

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

27 August 2012

Dear Sir Don,

I write to bring to your attention matter of serious concern to the Government of Maldives. As you would now be aware, the nominee of former President Nasheed to the Commission of National Inquiry (CoNI), Mr. Ahmed Saeed, has put the Commission's work at risk by publicly questioning the credibility of its Draft Report, three days before its scheduled publication. He has also questioned the integrity of the highly respected senior judge from Singapore, Justice Selvam, the Co-Chair of the Commission, who was recruited by the Commonwealth. This is a disturbing development that could inflame the already heated political environment in the Maldives.

By publicly questioning the credibility of Justice Selvam, and the Draft Report, Mr. Saeed has violated the Article 12 (g) and (h) of the Rule of Procedure of the CoNI. By his public outburst, Mr. Saeed has defeated the purpose of the long and hard exercise that the Commonwealth and the Government of Maldives went through in April and May this year to expand and strengthen the CoNI to make it a generally acceptable and to enhance its credibility. As you would recall, former President Nasheed said publicly in June, that he accepts the reconstituted CoNI, as a credible and impartial one, and would accept its findings. Following Mr. Saeed's rebuttal of the Commission, Mr. Nasheed and his political party, the MDP, has today declared that it will not accept the Commission's findings, and publicly ridiculed the highly respected Co-Chair recruited to the CoNI by the Commonwealth.

It is therefore time that the Commonwealth puts into proper perspective the pattern of behavior by former President Nasheed since he resigned from the office of President on 7 February, and ponders the credibility of his accusations and claims. The Commonwealth should ponder whether Mr. Nasheed in fact wanted to establish the facts surrounding his resignation. As the Government has always been pointing out, Mr. Nasheed, since his resignation, is engaged in a full-time campaign to regain political support by using some dubious questions about the circumstances of his resignation as a pretext, and legitimizing the actions from the apparent support he receives from external sources. It looks like Mr. Nasheed and his MDP never wanted a credible, independent, and impartial CoNI.

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The President of Maldives H E Dr. Mohamed Waheed has called for the resumption of Political Party Talks, and invited all major political parties to the discussion table. Parties such as PPM and DRP, and others have responded positively to this call. The Government is of the view that the CoNI should form the basis for holding and continuing the dialogue. The Government is committed to bringing stability into the country, and cultivating the values of democracy in the Maldives. President Waheed is committed to take all necessary measures to achieve that.

You may recall that while accepting Mr. Saeed's name to the CoNI, the Government made it very clear its strong reservations about Mr. Saeed's impartiality and independence because of his close associations with the MDP. The Government noted that 'owing to his close affiliation with the MDP and its political activists' Mr. Saeed 'can potentially be seen as promoting a particular view-point in the CoNI's deliberations that might put its work at risk'. Regrettably Mr. Saeed's rebuttal of the Commission today, and the response from the MDP that followed, makes the Government's previous assessment a highly optimistic one.

We call upon the Commonwealth to dialogue with MDP and make sure that they play a constructive role in the talks.

We request you to call upon former President Nasheed and his supporters in the MDP, as well as Mr. Saeed to stop their intimidatory actions and let the work of the CoNI proceed to a successful conclusion. The Commonwealth's valuable role in resolving the political tensions in the Maldives is a critical one, and that role should also be seen to be fair as well. Otherwise there is a risk that the country's young democracy might be pushed into a steep decline where only chaos will reign.

With my best wishes,

Dunya Maumoon

The Rt. Hon Sir Donald McKinnon,
The Commonwealth Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Maldives,
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