maldives

The Five Key Pledges

Establish an Integrated Transport Network



Policies

1. Development of a transport network will facilitate inter island, atoll and regional travel fostering regional development. This would lead to an equitable distribution of wealth thus enhancing economic development. Furthermore, a transport network would enable social and commercial networking within the country.
2. A transport network will reduce dependency of the island communities on the capital island, Male' for basic services. This would encourage residents to use affordable transport within the atoll and region as essential services will be provided closer to home.

Short Term Pledges (1 – 3 years)

1. Introduce a ferry transport system, utilizing existing resources and by engaging the private sector

Long Term Pledges (1 – 5 years)

1. Develop a nation-wide transport network and in return the Government will provide assistance in commercial sector to interested parties.
2. Government being the regulator and to attract private investment the government will provide subsidies to the interested parties.
3. Enhance regional economic development, further government assistance will be provided to ensure the establishment of a transport network.

4. Widen the benefits of the transport system which will link markets and services of different islands through the network. Affordable transport system will be provided to all residents irrespective of their income.
5. Passenger and cargo terminals will be constructed to reduce inconvenience during passenger and cargo arrivals and departures at both domestic and international level.
6. Construct storage and warehouses in regional airports. Therefore, goods will be directly transported to designated atolls.

Affordable Living Costs

Policies

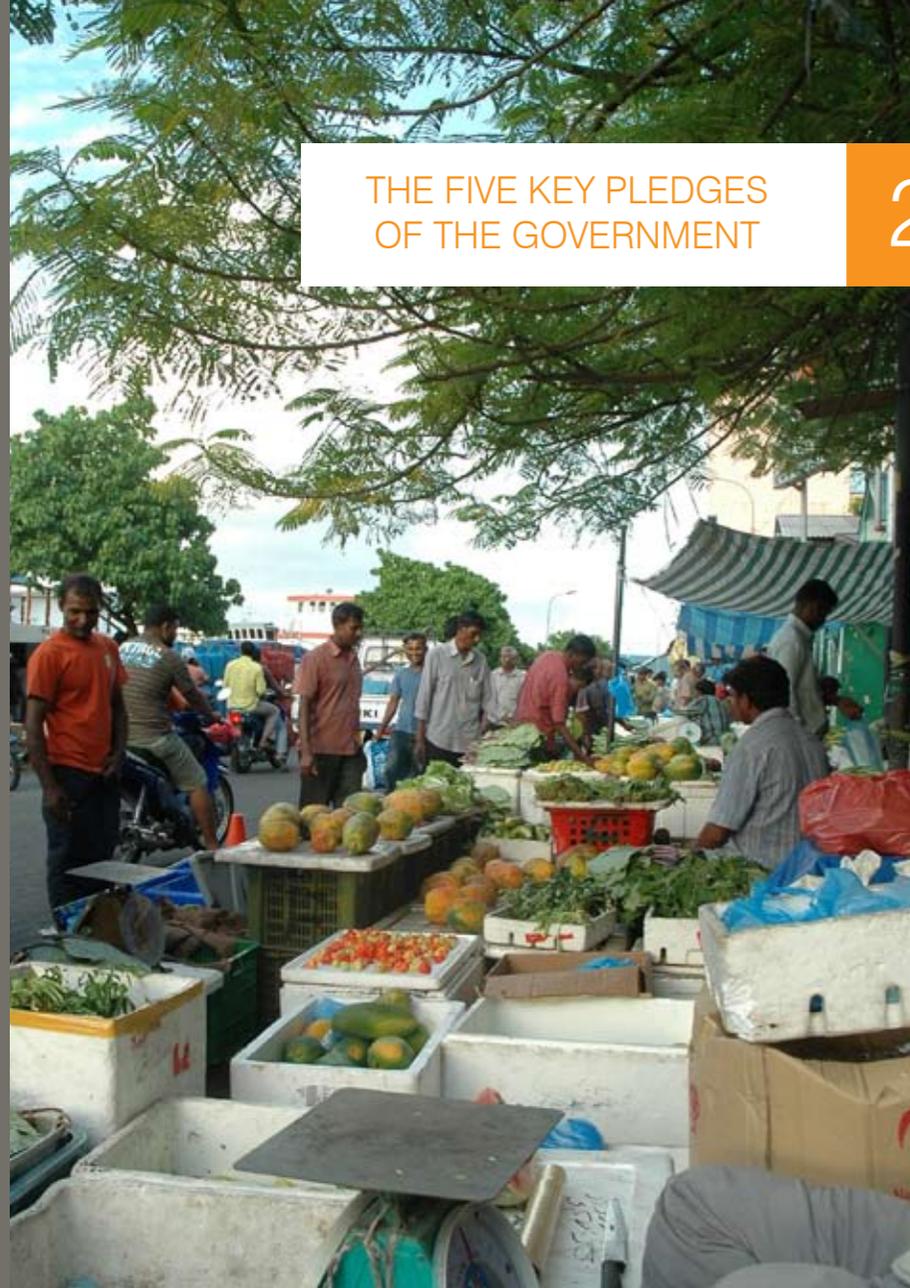
1. Make economic development plans that will discourage sudden price fluctuations and ensure optimum cash flow in the economy.
2. Stabilize rent and price of land by providing financial assistance for the construction industry.
3. Government expenditure to be based on sustainable revenue and make them productive while immediately eliminating wasteful government spending.

