

## **Returning Maldives to the People:**

### **Policies of the Maldivian Democratic Party**

(Based on policy document endorsed by the Extraordinary Congress – August 2006)

#### **Our Vision: A Maldives that is free, just, and prosperous**

We envisage a state founded on the basic tenets of Islam, justice, and democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and individual liberties. This state will bring economic progress to all the citizens of the country and fight underdevelopment and inequality.

Our aim is to transform the political, economic and social system of the country to produce a democratic and just society – one free of nepotism, corruption and terrorism.

We are determined to realize a genuinely democratic system of government in the country based on natural justice. The relationship between citizen and state will be radically redefined – fear and parochialism will be replaced by a government that respects the people. We envisage a government accountable to the people and that involves respect for the people.

#### **Our Policies: Taking Maldives to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

MDP policies would ensure that government is:

##### ***Accountable***

The MDP will advocate for a constitution that clearly defines the powers of the executive, legislature and judiciary and with the necessary check and balances to ensure that there be no undue influence of one branch on another.

##### ***Fair and just***

The MDP would work to eliminate discrimination of all kinds, whether based on political belief, social or economic standing, or gender. The rule of law will be steadfastly adhered to and will never be subverted for political ends. The MDP will bring fairness in development, bringing economic development to the poor and reducing inequality.

##### ***Safeguard the rights of the people***

This would be enshrined in a Bill of Rights that guarantees not just the civil and political rights of an individual, but their economic and social rights. These rights shall be based on the principles of equality.

### ***Efficient***

MDP policies would limit government's focus to regulating and facilitating economic growth. Over-bureaucratic state institutions would be made leaner. Greater power will be given to the private sector and civil society to bring development to the country.

### ***Decentralized***

Power will be devolved as far as possible, putting control in the hands of those closest to the people. Island and atoll chiefs will be elected by their constituents. The People will be involved in decision making processes.

In line with greater decentralization Ministries will be responsible for the implementation of their sectoral developments in the atolls.

## **Sector policies**

### **1. JUSTICE**

The MDP will deliver justice to all regardless of their political belief, economic or social standing. A MDP Government shall provide a remedy for each and every breach of law. The MDP will bring parliamentary oversight to institutions free from executive control.

### ***Regulation by the legislature***

- All regulation shall have Parliamentary support
- Presidential Decrees can only be legally made when Parliament is in recess and shall expire after a limited period of time once Parliament is in session.

### ***Police Commissioner***

- The post of Police Commissioner shall not be a political appointee. The Commissioner shall be a career police officer having undergone specialist police training at a reputable facility with responsible credentials. The appointment shall be approved by a multi-party parliamentary committee. The Commissioner shall retire at the age of 60 and may be removed from office based on the recommendation of an Independent Police Complaints Commission.

- It shall be the prime responsibility of the police to ensure safety for society.
  - There shall be regional police constabularies.
  - There shall be an independent system for considering complaints against the police with multi-party parliamentary representation on its board.

### ***Registrar of Legal Council***

- A Registrar of Legal Counsel shall be maintained which all legal professionals will be required to be registered with.
- Counsels must adhere to a Professional Code of Conduct.
- A Board of Professional Responsibility shall be established, consisting of legal practitioners who will investigate allegations of misconduct. The Board shall advise the Registrar of Legal Counsel as to the actions to be taken if found guilty of misconduct.

### ***Public Defenders Office***

- A Public Defenders Office will be established with counsels engaged to provide legal representation to those who cannot afford it or decline to appoint their own counsel. The Government shall pay for this service registered with the Registrar.

### ***Narcotics Control Bureau***

- There shall be a Narcotics Control Bureau which will coordinate with the Customs, the Police, and the Coast Guard to ensure that no narcotics, except legitimate medicinal requirements enter the country.
- The guiding principles when dealing with drug addicts will be treatment and rehabilitation, not punishment. Rehabilitation centers established shall include provision for imparting industrial training schemes together with the necessary counseling and religious and ethical disciplines. Inmates shall be remunerated with a certain percentage retained by the authorities.

### ***Criminal Justice System***

- The Criminal Justice System will focus on rehabilitation of offenders rather than on retribution.
- There shall be a Governor of Prisons whose appointment shall be subject to approval by a multi-party parliamentary committee.

