

# boatinginsider

by NBAM

National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM)

Phone: +960 797 0033 | Email: info@boating.mv

Edition 1 | July 2020



## Maldives Reopens Borders, Welcomes Back First Tourists

After almost four months since the suspension of on-arrival tourist visas, Maldives tourism industry has reopened with enhanced precautionary measures against COVID-19. The first tourists arrived this morning onboard Qatar Airways which landed in Velana International Airport (VIA). Connecting from various countries, 107 foreigners and 24 Maldivians arrived on the first commercial flight to land in Maldives since borders closed for tourists on March 27, 2020.

The momentous occasion was graced by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Acting Minister of Tourism, Acting...

P:02

## NBAM President Ahmed Afrah Appointed as a Board Member of MPRC

President of the National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) Ahmed Afrah has been appointed as a board member of state-owned destination promotion organisation, Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC).

In addition to being the current President of the NBAM, Ahmed Afrah is also one of the founders of the association and has served actively on the executive board and management team over the past decade. Besides that, Ahmed Afrah is the Executive Director of Canopus Maldives, one of the leading safari operators in the country...

P:04

## The Hawks Announces Same Retail Prices Across their Fuel Stations in the Maldives

The Hawks is happy to announce that their retail customers can get fuel for the same rate from all their fuel stations in the Maldives; whether in Male', Thilafushi, B. Dharavandhoo, or B. Kamadhoo. The company highly values customer satisfaction and understands the effects of the current situation of all businesses and services.

The new price for diesel and petrol will be as follows;

- Diesel: MVR 7.60
- Petrol: MVR 7.60

A total of 18 vessels are continuously in operation to deliver...

P:05

BE A MEMBER  
OF NBAM

TO ENJOY  
BOATING  
privilege



# boatinginsider

by NBAM

## Maldives Reopens Borders, Welcomes Back First Tourists



After almost four months since the suspension of on-arrival tourist visas, the Maldives tourism industry has reopened with enhanced precautionary measures against COVID-19. The first tourists arrived this morning onboard Qatar Airways which landed in Velana International Airport (VIA). Connecting from various countries, 107 foreigners and 24 Maldivians arrived on the first commercial flight to land in Maldives since borders closed for tourists on March 27, 2020.

The momentous occasion was graced by the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Honorable Aishath Nahula, Acting Minister of Tourism, Uz. Fayyaz Ismail, Acting Managing Director of the Maldives Airports Company Ltd (MACL), Mr. Moosa Solih, and Senior Dignitaries of Government and

Industry Stakeholders. The flight was welcomed by a water salute organized by MACL. As tourists disembarked onto a beautiful day in the Maldives, they were warmly welcomed to the new normal at VIA. Precautionary measures such as social distancing, minimal touch points, frequent sanitization and mask wearing are in place to ensure the safety of all visitors and staff at VIA.

The tourism sector is the worst hit of all major economic sectors with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is especially true in the Maldives, where tourism accounts for the majority of foreign exchange earnings. Nevertheless, the health and safety of tourists and residents in the Maldives have always been paramount and the resumption of the tourism industry was only given the go ahead following extensive consultations with health professionals and all stakeholders. A COVID-19 safe tourism guideline was further issued by the Ministry of Tourism along with a certification program to ensure the safety and hygiene standards of all tourism facilities which include accommodation, transportation, airports and other related facilities.

Resorts, hotels and liveboards located on uninhabited islands are allowed to resume operations from July 15, 2020 whereas hotels and guest houses located on inhabited islands will be allowed to open from August 1, 2020.

## MTCC Continues Public Transport Services with Increased Schedules



MTCC has resumed the majority of their Transport Services under the New Normal conditions.

Maldives Transport and Contracting Company Plc (MTCC) has announced the return of normal schedules after ease of restrictions in the current Phase 3 of the fight against COVID-19 in the Maldives.

Vilimale' ferry schedule returns to a 24 hours operation which consists of trips every 5-10 minutes starting in the morning at 0545 hours till 0215 hours and 1 trip per hour from 0215 hours to 0515 hours. Moreover, Premium ferry boats to Hulhumale' will operate between 0600 hours till 2330 hours on a 1 trip every hour interval, with

additional trips added during the morning office peak hours.

Male' – Gulhifalhu ferry service will be available from 0715 hours to 2345 hours. Additionally, Male' – Thilafushi ferry boats are scheduled from 0730 hours to 0015 hours.

As the public transport services has resumed in Hulhumale', bus services will continue in the region starting at 0535 hours till 2355 hours; while Metro Airport Shuttle Bus will operate from 0530 hours to 0030 hours between Hulhumale' and Velana International Airport.

