



Closing Ceremony of the Training of Judicial Trainers Training Programme Speech by Vera Hakim, UNDP Maldives Resident Representative ad interim

Sunday, 18 September 2021, 09:15am - 10:45am Maldives Time, Salt Café' and Restaurant

Hon. Ibrahim Riffath, Attorney General of the Maldives,

Ustaza Aishath Rizna, Chief Judicial Administrator, Department of Judicial Administration,

Honourable Judges from Supreme, Apex and Magistrate Courts,

Judge Malcolm Simmons,

Special invitees gracing our ceremony today,

Assalaam Alaikum. A very good morning.

It is a great honour for me to be here as witness, as the urgent and essential work continues to ensure better, fairer, and more equal access to justice for all in the Maldives.

UNDP's priority in this beautiful country has always been to support Maldivian-led efforts to strengthen democratic governance.

We thank our associates from the Maldives Judicial Academy, for allowing us to be a part of your journey of justice - by supporting judicial reform and strengthening capacity of the judiciary.

Thank you to our long-standing partner, the British High Commission, for the generous support to our work: to strengthen rule of law and enhance access to justice in the Maldives.

The Maldives Judicial Academy is mandated with a vital task - promoting legal and judicial knowledge in the country by enhancing the knowledge, academic capacity, and professional skills of justice sector representatives.

As part of our work together, UNDP in collaboration with the Judicial Academy and key judicial stakeholders undertook a training needs assessment, based on a thorough review of the existing judicial training curriculum and programmes.

The curriculum and training needs analysis marks the beginning of a long but significant journey which continued with the recent 'Training of Judicial Trainers', launched with the Department of Judicial Administration. Thank you for making the time during your weekend to attend this training, which shows your personal dedication and commitment.

Today, we are proud to close the most recent sessions, having extensively trained 26 judges, who will in turn carry forward the cycle of continuous judicial learning.

Judicial education is paramount in the fair administration and dispensation of justice for all.

UNDP has been a long-standing partner with successive Maldivian governments to ensure meaningful and sustained judicial reform. We will continue to support Maldivian efforts to build strong institutions that serve the people and provide the foundations for sustained and inclusive growth.

UNDP remains committed to support an independent, accountable, and effective justice system, which protects and promotes human rights standards, gender equality and ensures access to justice for all.

This is a crucial step to achieve SSG 16, which is Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, as we pledge to Leave No One Behind.

Together, let's build a future that works for everyone.

I thank you.

Shukriya. Stay safe and well.

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