- The Governor shall be appointed for a fixed term of five years but can be reappointed subject to Parliamentary approval. The Governor shall ensure that a system is put in place such that prisoner complaints are heard and action taken to provide them with humane treatment while incarcerated.
- In addition, the Governor shall be responsible for providing a system of rehabilitation to prisoners.
  - Remand prisoners will be kept separate and afforded all their rights required by law.
  - Prisoners' rights will be protected in accordance with international norms.
  - There shall be a Parole Board and a system of Parole developed. A Parole Officer will be assigned to each offender who shall advise the Judge when sentencing on the behavior of the offender since arrest. Upon sentencing, the Parole Officer shall continue his assessments, bringing the case for review once parole is due.

#### ***Office for Legislative Affairs***

- An Office for Legislative Affairs shall be established to liaise, manage and direct all legislative functions between the Parliament and the Government.

#### ***Office of the Attorney General***

- The Attorney General shall act as the government's chief counsel and prosecutor.
- The Attorney General or a nominated Counsel shall represent cases on behalf of the government. The Attorney General shall publish a Prosecution Policy of the government.
- The Attorney General shall not be a cabinet member and shall be a professional appointed by the Majlis.
- It will include the following four departments:
  - **Civil Division** - established to defend the Government on all civil claims and recover monies owed to the Government.
  - **Criminal Division** - established to ensure that sentences handed out are enforced.
  - **Civil Rights Division** - established to take up allegations of abuse of civil rights.

- **Office of the Pardon Attorney** - established to review all executive petitions for clemency and pardon and advise the executive on the same

### ***Director of Public Prosecution (DPP)***

- There shall be an Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, whose appointment shall be subject to approval by a multi party parliamentary committee.
- The DPP shall ensure that prosecutions are based on the merit of the case free from all political influences.
- DPP shall remain in office for a term of 5 years.
- DPP can be reappointed, subject to the multi party parliamentary committee's approval.

## **2. GOVERNANCE: THE ROLE OF THE STATE, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

The basis for governance will include the tenets of Islam and the Constitution. An MDP government will ensure that government is **lean, efficient** and **effective**. The responsibilities of all government employees will be clearly stated and everyone, including senior government officials, will be held accountable for their actions. Both internal and external audit requirements will be developed and overseen by an independent auditor general appointed by, and accountable to, the parliament.

**Civil society** and **the private sector** will be the engine of growth and development in the country while the state shall provide the legal and policy environment conducive to economic and social development. The state shall act to establish and regulate standards to ensure that quality services are provided to the people. The MDP will promote civil society development and empower civil society organizations, including NGOs, pressure groups, and human rights organizations, to effectively engage and participate in national and local level decision making. The MDP will encourage public participation in developing policies and programs by consulting people at all levels.

The role of the government should be in facilitating the development of business through providing an enabling environment for both the private sector and community participation, not in directly conducting businesses competing with the private sector. Direct implementation by government

institutions of, for example, physical infrastructure projects, curtails private sector involvement. Moreover, it distracts from government's role as legislator and enforcer.

Therefore government should ensure that:

- (a) Those services deemed to be basic services shall be available at affordable rates,
- (b) National Development shall be focused on the growth and promotion of economic avenues.
- (c) The government's business engagements are limited to those sectors where private business cannot operate competitively, such as providing utilities
- (d) All private sector initiatives that are in conformity with the Constitution and beneficial to the public are encouraged.
- (e) Internal and External Economic Enterprises are encouraged. Support structures should be established, and legislative and regulatory arrangements should be geared towards facilitating this end.
- (f) An Office for Fair Trading is established and business opportunities made available across the country on an equitable and non discriminatory basis.
- (g) Regional institutions are geared and empowered for effective decentralized management.

In addition, government efficiency will be improved through the introduction of a **decentralized government structure**, with local governance empowered to promulgate and implement local regulations and implement development programs.

**Civil service reforms** will establish a professional and decentralized civil service that brings job security. An independent civil service commission will be set up to safeguard the rights of civil servants and to ensure it is not politicized.

### **3. SOCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT: EQUITY AND ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES**

In all sectors the primary concern shall be **universal access to quality services**. No person shall be deprived of such services due to place of residence, political or social affiliations, gender, age, physical mobility or ability.

Human resources are vital in determining the pace of economic and social development. **Education** is what builds the capacity of these human

resources. A National Curriculum shall be drawn up with the broadest consultation and in line with the tenets of Islam and vital national interests. Every inhabited island shall provide pre-school and primary education (up to grade 7) for all Maldivian children resident in the island.