Atoll Ferry Operations have also resumed with normal schedules in 17 atolls with the exception of Kaafu atoll and

Ferries that connect to Male'. Cargo Ferry Operations has also resumed with Ferries operating between Male', Villingili, Thilafushi and Gulhifalhu.

The company urges all passengers to remember to wear face masks during the commute, and to maintain 3 feet apart distancing measures during ferry embarkation, during the journey and disembarkation.

MTCC appreciated the efforts of its staff working in Transport Division for going above and beyond to fulfill transportation needs during the COVID-19 lockdown.



# boatinginsider

by NBAM

## Palm Tree Marine – Your Trusted Marine Partner in a New Location



Since 1997, Palm Tree Marine Pvt Ltd has emerged as an undisputed market leader in the field of trading in the Marine, Industrial & Power Generation Sector in the Maldives. Over the years, they have set the benchmark in the market by launching brand new quality products and providing their customers with the opportunity to experience state-of-the-art technology in marine & industrial engines, accessories and equipment.

The company is stringent in delivering Genuine and Quality products to their customers, building immense brand loyalty and satisfaction.

Known for valuing and giving close attention to their well-established relationships with boat builders, repairing companies, fishing vessels and local transportation systems, Palm Tree Marine holds a good market share for Engines and Generators, providing top quality products and promising the delivery of optimal solutions, as your most Trusted Marine Partner.

The relocated showroom near North Harbor will provide easy access to the Boating Sector; especially for the supply boats, safari boats and other vessels utilised for cargo via North Harbour T-Jetty.

## Leading Boatyards & Slipways Re-Opens to Commence Operations



Most of the boats have been anchored across the Maldivian shores for almost three months. They have undergone renovations and are geared up to finish the dry-docking services – ready to cruise again with the reopening of the borders. Below are the leading boatyards and slipways in the Maldives:

1. Gulf Craft Boatyard
2. Al Shaali Marine Boatyard
3. MTCC Boat Yard
4. Guarantee Fiberglass
5. Offshore Boat Yard
6. Lonestar Yoosubbe Boatyard (LSYB)
7. Gulhi Slipway Boatyard
8. Maldives Marine Services Boatyard

## Maldives to Ban Import of Single-Use Plastics Starting Jan 2021



On June 10, 2020, Parliament Member Mohamed Visaam proposed an amendment to ban the import of single-use plastic into the Maldives starting from 2021. The bill proposed to the Export Import Act included command to charge import duties for items such as plastic film/sheet, plastic bags and plastic plates until the end of 2020.

Back in July 2019, The People's Majlis passed a bill calling on the Government to ban single-use plastics by 2025. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly last year, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih announced a comprehensive phase-out of single-use plastic items in

the Maldives. He stated that the most polluting single-use plastic items, such as small water bottles and many single-use plastic bags, would be phased out by 2023.

Under various environmental initiatives, numerous tourist resorts of the Maldives have ended the use single-use plastic items, including bottles, drinking straws, and more. According to the recently imposed bill, the Maldives will officially ban the import of single-use plastics effective from January 2020, in addition to charging import duties on cigarettes, cigars and alcohol as well as non-biodegradable items.

# boatinginsider

by NBAM

## Gulf Craft Continues to Pay Full Salary to Employees Amidst Global Health Crisis



Gulf Craft has announced that they will continue to pay the full salaries of all their employees amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic with the lockdown for the past 2.5 months. The UAE's pioneering shipyard hopes that more companies will follow suit at this critical time, as employees should be recognized as a company's greatest asset. Gulf Crafts boatyard and team ensures that they will be available through their emails and relevant contact numbers at any time, from Sunday to Thursday strictly following the HPA and relevant authorities' guidelines.

100,000 square-feet, Manufacturing unit and Marine Service Centre in the Maldives was the very first investment from the Middle East of its kind in the Asian Marine industry. The facility which was launched in the year 2000 produces top quality yachts, pleasure boats, and rapid transport vessels, benchmarking the market share in Maldives in the Marine industry.

Coming from humble beginnings established in 1982, Gulf Craft was formed with a vision of producing the world with the finest "Made in UAE" luxury yachts and leisure boats. The growing portfolio features the ultra-luxury series of Majesty Yachts, the ocean-going Nomad Yachts, Silvercraft fishing

boats, Oryx sport cruisers, and the Utility Series of touring, passenger and multipurpose transportation vessels. These distinctive vessels, inspired by the skills of the region's forefathers. Growth and higher demand have enabled Gulf Craft to produce larger vessels for a wider market and increase annual production capacity. Gulf Craft has grown into an international manufacturer of top-quality yachts for a global clientele, winning customers in the American, Asian as well as European markets. Today, Gulf Craft is one of the top ten superyacht builders in the world and markets its yachts and boats to 50 countries worldwide, through its dealer network.

