



MALDIVES  
INLAND REVENUE  
AUTHORITY

## Press Release

Ref: (PR)220-MTRS/PRIV/2018/01

This press release is to address false reports by some media outlets alleging that MIRA has been participating in an operation being conducted by the Maldives Customs Service from 17 January 2018 in 4 resorts operated by Villa Shipping and Trading Company, and that MIRA is attempting to cause harm to the business activities of the company.

Enforcement action had been taken against Villa Shipping and Trading Company in March of 2017 for defaulting on payments amounting to MVR 18.9 Million owed to the State as Tourism Land Rent. It is also to be noted that despite the fact that GST and Green Tax were paid to the resorts by the tourists arriving in Maldives, since March 2017 till today, none of the collected GST or Green Tax has been paid by these resorts to MIRA. As such, for failure to pay USD 5.1 Million owed to the state as TGST and Green Tax, enforcement action has been taken against the 4 resorts operated by Villa Shipping and Trading Company. These actions were taken in accordance with the Enforcement Policy of MIRA, and Villa Shipping and Trading Company has been subject the same actions that is being taken against any other company in the same situation – without bias or inequity.

Issuance of import licenses and implementation of regulations regarding the usage of imported items is not covered by MIRA's mandate. As such, any operation carried out by Maldives Customs Services in the 4 resorts operated by Villa Shipping and Trading Company is not being carried out under a law or regulation of MIRA.

Any enforcement actions taken against taxpayers by MIRA will be in accordance with the 'Enforcement Policy of MIRA', and will follow the procedures and steps set therein. In addition, the policy is applied equally and fairly to all taxpayers without discrimination. MIRA gives full assurance that no action will be taken against any business outside the legal authority assigned to MIRA, nor will there be any attempt to harm any business of a taxpayer. Hence, we urge all parties involved to refrain from spreading false reports and rumors intended to damage MIRA's work or its reputation.

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\*Disclaimer: This is the unofficial translation of the original Press Release in Dhivehi.

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