In relation to the population base of the atolls or regional centers, secondary and higher education (up to grade 12) facilities shall be established at determined locations.

No Maldivian Child shall be deprived of education up to grade 12 based on their financial capability. In this regard the government will facilitate such education either on their resident island or another by providing necessary financial assistance.

Training programs will be implemented that will address the needs of national economic development.

National educational needs for short and long term tertiary education will be identified in relation to the requirements of the country's economic and business needs and the necessary financial assistance/study loans to meet these objectives will be made available.

Government will ensure that standards and quality of education provided across the country are maintained and sustained uniformly.

Institutions of learning across the nation will be developed and facilitated in line with the population bases in the different regional centers and education and training made available that meets the specific needs of the national economy.

**Health services** should be developed with the participation of both the local community and the private sector. The MDP will introduce a phased and time-bound program for health education and setting up a well-dispersed network of comprehensive health care services.

The party will:

- Make basic health services available at affordable rates on every inhabited island.

- Develop and implement health awareness programs for prevention of disease; and encourage the consumption of healthy options in diet and lifestyle.
- Focus on the development of health specialists.
- Upgrade health service delivery through capacity building and provision of advanced medical technology.
- Establish a reliable and workable system to cater to the medical needs of less able people and geriatrics.
- A medical insurance scheme will be developed and implemented where participation of all citizens is practical.
- Facilitate and encourage the role and share of private enterprise in health for the promotion and development of medical services.
- Facilitate the establishment of an internationally renown hospital in the Maldives, with a view of reduce the need for medical travel abroad.
- Establish effective and reliable sanitation and waste disposal systems.
- Ensure availability of clean and safe drinking water to all Maldivian.

**Sports** and physical activities play a crucial role in building the character of individuals and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Whilst government can facilitate the development of sport, private entrepreneurs will be used to develop this sector.

MDP will develop mechanisms to facilitate the development of sports in the country through the implementation of effective policies:

- All Sports Associations shall be independent entities which will be provided with the necessary support
- Evaluate the regional sporting activities in relation to the capabilities of the local environment and facilities for greater focus and effort
- Support and facilitate the establishment and development of water sports activities in the Maldives, and enable international tournaments in these sports to be held in the Maldives
- Improve and enhance sports infrastructure and invest in the establishment of an Olympic standard swimming pool in the country
- Facilitate sports training programs and courses
- Improve the competitive sports programs in the population centers through effective schemes.

**Youth** make up 50 percent of Maldivian society. This calls for a youth development policy which will unleash the creative energies of young



people in activities useful to themselves and to society more broadly. The youth must also be safeguarded against drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, and a healthy lifestyle promoted as an alternative.

The **elderly** population is increasing as a result of increased life expectancy. With support from the government, the private sector and civil society will help bring better care for the elderly.

**Housing** is a fundamental requirement for every individual. All those in need of housing must be provided with some acceptable form of housing or adequate financing for building homes. This should be done on a first come first served basis without complex and overly-bureaucratic evaluation and allocation schemes – which can lead to further corruption. A MDP government will act as a facilitator while the private sector will implement and provide the housing. Although the role of government will primarily be to set housing standards and enforce laws, the MDP will also ensure affordable housing is provided to low income families.

The MDP will facilitate transport and communication to remote population centers and islands.

#### **4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES AND INCREASING PROSPERITY**

The economic policies of the MDP will create greater opportunity for all the people of the Maldives to benefit from growth and development. This will be achieved by removing restrictions to trade and economic activities, increasing the availability of financing for small and medium enterprises, and increased foreign direct investment.

As a small island state, Maldives has limited natural resources. As a result, the MDP will pay special attention to the use of natural resources such as land, water and sea to ensure that **long-term sustainable development** will be achieved. Our delicate environment is our key asset. Any damage caused to the environment as a result of inaction or negligence will be exorbitant and time consuming to remedy. Therefore effective and practical measures should be taken to avoid all possible damage to the **environment**, including land, sea and the coastal environment.

**Tourism** is the country's fastest growing industry. As such, it must be planned, developed, and managed in a sustainable manner to ensure that (i) Maldivians have the opportunity to participate directly in the industry (ii) the benefits reach all the citizenry, and (iii) more local employment is

provided. Government's role should be to develop the industry, facilitate its promotion, evaluate the socio-environmental impact and take measures to mitigate this risk. In this regard tourists will be allowed to visit and stay at any inhabited island and operation of hotels and guesthouses in inhabited islands will be permitted.

