

## PRESS STATEMENT

### **RE: DISBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC DONATIONS TO INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY M. NIRUFEHIGE FIRE**

Following the tragic fire incident that occurred on 10th November 2022 at M. Nirufehige, Mission for Migrant Workers Maldives (“MMWM”) opened up a 48 hours fundraising drive to raise funds in order to help the migrant workers who were affected by the fire.

Based on the initial data we received from relevant authorities, there were 33 migrant workers affected by the fire, and a further 10 deceased. The funds raised were to be evenly distributed within the 33 migrant workers and next of kin of the deceased.

With the tremendous support from the public, we were able to raise a total sum of **MVR 192,954.43 and USD 1,078** within just 48 hours.

As the investigation is still on-going in respect of the fire incident, MMWM has been in constant communications with the relevant authorities to ensure that we have the most recent information available on (a) all migrant workers affected, (b) the severity to which they have been affected, and providing our support and assistance wherever required.

Our most recent correspondences with the authorities provide us with the following information:

1. A total of 35 migrant workers were affected by the fire to varying degrees.
2. Total number of affected does not reflect the 10 deceased migrant workers.
3. 1 is still undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Our main objective behind opening up for public donations was to provide the public with a way to help those affected the most, and we would like to thank the public for their trust in us, and allowing us to be a bridge between the public and the migrant community, especially during a crucial time like this.

After consulting with relevant authorities and other stakeholders, a need assessment was done with the new information received from the latest findings of the investigation. In light of this need assessment, **MMWM would like to revise the disbursement arrangement of the funds as follows to ensure that the funds raised from the public goes towards those who genuinely need it the most –**



Priority Level	Description	Number of People	Total	% of Funds Division	Total Amount (MVR)	Total Amount per Individual or Next of Kin (MVR)
<b>Priority 1</b>	Those affected the most from the fire, residing in M.Nirufehige (deceased or currently seeking treatment)	10 deceased + 1 in Hospital	11	50	104,788.60	9,526.24
<b>Priority 2</b>	Those affected the second most from the fire, residing in M.Nirufehige (household and belongings damaged in fire)	10 currently displaced + 3 in care of employer	13	40	83,830.88	6,448.53
<b>Priority 3</b>	Those affected but living in nearby residence (household damaged in fire)	12 in alternate accommodation under the care of employer	12	10	20,957.72	1,746.48
<b>Priority 4</b>	Those evacuated from nearby residence but moved back to same accommodation (household and belongings not damaged in fire)	9 living in same accommodation as before	9	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTAL*</b>					<b>209,577.20</b>	

\*USD 1,078 received was converted into MVR at bank rate of 15.42

MMWM would like to reiterate that as this is still an on-going investigation, new information is bound to come to light each day, which is why we found it important to conduct the need assessment as we felt that the public would want the funds raised going towards who need it the most.

We are in communications with the affected migrant workers and will proceed to disburse the funds to them within next week. We are also liaising with the relevant embassies to collect information of next-of-kin for those deceased, and will be proceeding to disburse funds accordingly once we are able to contact them.

We owe it to the public to be as transparent as we can when it comes to the disbursement of the funds raised. We will update the public upon disbursement of the funds.

We will continue to provide our support to the relevant authorities in ensuring that all migrant workers affected by the fire are provided with necessary financial, medical, and psychosocial support.

**16 November 2022**