

Transparency Maldives expresses deep concern over resort workers' right to vote

Transparency Maldives (TM) is deeply concerned following the Election Commission's (EC) decision to place ballot boxes in only seven of 132 resorts. This decision will negatively affect the suffrage of a vast majority of resort workers in the absence of alternative measures.

According to the last census, 27, 837 Maldivians work at resorts. The decision to limit the ballot boxes to seven resort islands from 56 resorts in 2013 is a step backwards that derogates the right to vote of thousands of employees working in the tourism industry. The challenges to the right to vote due to the EC's decision is yet another regressive move that infringe on the credibility, inclusiveness and confidence in electoral processes as well as the Elections Commission.

Transparency Maldives urges EC to immediately revoke this decision and ensure the right to vote of all resort employees.

ENDS.

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