**Fisheries** are the main source of livelihood and employment for most Maldivians and have great potential for further development. The industry should be developed on a sustainable basis, both at the subsistence and commercial level. This will (a) ensure higher standards of livelihood for fishery sector employees and their families (b) increase the export earnings to the country from the industry and (c) increase employment opportunities through diversification of fisheries and fishery products. To achieve this end, the role of the private sector must be enhanced and new entrepreneurs will be encouraged through the amendment of existing commercial fishery exploitation divisions.

The industry must be protected from foreign poachers.

An enabling environment must be provided for the industry's development by the establishment of an appropriate institute for the conduct of training, research and development will be undertaken. The necessary skills and expertise in the sector will be produced.

Loans and financial facilities to build fiber glass industrial fishing vessels and make them available on an equitable basis will be facilitated. The import of necessary development raw materials, equipment and spares for the industry should be exempt from duty.

The establishment of viable mobile fish collection schemes and warehousing facilities to ensure that none of the fish catch is wasted or spoilt will be facilitated.

In spite of acute capacity and resource constraints, **agriculture** continues to (a) provide important components of dietary intake of people (b) be a potential source of employment for people, especially in the outer islands. Therefore the industry should be developed both at the subsistence and commercial level to (a) ensure a supplementary means of dietary intake, income and livelihood for people (b) reduce the outflow of foreign exchange from the country by developing more commercial agriculture.

Islands provided for such economic activity will be provided on a long term lease with a lease waiver for the first five years of operations. The distribution of such produce to resorts /export will be facilitated. The processing of agricultural produce also will be encouraged. In conjunction with island communities, the government will identify islands for agricultural development and for commercial investment. Training and research also will play an important role.

Further assistance to the commercial development of agriculture will be provided by appropriate duty exemptions on seedlings, saplings, machinery and equipment and fertilizers.

The Maldivian workforce is the one renewable asset of the country. The workforce has rights, and these rights must be protected. The Maldives does not have **labor laws** to adequately protect the rights of workers. As a result, public sector employees are being increasingly victimized or rewarded for their political affiliations. In the private sector, basic provisions for indemnity, sick leave and retirement benefits are yet to be developed. An MDP government will promote labor legislation to address these problems, sign international conventions on labor rights, and allow labor unions.

**Public finance** should be managed in the interest of national socioeconomic development. Public spending should be sustainable over the medium to long term without resorting to excessive and unsustainable levels of domestic and external debts. Expenditure should be allocated in a manner that benefits all the people of the country.

The economy of the country will be diversified and made, as far as possible, resistant to external shocks. An MDP government will, in collaboration with the private sector, **diversify the economic base** and facilitate local and foreign initiatives by the private sector towards this end. Duty Free Zones will be established at strategic locations.

**Foreign Direct Investment** should play a pivotal role in bringing the much needed finance and expertise to develop infrastructure and development projects. The areas opened for foreign investment need to be clearly identified and the government's role should be enhanced to (i) actively

seek and promote investments in these areas (ii) remove all deterrents and create a reliable and sustainable enabling environment for FDI.

The **financial sector** will be the most important catalyst of economic growth. The sector must be both broadened and deepened. Financial services will be made available to meet the specific needs of all segments of society.

The **construction industry** will be facilitated through the provision of financing assistance, and encouraging greater Maldivian participation and engagement.

The Maldivian shipping sector will be revamped with opening for the development of two regional transshipment facilities on a BOT basis through a joint venture. These ports will have extensive bunkering facilities and encourage the employment and involvement of Maldivian youth.

Shipping will be further encouraged by ensuring proper oversight and enabling foreign vessel registration. One of the key focus elements in this regard is to ascertain that at least 10% of the crew is Maldivian.

## **5. FISCAL POLICY**

The fiscal policy of the MDP will be based on establishing the confidence of the public on government economic policy planning and implementation and the design and management of its fiscal policies. This will further enhance the national economic performance, increase employment and raise the living standards of the citizenry.

