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14:30 : မှတ်တမ်းနှင့် သတင်းစာ

Ms. Semin Q





Hello to all. My name is Kayihan Pala. I am a medical doctor and professor of public health. I am a member of Republican People's Party for Bursa City. Thank you for invitation and hospitality.

I am the Turkish ambassador, accredited to Maldives based in Colombo. This is my third time in your beautiful country. Instead of talking about myself, I would like to ask a few questions. Are there any members from the Turkish friendship group in among you? This is my curiosity. And secondly, three of our deputies, cities have shores. So, they have shores to the cities. Do you have twin city agreements or sister city agreements with any other countries or any city in Türkiye? This is just my curiosity. Thank you very much.

Happy to ask the question. Most of the members are from the Türkiye Maldives friendship group. And we have, out of 93, we have 53 members form Türkiye and Maldives friendship group. And the second question, unfortunately we do not have any sister Cities agreement between Maldives and Türkiye. Thank you. Any one to add anything?

(In Turkish Language) Let me translate very quickly. Let me translate. (Speaking in Turkish language).

Thank you. Actually, regarding the cities, sister cities agreements, our committee is not responsible for this kind of work. But our City Council, Male City, or we have four cities in this country. And these city councils, they themselves make these kind of arrangements. If they need any support from the parliament, we are ready to give, and



First of all, thank you very much for this very kind invitation. We are so please to have accepted this invitation and arrived in the Maldives. And we are also very honored by the fact that the first official visit of his excellency Muizzu, he has been to Türkiye, that has been a wonderful reflection of the importance, that we are attaching to our current relations. And we do know that this official visit has introduced the momentum in our relations, bilateral relations. We have had the chance to sign important agreements in many different fields, such as trade and defense industry. The current rate volume between our country is around fifty million dollars. But there is always space for federal increase. Both, If we set for certain effort as both side, I think we are going to increase this figures. We hope that the preferential trade agreement will be signed soon, that were at the final stage. And we would like to see both parties to, also sign a joined economic commission agreement between our countries. Because this will definitely increase the trade volume, and would introduce great advantages. We would like to



have see more Maldivians students study in Türkiye. We would be honored to provide them with scholarship in that scene and hence support education. The Turkish airlines connect Maldives to the world, and we are also proud do so, by direct flights to Male'. And we would like to see you in our country at your earliest convenience also. So, we will be most welcome. Thak you.

Chairperson:

Now I will open the floor for questions. Yeah. Ok.

Hon. Kayıhan PALA, Member of Türkiye - Maldives Interparliamentary Friendship Group, Deputy of Bursa:

(Speaking in Turkish language)

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

Since the chair of the Environmental Committee of the Majlis of Maldives is with us today. I would like to post a question about the environmental challenges and the climate change. First of all, you know the Maldives is one of the countries that will be affected most by the global warming and climate change. Therefore, we would like to further learn about your precautions, the measures that you are taking to prevent this. And what kind of international cooperation would you need further to combat this situation? Thank you.

Mr. Abdulla Rifau, MP of South Maafannu Constituency:

Thank you very much. As the chair of the Environmental Committee, we normally do all legislation regarding the environment renew, do any amendments to the legislation. Any international conventions regarding environment, we do the discussion and pass it through the parliament to get it sign by the government. Because they need a parliament endorsement to sign any international treaty. Regarding your question, our government has a lot of environmental initiatives. We, last 3 years we have done tremendous effort on legal challenges. Our main aim for this five years is to reduce, increase renewable energy up to 40% mainly on solar. Now a lot of islands, small islands we have already achieved that. Even one island we are testing with 100% solar with batteries of course. So, we, and also, we have a green tax on all the tourist which is mainly implemented for the tourism protection in our islands shore protection and other. We are also, for waste management we have implemented; we are in the process of completing the project



with the ADB, waste to energy project in Male' city and also in Addu city. And it's hopefully by end of mid next year the project will implemented and all the waste we get will be converted using this system to energy and it will cover like 20% of Male' city energy will be covered through this waste system. Thank you.

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

(Speaking in Turkish Language)

Mr. Abdulla Rifau, MP of South Maafannu Constituency:

We also regarding one time used plastic. We have come up with the plan by mid next year 500ml bottles will be all, it will be banned for use one time plastic. And also, another one years time 1.5 will be disregarded. And 1.5 liters plastic packed bottles will be banned to use in Maldives. So, they have to convert it into glass bottles. Now it is mainly they are converting, the bottle manufactures are using glass bottles recycled. And also, on plastic bags we have already implemented rufiyaa too tax for plastic bags for one time use plastic bag. And also, we have a target to ban it by next three years' time. And also, we are giving a special incentive for bio-degradable plastic usage.

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

(Speaking in Turkish Language)

Mr. Abdulla Rifau, MP of South Maafannu Constituency:

Also, we, our national bank last year introduced a green fund were households, normal households can invest on solar systems for their house use. And excess, they can add to our grid system from the service provider. Where any excess will be paid to them for their services. And using that they can at least pay the loans, and also, they will be reducing a lot of payment on their electric bills. And this, loan is very, very low cost. If I'm not mistaken, it's just a 5%. Normally here that the tax, loan interests are high. Our standard loan interest is eleven plus plus. So, five is a small loan compared. But it might not be very interesting for your countries there. Because your loans will be like 1.5 to 5% maximum. Thank you.