A work ethos of innovation with passion has been influential in making Gulf Craft as one of the top seven shipyards in the world, backed by a strong global network spanning Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

Gulf Craft envisages success not as the reward for its innovation, but as a motivation to set out on a path of difference, with dedication and commitment, while creating ocean-going masterpieces that truly belong to the waters of the world.

## NBAM President Ahmed Afrah Appointed as a Board Member of MMPRC



President of the National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) Ahmed Afrah has been appointed as a board member of state-owned destination promotion organisation, Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC).

In addition to being the current President of the NBAM, Ahmed Afrah is also one of the founders of the association and has served actively on the executive board and management team over the past decade. Besides that, Ahmed Afrah is the Executive Director of Canopus Maldives, one of the leading safari operators in the country that owns and operates luxury yacht – Dhinasha. Furthermore, he is the Managing Director of Canopus Retreats, a leading guesthouse developer in the Maldives.

Ahmed Afrah has over 13 years' experience in the industry, along with a Master's degree in

International Business and a Bachelor's degree in Business Management & Marketing.

Members of the NBAM conveyed their contentment and gratitude regarding the appointment as it enables the industry's interests to be shared and included in the national tourism promotions, plans and strategies.

The National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) is the National Association representing the Liveboards of the country. The association has been the voice of liveboards since the formation of the NBAM in 2007.

With the purpose of helping the association members to grow their businesses successfully and sustainably, the NBAM further aids clients and operators in selecting the appropriate companies while choosing a cruising vacation in Maldives.

# boatinginsider

by NBAM

## The Hawks Announces Same Retail Prices Across their Fuel Stations in the Maldives



The Hawks is happy to announce that their retail customers can get fuel for the same rate effective today from all their fuel stations in the Maldives; whether in Male', Thilafushi, B. Dharavandhoo, or B. Kamadhoo. The company highly values customer satisfaction and understands the effects of the current situation of all businesses and services.

The new price for diesel and petrol will be as follows;

- Diesel: MVR 7.60
- Petrol: MVR 7.60

A total of 18 vessels are continuously in operation to deliver fuel whenever and

wherever required by clients, and are ready to supply to islands with shallow lagoons and poor harbor facilities as well. The Hawks new Fuel Terminal in Thilafushi island is the starting point for their flagships. Furthermore, with the company's terminal containing a total capacity of 30,000CBM, they ensure fast delivery from the northernmost to the southernmost parts of the Maldives at all times. Their strong fleet, with the latest safety equipment and segregated tanks, include 12 delivery barges and 6 tankers with a delivery barge capacity from 30CBM to 10,500CBM.

## Astrabon Introduces Credit Scheme for Tourism Industry Stakeholders



Involved in the distribution and supply of outstanding quality kitchen utensils, cutleries and equipment in the Maldives, Astrabon has launched a credit scheme for all the tourism industry stakeholders; allowing resorts to avail credit facilities for up to 3 months. The scheme is also open for guest houses and safari vessel operators.

Commenting on the scheme, CEO of Astrabon Pvt Ltd, Yoosuf Riffath said, "As a business primarily catering to the requirements of

Maldives hospitality establishments, we are looking forward to resuming operations in the country and internationally. We have taken the time during lockdown to streamline our operations and come up with a credit scheme for our partners in the Maldives hospitality industry. We hope this small step on our part will help establishments to continue their services despite challenges in cashflow and will be able to offer their quality services for which Maldives is reputed for."

## Insurance Companies are in discussion to provide a Special Package for Travelers



The National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) held discussions with the leading insurance providers in the Maldives; Allied Insurance, Dhivehi Insurance, Ceylinco, Amana Takaful, Solarelle Insurance. During the discussions, the insurance companies proposed an offer of providing a special insurance coverage at \$30 for all tourists who visit post-COVID, once borders open. The offer was then proposed by the NBAM to the Ministry of Tourism and other relevant authorities, as the insurance companies

requested to continue the offer for at least a period of 3 - 5 years – compulsory from all travellers.

Currently, the COVID-19 Treatment Package is not included under regular travel insurance. If the traveler does not have a special insurance package, properties hosting the guests are responsible for COVID-19 containment and treatment along with inpatient expenses as per the new guidelines.