The fiscal policy will address, inter alia:

- government revenue and expenditure
- government revenue through taxation
- diversification of government revenue (PSBR)
- Transfer payments in government expenditure
- Developmental expense in the government expenditure
- Expenses in compensation payments
- Other fiscal instruments

The fiscal management will focus on ensuring a stable economy that involves minimal government intervention in economic regulation. The **five principles** of fiscal management: transparency, stability, responsibility, fairness, and efficiency will entail the following:

**Transparency** will be evident in setting fiscal policy objectives, its implementation, publication of national accounts, and in its support for monetary policy.

**Stability** will be attained in the policy-making process and in the resultant impact of fiscal policy on the business community and through it, the economy.

**Responsibility** in the management of public finances shall be achieved through empowered decentralized decision-making towards coordinated economic targets. Such fiscal responsibilities shall be defined in a Fiscal Responsibility Act.

**Fairness** shall be an integral part of fiscal planning to ensure policy will not adversely affect future generations, particular regions, or social strata. The public, through participating in the political process, can select a particular fiscal choice.

**Efficiency** will be achieved in both the design and implementation of fiscal policy and in achieving a balance of both sides of the public balance sheet, especially leaning towards direct taxation (as opposed to indirect taxes such as land tax or bed tax).

At an individual level, the fiscal policy will be geared to limit recurrent expenditure and establish key economic facilities. Public Sector Borrowing Ratio (PSBR) will continue to favor national development.

The key fiscal target will be a taxation policy that encourages individual economic wellbeing that leads to national development.

Setting strategic goals to ensure full employment and low inflation will be the policy of an MDP government and will not be swayed by short term political gains.

The policy will consider macro economic management and reduce indirect taxation as much as is practical. Direct taxation levels will be set to promote overall benefit to the population on an equitable basis.

## **6. MONETARY POLICY**

A monetary policy shall be established by the MDP that is guided by an independent institution that has financial intermediaries as its members.

The monetary policy shall be designed to promote **economic stability** by delivering low and **stable inflation** measured through a Consumer Price Index (CPI). Economic stability is a precondition to sustainable growth in employment and national output.

The CPI used to measure to inflation whose basket of commodities needs to be re-evaluated on a regular basis given the rapidly evolving socio-political environment.

The Monetary Authority will be an independent agency working for the stability of the markets and to promote investor confidence. The agency will:

- Plan and implement monetary policy
- Manage the money supply
- Participate in capital markets on behalf of the government
- Act as the central bank
- Implement related monetary instruments

## **7. FOREIGN POLICY: JOINING THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONS**

MDP's foreign policy will be proactive, structured, goal oriented, principled and aligned with realities at home and abroad.

The Maldives will engage in the international arena as a free and independent nation taking the initiatives, in an active and confident basis to promote harmony and understanding ensuring the security, sovereignty, and national identity of the Maldives.

The MDP is strongly committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law at home and abroad. A MDP government will promote and protect these values and principles regionally and internationally. The MDP would strive to achieve its foreign policy goals through cost-effective, prudent and pragmatic measures.

A MDP government will work systematically to strengthen relations with the international community with special emphasis on relations with regional and close bilateral partners. Further diplomatic relations will be established and strengthened.

Foreign policy goals will include as a key focus facilitating socio-economic development and assisting Maldivians at home and abroad. Trade

promotion, tourism promotion, opening up new business opportunities for Maldivians, attracting foreign investment to the Maldives, protecting Maldivian investments abroad and providing direct services and assistance to Maldivians and their businesses will also be key responsibilities of Maldivian missions abroad.

A MDP government will address on a priority basis the issue of visa for Maldivians to travel abroad. In this respect in addition to facilitating foreign visas, the government will work towards establishing visa waiver agreements with all key partner countries.

The representation of Maldives in foreign countries will be driven primarily by the MDP's beliefs in democracy and liberalism and secondarily by socio-economic interests of the nation. Maldivian missions abroad will be proactive in the assistance to Maldivians residing or visiting those countries and act promptly and responsibly when Maldivian citizens are in trouble overseas.

A MDP government will work untiringly with bilateral and multilateral partners to address both **national** and **international issues**. The latter include global environmental protection, security and protection of small states, trade and development of developing countries and the fight against terrorism, and other forms of transnational crime. A peaceful international environment is particularly important for the development and prosperity of small states.

A key role of the foreign missions and ministry will be to facilitate the education and training of Maldivians abroad by assisting in tapping the plentiful opportunities available abroad.

A MDP government will work vigorously with the international community to ensure that national wealth and assets that are embezzled by dictators, tyrants and corrupt officials do not find safe haven in the Maldives and are duly returned to the people.

Maldives will join regional and international organizations in line with the constitution to promote development and good will. A MDP government in the Maldives will remain partners to such treaties and conventions.

MDP foreign policy is geared to regain and strengthen the credibility, respect and goodwill of the international community.

## **8. DEFENCE**

Deterrence and diplomacy will be the fundamental tenants of the MDP government's defence policy. The military strength of the country should be kept at a minimum as Maldives has not been to war and unlikely to be at war in a near future. This would also help to cut down on the unnecessarily high budget currently allocated to defence and use this money to achieve other national development goals. It would also be important to identify that the doctrine of military strength and activeness will ultimately be determined by foreign policy and treaty arrangements with allied countries.

In this regard, defence policy should be decided upon analysis of treaty arrangements with foreign allied countries able to aid and assist the Maldivian military, should the need arise. Such a commitment should not in anyway compromise the national security or the national interests of the country, nor should it be a reason to accommodate a foreign fighting force on Maldivian soil..

We will introduce a Total Defence Concept and emphasize partaking in military operations other than war – notably peace keeping missions. A review of defence policy will look at the changes within the political, economical and social structures in the country and how the military of the country can be aligned with those fundamental changes. These include the role of the military in public life, the objectives of the military and the functions of the military as purely a self defence force. In no way will the defence policy of MDP accommodate any involvement of the defence in internal politics.

### **Objective of the Military (MNDP) in the Maldives**

The objective of the military must be set out in principle within the constitution, clearly defining their rules of engagement and their boundaries of operation during peacetime, though it must be kept in mind that separate rules of engagement for the conduct of military operations have to exist during wartime. The primary objective of the military should be to protect the people, their religion and their property from any external threat that might negate the sovereignty of the Maldives.

### **Total Defence**



MDP government will introduce a Total Defence Concept to meet the needs of the entire nation, and not just to contribute militarily. They would work together with the community in specified national defence issues and fully with the development of the nation and the community. They would consist of five aspects: Military Defence, Civil Defence, Economic Defence, Social Defence, and Psychological Defence. It will be actively provided in schools as well as the general public through schemes, programmes, and courses as well as utilizing the mass media to spread its message. This should be accorded high priority so that the population will be less dependant on the military. In short, anything less then foreign invasion or any far reaching situation should not require the full activation and use of the military.

#### 1 CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil Defence as an aspect of Total Defence stresses the protection of civilians in the event of a natural disaster or an outside threat to the nation as well as the involvement of civilians in assisting when natural disasters occur. The Maldivian National Defence Force trains civil defence volunteers in First aid, rescue, fire fighting and natural disaster evacuation procedures, and Natural Disaster Shelter Management. The MNDF also conducts talks and exercises to familiarize the public with basic first aid, rationing and emergency arrangements for the supply of critical relief items such as blood, water and food.

#### 2 ECONOMIC DEFENCE

Total Defence asserts the need to strengthen and adapt the economy of the Maldives to respond well to and survive any threats. This involves implementing a robust economic system, building up healthy National Reserves and safeguarding financial institutions so that these can continue to function in times of crisis, as well as keeping the economy running smoothly. Its also involves citizens continually retaining themselves to stay employed.

#### 3 SOCIAL DEFENCE

The need to maintain social cohesion and religious harmony in the society and culture of Maldives in the event of an external threat is part of the total defence plan.

#### 4 PSYCHOLOGICAL DEFENCE

The Psychological Defence of Total Defence rests upon the people's pride, patriotism and loyalty to the country, and their commitment to it and its defence in time of need.

### **Maldivian Marine Corp.(MMC) - Ground Forces**

The Marine Corp constitutes the bulk of the ground forces. It should be both ambitious and professional given the geographical conditions of the country and its smaller size. The MDP will examine the feasibility of having 2 Infantry battalions (1080 personnel) as a fighting force, excluding staff for Administration, Logistics, Communication, Training, Engineering, and Transport. These 2 battalions will be divided and deployed in three regions of the country : North, South and Central. The main reason for the declassification of the battalions into 3 regions is due to any potential regional development policies which the government may pursue, and to assist and train the community in areas of the Total Defence Strategy. Priority for recruitment would be given from these regions, considering the employment and livelihoods of potential recruits.

Furthermore a Special Force Unit of (50 personnel) specialised in counter-terrorism would be established, coming under the command of the Marines . This unit would be given the task of protecting the International Airports from a terrorist threat and would perform independently from the Marine Command.

### **Maldivian Coast Guard (MCG) - Naval Forces**

As the Maldives is geographically disparate, the Coast Guard would form the bulk of the armed forces in the country. The Coast Guard would be made up of 3 battalions (1620 personnel) excluding the Administrative, Logistics, Communication, Training, Engineering and Transport Personnel. They would also be classified under three different regions and function under their own regional commanders. Their primary objective is the protection and oversight of the Maldivian territorial waters. Smuggling, trespassing, piracy, economic piracy, search and rescue, and protection of maritime trade routes should also be in the area of their responsibility. The Coast Guard would have the means and the capability to intercept, board, and detain vessels entering Maldivian territorial waters if necessary. The fleet would include fast patrol vessels and search and rescue vessels, indicating the two main functions which it will be most engaged with.

Furthermore a specially trained underwater search and rescue unit (20

personnel) will be established.

### **Age limits**

The enrollment age would be 19 years and a retirement age 55 years will be introduced.

### **Training**

A total of 3 months of basic joint training will be compulsory for all enrolling into the services. Extra training will be given according to the fields of specialisation.

### **Organisation (command structure)**

The Military of the country would be under the executive responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, headed by the Minister of Defence, who would overlook and take responsibilities on behalf of the President (who is the commander in chief of the armed forces).

Since the military is a key institution of the nation and undue influences by the executive branch of government must be eliminated, the command structure the role of the armed forces in the country must be clearly defined in the Constitution as an entity which bears no obligation to favour any particular party or government in power. It must be unbiased and uninfluenced.

Ministry of Defence (civil)

Minister

### **MALDIVIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE**

Joint Chief Of Staff

*Includes Marine & Coast guard Personals)*

#### **Maldivian Marine Corps.(Ground )**

Chief of Marine Corps.

- 1 Administration
- 2 Logistics
- 3 Communication
- 4 Training
- 5 Engineering
- 6 Transport
- 7 2 Btn. Marine Fighting Force
- 8 Anti Terrorist Squad(ATS)

#### **Maldivian Coast Guard(Naval)**

Chief Of Coast Guard

- Administration
- Logistics
- Communication
- Training
- Engineering
- Transport
- Coast Guard Fleet(3 Btn)
- Search & Rescue Unit (divers)

### **The role of the Maldivian Marine Corps:**

- To analyze and assess all external threats to the nation and to take all pre-empt measures.
- To protect the people, their property and the country from external threats and aggressions.
- To respond to all natural disasters and conduct disaster relief operations.
- To provide protection to all International and National Airports.
- To conduct and assist in national development and community building
- To take part in International Peace Keeping Operations
- To train its personnel and guard its own installations.

### **The role of the Maldivian National Coast Guard (MCNG):**

- To protect the EFZ (Exclusive Fisheries Zone) & exclusive economic zone (EEZ)
- To protect the territorial waters of the Nation from all sorts of illegal activities, namely illegal poaching, drug trafficking and arms trafficking.
- To preserve and protect the marine environmental hazards (such as oil spill & chemical dumping).
- To conduct search and rescue missions.
- To respond to all natural disasters and conduct relief operations.
- To train its personnel and guard its own installations.

A MDP government will strive to ensure that the total personnel in the MNDF does not exceed 1.5 percent of the total population.

## **9. COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION**

The development of communications and transport infrastructure is paramount to economic and social development. While the state will continue to invest in the development of public infrastructure, the private sector will play a pivotal role. The government will invest directly in roads and ports, provide state subsidies to make transport affordable where necessary, and support the private sector to invest and develop a **national network of inter-atoll sea transportation**.

The MDP will ensure that there is **freedom of information**. Radio and television will not be exclusively run by the state. Through deregulation, government will encourage private sector and civil society organizations to operate radio and television services.

The isolation and scattered nature of islands make transport and telecommunications essential for economic and social development.

## **10. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE**

The MDP will use its entire means to enact and implement a modern democratic constitution in the Maldives. This Constitution shall have the following features.

- A clear stipulation of **Islam** as the state religion
- A well defined clear **Bill of Rights** of the people, confirming to standards as defined by the **United Nations Declaration of Human Rights** and further adhering to the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** and **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**.
- A well defined and clear set of obligations of the state.
- A clear **division of political power** between an **executive**, a **legislature**, and a **judiciary**, with each branch having separate and independent powers and areas of responsibility; and with each branch able to place limits on the power exerted by the other branches.
- A **parliamentary government** with a **cabinet**, headed by a **Prime Minister** who is the **head of government** and the leader of the leading political party or group of parties in the parliament; where the ministers of the cabinet have their background in the parliament and remain members thereof while serving in cabinet; where the cabinet faces direct questioning by **Opposition Political Parties**; where the cabinet, or single members thereof, can be removed by the parliament through a vote of no confidence; where, the head of state, who is the **President** of the Republic can dissolve the parliament and call extraordinary elections; where the role of head of state and head of government are separated, and where the head of state is primarily a ceremonial position who has powers only exercisable upon the advice and approval of the parliament.
- A **legislature** with the number of representatives elected proportional to the population of each Atoll, who form a deliberative assembly with the power to adopt laws, and who are supreme and appoints the executive and who have exclusive authority to raise taxes and adopt the budget and other money bills and who's consent is required to ratify treaties and declare war.

- A three-tier **judiciary** made up of (i) **Magistrate Courts** in each island, (ii) a **High Court** in Male' with a branch of the High Court established as a **District Court** in each Atoll and (iii) a **Supreme Court**, who shall decide on constitutional issues and be the highest court of appeal in the country. The courts are to be administered only by the executive and where all judges are appointed by the President, following orders from the Minister of Justice on the advice of the Judicial Appointments Council. The advice of the council should always be followed and the independence of judges is ensured by protecting them from arbitrary removal or transfer.
- An **executive** obliged with enforcing all laws passed by the parliament and with the authority to administer the prisons and the police force, and prosecutes criminals in the name of the state and conduct foreign relations and command the armed forces and appoint state officials, and administer government departments and public services, including the work of government agencies and similar bodies through elected local governments at Atoll and Island levels and issue secondary legislation, ordinances, edicts or decrees as prescribed by the law.
- Forms a number of state **bodies independent from the executive** to include:
  - A **Prosecutor General** who is the state's chief legal prosecutor, and the primary lawyer in the Supreme Court
  - An **Auditor General** appointed by the parliament entrusted to aid accountability by conducting independent financial audits of all state operations, who reports to the parliament
  - A **Public Broadcasting General** appointed by the parliament entrusted with all state financed broadcasting and dissemination of news and information.
  - A **Human Rights Commission** empowered by legislation based on **Paris Principles**
  - A **Civil Service Commission** headed by a **Commissioner** appointed by the Parliament, that
    - contributes to the development of an effective and impartial Civil Service
    - makes appointments based on merit
    - considers appeals under a Civil Service Code
    - issues a Recruitment Code which provides an effective and flexible approach to recruitment at all levels

- ensures compliance with this Code
- chairs and oversees the process of selection of senior civil servants
- investigates complaints from civil servants under the Civil Service Code
- works with government departments to ensure understanding and effective application of the principles it upholds
- Shares best practice and supports innovation.
- A **Police Complaints Commission** headed by a **Commissioner** appointed by the parliament which
  - is responsible for overseeing the system for handling complaints made against police
  - supervises police investigations
  - has independent investigative powers
  - issues binding recommendations upon the executive
- An **Election Commission** headed by a **Commissioner** appointed by the parliament whose office aims to promote integrity, involvement and effectiveness in the democratic process and who acts as the registrar of political parties.
- An **Anti Corruption Commission** headed by a Commissioner appointed by the parliament entrusted to stop the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.
- A **Judicial Service Commission** headed by a Commissioner appointed by the Parliament with the other members of the Commission drawn from the legal service. The commission will nominate candidates for all judicial offices after consultation with the Prime Minister, the appropriate Cabinet Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the parliamentary committee overseeing the administration of justice. The commission will be empowered to investigate complaints against judges and officials of courts that are subordinate to the High Court, and may take disciplinary actions against them.
- A **Central Bank**, headed by a Governor entrusted with the monetary policy of the country and whose responsibilities include:
  - maintaining the stability of the national currency and money supply
  - controlling subsidized loan interest rates

- acting as a lender of last resort to the banking sector during times of financial crisis
- exercising supervisory powers to ensure that banks and other financial institutions do not behave recklessly or fraudulently