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

(Speaking in Turkish Language)





Mr. Abdulla Rifau, MP of South Maafannu Constituency:

And, of course, we, our Environment committee is most willing to welcome you all for any initiatives we can support together.

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

(Speaking in Turkish Language)

Hon. Filiz KILIÇ, Member of Türkiye - Maldives Interparliamentary Friendship Group, Deputy of Nevşehir:

(Speaking in Turkish language)

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

Actually I have post this question to the, during the former meeting with the Speaker of the Majlis. But I am going to post it here as well. As an educator, I would like to ask about the history of the Maldives more. Find out more about the history of Maldives. And if there are any documents available in English for instance, I would be more than happy to receive them. And I also would like to find out how many universities there are in your country. And about the range of students coming from other countries. From other countries abroad. What are the major disciplines that they study also. Thank you.

Mr. Abdulla Rifau, MP of South Maafannu Constituency:

Thank you very much. Actually, we have a very rich history. We started with Buddhism and later converted to Islam. So, what we can do is, actually our president is very; the current president is very much interested in promoting our language history. And he has specifically made one ministry for history linguistic. This is the first time Maldives has created a special ministry for history and language. So, what I can do is, we can get whatever information they have in English and send it over to you later. And regarding the universities, we have 2 national universities. One is called National University of Maldives and the other is Islamic University of Maldives. Both have most of the disciplines and even five years back we started medical college as well. And the first batch has just recently graduated. And they are doing their internship in our national hospital. And commonly all language, nursing, almost all faculties are there. And the quality of education is quite good as well. But we don't have much international students at the moment. Because some of the legislation legalities are not very easy for,



specially the visa purpose. But now we are working on it to get attracted for more international students as well. And of course, we have a lot of foreign, our students are there in a lot of foreign universities. The most popular is Malaysia. And we have few students is of course in Türkiye as well. And one of the most interesting thing about our language right now is, there is one Chinese University, they have our language program called “Dhivehi language”. Because they are very much interest; Chinese tourists specially they are very much interested in Maldives. And there are students. And also, because of the tourism industry they, the people who are interested to work in the tourism industry they are interested to learn the language as well. And we do have Chinese Language classes in Maldives as well in the national university and also, the villa. And we have few private colleges. They are engaged with international universities and they provide twining programs. And also, three plus zero. They get from UK, Malaysia and Australian some universities are affiliated with. Thank you.

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

(Speaking in Turkish language)

Chairperson:

And also, we will be very happy to share any information you need from the Maldives. And we have some books regarding Maldivian history. I don't know whether it's in full form of English. And also, you have asked the right person the question about the history. The Speaker is very passionate about the history of the Maldives. So, I hope you have received a very excellent answer from the Speaker. And also, I will let Ibrahim to add any...

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

(Speaking in Turkish language)

Hon. Filiz KILIÇ, Member of Türkiye - Maldives Interparliamentary Friendship Group,

Deputy of Nevşehir:

(Speaking in Turkish Language)

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

Well, your language is fascinating by the way. In terms of the way we hear it, it's very very nice. And the characters, your alphabet as far as I see I resembled it to something



between like Arabic and Hebrew. Yes, Hebrew. Very similar to their alphabet. At least I think it's quite similar. So, I like to find out more about the origins of the language of the Maldives.

Chairperson:

We will pause for a moment. After the azan we will continue.

(After Azan Time)

Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed, North Mahchangolhi Constituency:

I would like to add few more points to Maldivian history. It is believed that inhabitant started in Maldives around 500 BC between 1500 BC. But due to the lack of you know damaging materials, some of the written leather papers which are lost. So, we cannot confirm the exact date. However, according to international author Pyrard and Ibn Battuta from Maghrib, they have written some sort of history. Because they visited Maldives. And according to them Maldives started people living around 2 to 2500 years before. And when we see the oldest Chinese fifth dynasty maps. So, we came to know that they are visiting Maldives to find seashell cowrie as form of money. So, Maldivian kings to, king used to take these seashells collect from the shore and trade it with the Chinese and Arab continent. So, I mean what has been believed is, we are a mix of people from Arab and probably from Türkiye, We don't know. And from Portugal, around the world. Because this is a trade route. This is a trade route. Still, it's a trade route. Annually each year 33 trillion-dollar worth of containers is going from the Maldives. What did I say, 33 trillion. So, this is the very route, we have a Zero Degree Channel. And Zero Degree Channel which is a shipping route. Around it is believed estimated 400 ships monthly. So, this is the very route we are in. So, this is a very, we have an old history, but we cannot confirm you exact date that people has started living.

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

(Speaking in Turkish language)

Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed, North Mahchangolhi Constituency:

From Morocco, he's a historian, from Morocco, Ibn Battuta and Pyrard is I think from Greece. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. So, they both have written documents regarding earliest histories as far as well.



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(after sometime)

(Speaking in Turkish language)

May I ask one question about our fisheries product? My question is, following the preferential trade agreement of November 2024, which introduced zero tariff excess for key fisheries products and tariff reductions on two hundred and fourteen items. How can our respective trade or finance committees collaborate to monitor implementation.



Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:  
(Speaking in Turkish language)

Ms. Semin Çetin, Interpreter of Türkiye Deligation:

Thank you very much for these very nice comments and recommendations. We would be more than happy to receive the members of the of cause the Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group in our country. The members of the Deputies of the Majlis of Maldives and to welcome you in our country. Thank you very much to introduce you our culture as well as our society.

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