Short Term Pledges (1 – 3 years)

1. Abolish import tax on all food products and facilitate stabilization of price of all staple and other foods at affordable rates.
2. Abolish import taxes on medicines and fuel, thereby complementing the initiatives in the fisheries, agriculture, transport and other related economic activities.
3. Make the Government accountable for expenditure by creating an independent Public Accounts Committee.
4. Facilitate immediate transfer of warehouses to unused plots in Hulhumale' currently designated for commercial use. Reduce government tax on stored goods, thereby helping to further reduce costs of products required for daily living.
5. Facilitate financial loans through banks and financial markets to all small and medium enterprises so that they may prosper and thereby increasing employment opportunities.
6. The government's economic plans will be made in accordance with the available resources. Benefits to the public will outweigh political gains and will ensure there will be no sudden price fluctuations.

Long Term Pledges (1 – 5 years)

1. Recognizing the heavy national debt incurred plan will be created to restructure the national debt repayment.
2. Introduce a tax regime that will only tax business profit.
3. Considering the geographical location of the country develop a trans-shipment port in the country. The government will not use the port for political gain and will only be used with the aim to reduce the cost of living.
4. Make the Maldives a regional centre in the financial market.



Affordable Housing

Policies

1. Provide appropriate housing to all Maldivian families.
2. Identify large islands with potential for development and make building and constructions available at affordable rates. Facilitate low interest housing loans, build flats for housing and facilitate the development of a real estate market.



Short Term Pledges (1 – 3 years)

1. Provide permanent housing to all the victims of the December 2004 Tsunami within 6 months to one year.
2. Provision of a legal framework that will encourage public service ventures interested in real estate.



Long Term Pledges (1 – 5 years)

1. Foster regional development to reduce overcrowding in the capital, Male'.
2. Formulate and implement a Development Plan together with a Land Use Plan for every island of the country.
3. Revive the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) as an institution with the capacity to issue low-interest loans in a sustainable manner to those seeking finance for housing.

Ensure Affordable and Quality Healthcare

Policies

1. Access to quality health services is a right of each individual to be healthy. The Government believes that providing quality health services goes in hand with providing socio-economic services. The policies of the medical service will be planned according to international standards, in a way that makes it less costly for the local people to acquire healthcare.
2. Introduce a basic health insurance scheme that is available for all people to participate.
3. Improve the quality of medical services in each regional hospital eliminating the need to travel to the capital Male' except for specialised treatment.

4. Give special attention to training the required people for the medical industry, and ensure local professionals from the region will be employed in the respective regions.
5. Make health personnel industry accountable for their services to the people, and create a setting whereby it is possible to deal with legal issues that arises from incompetent services being provided by the medical staff. Furthermore making the medical employees not liable for situations that occur due to the actions of the government.
6. Find out the needs of the local people, in order to expand the services of the medical industry and help out in this expansion. For the first time in Maldives, create an environment that will welcome foreign investments to set up businesses and provide medical services in the country to provide quality services to the people.

Short Term Pledges (1-3 years)

1. Provide a system in each island where the price of basic medical services and the necessary medicines are available within reach of the local people.
2. Introduce a reliable and trustworthy Health Insurance Scheme and strengthen the National Registration System in a way that no one can influence it
3. In a critical situation where the patient needs to be transferred from one place to another, such a system will be established.
4. Maintain the quality of the services provided by the medical staff and the institutions, continuous programs will be held.

5. Reduce repetition of programs in order to reduce wasteful Government spending

Long Term Pledges (1-5 years)

1. A system of saving safe drinking water to be used in an emergency or unexpected situation will be brought in to use.
2. Job opportunities will be made available for people who are trained from a particular island or region in their own island or region.
3. Adequate sewerage system will be built and will be maintained properly
4. Develop regional hospitals to deliver quality and affordable services will be provided to eliminate the need to travel to Male' unless for specialized medical services.
5. Opportunities will be provided to practice complementary medicine under certain rules and regulation.
6. Ensure that most of the head nurses and doctors working in the health centers and hospitals are locals, and invest substantial amount of money in training programs that are carried out to improve the quality of their services.
7. Build hospitals that provide quality medical services

Close all Doors for Entry of Narcotics

Policies

1. Instead of treating substance abuse as a criminal offense, treat the abuser as a victim, and work towards rehabilitation and give priority to bring the youths back to society. Conduct more awareness programs for youth and take preventive measures against substance abuse.
2. The pathways that are being used to bring in narcotic drugs will be strictly checked and closed down
3. All those carrying out the business of selling drugs will be treated on the same basis under the law and legal actions will be taken against them.



4. Stop the spread of substance abuse in Maldives by increasing the role of families and Non Government Organizations and provide the assistance for them.

Short Term Pledges (1-3 years)

1. Provide modern technology to monitor, supervise and control country's drug gateways.
2. Treat criminals on equal basis with no preferential treatment based on the individual. The Government will do its best to ensure recidivism will be reduced and return convicted individuals to the community.

3. Formulate a law to prohibit distribution of substance abuse in prison and take legal action against them.
4. Separate those convicted of drug trade from other inmates in the prisons.

Long Term Pledges (1- 5 years)

1. Proper treatment will be given to people addicted to narcotics. Moreover provide opportunities to those addicts who volunteer for rehabilitation and get back into society the laws related to narcotics will be amended.
2. Stop the narcotics coming into those places used to detain the people involved in substance abuse.
3. Make Maldives free and safe from drug abuse.

Foreign Policy

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 stands and initiatives or practice at home.
4. Will respect all the international commitments of our country and fulfil all obligations under international treaties and conventions of which our country is party to
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. We will adhere to all international instruments on democracy and human rights and promote and participate in national, regional and international activities.
8. We are strongly committed to regional cooperation.
9. We strongly support globalization and trade liberalisation and support 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 their 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 rationalising it.
16. Setup 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 NGO's 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 globalisation.
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 organisations 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.



The President's Office

Boduthakurufaanu Magu, Male', Republic of Maldives, Tel: +960 332 3701, Fax: +960 332 5500

www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv