



*Unofficial translation of the*

## **SEVENTH AMENDMENT TO THE MALDIVES**

### **TOURISM ACT**

**8/2015**

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*In accordance with Article 92 of the Constitution, the “Seventh Amendment Bill to the Maldives Tourism Act (Law Number 2/99)” passed in the 18<sup>th</sup> sitting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the People’s Majlis held on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2015, has become law and has been published in the Government Gazette upon its ratification by the President on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 (8 Rajab 1436).*

**DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

*This is the unofficial translation of the original Act in Dhivehi. In the event of conflict between this translation and the Dhivehi version of this Act, the latter shall prevail. Therefore, it is advised that both the Dhivehi version of this Act and this translation be read concurrently.*

# SEVENTH AMENDMENT TO THE MALDIVES TOURISM ACT

The Maldives Tourism Act (Law Number 2/99) shall be amended as follows.

1. Amend Section 9(a) of the aforementioned Act as follows:

**Lease period**      9. (a) Except under the circumstances specified in Section 10 of this Act and subsection (i), islands and lands leased to develop tourist resorts pursuant to this Act shall be leased for no more than 50 (fifty) years from the date the island or land is awarded to the lessee.

2. Insert the following subsection after Section 9(h) of the aforementioned Act:

9. (i) If a lessee who leased an island or land for 50 (fifty) years pursuant to this Section fulfills the following criteria, the lease period of that island or land shall be extended for an additional 49 (forty nine) years:
- (1) Rent, taxes, fees (if any), fines (if any) or any other payments payable to the Government and deferred rent and fines payable by the lessee in relation to the island or land has been settled by the lessee.
  - (2) The resort developed on the island, land or lagoon has been opened.
  - (3) A lump sum payment of 5,000,000 (five million) United States Dollars has been paid as lease period extension fee.

3. Amend Section 15 of the aforementioned Act as follows:

**Action that could cause permanent change to the island or land**      15. (a) Activities that may cause permanent change to the environment of islands, lands or lagoons leased to develop tourist resorts shall only be carried out after obtaining written consent from the Tourism Ministry.

(b) The consent for carrying out any activity that can cause permanent change to the environment of the places specified in subsection (a) shall be given by the Tourism Ministry only upon preparation of the environmental impact assessment report.

(c) The Tourism Ministry shall have the sole authority to determine the activities that would cause permanent change to the environment of the places specified in subsection (a)

and to prepare the environmental impact assessment report in relation to such activities and to grant permission to carry out such activities.

- (d) Regulations pertaining to the provisions of this Section shall be made by the Tourism Ministry.

4. Insert the following subsection after Section 16(b) of the aforementioned Act:

**Issuing tourist resort operating license and determining the standard of resorts**

16. (c) The Tourism Ministry shall have the sole authority to determine the standard of resorts, and services and amenities that should be available in resorts developed on islands, lands or lagoons leased under this Act.

5. Insert the following Section after Section 48 of the aforementioned Act and renumber the subsequent sections:

**Imposing fines on persons who do not comply with the regulation**

49. Persons who do not comply with Section 15 of this Act and the Regulation made pursuant to that Section, shall be fined by no more than 5,000,000 (five million) United State Dollars in accordance with the Regulation made pursuant to that Section.

6. Amend the references made to Sections and subsections of the aforementioned Act in accordance with the amendments brought by this Act.

7. This Act shall commence upon it being published in the Gazette of the Government of the Maldives.