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PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE
MALE'
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Press Release

Today, the Maldives demonstrated its commitment to the Rule of Law.

There has been criticism of the way in which the trial of former President Nasheed was handled.

The filing of such a complaint is of course the former President's right, however, and as has been reiterated on a number of occasions, all of those issues complained of were capable of being rectified at appeal if the appellate courts found favour with those arguments.

Despite this, no appeal was filed by the former President.

Contrary to the allegation, the former President has not been prevented from filing an appeal at any stage, and has consistently been reminded of his right to do so. It has been his *choice* not to file an appeal.

That said, following his request to the Prosecutor General's Office, and given the concerns raised by the former President and his legal team on several occasions, the Prosecutor General's Office took the decision to exercise the discretion mandated by the Constitution and file an appeal against the judgment.

This appeal has been filed for a number of reasons:

1. To demonstrate the commitment of the Maldives to the principle of the Rule of Law;
2. To ensure that the complaints raised by the former President are considered in the appropriate venue, namely the appellate courts; and

3. To rebut the suggestion that the former President has been prevented from exercising his rights.

The fact that his appeal has been filed by the Prosecutor General's Office rather than the former President should not be taken as an admission that the complaints raised are deemed to be meritorious by the Prosecutor General's Office, as the opposite is the case.

As is the position in any democracy, the Rule of Law is paramount and must be respected by all.

It would be inappropriate at this stage to discuss the case and any grounds of appeal submitted further, as it is still an on-going matter.

The Prosecutor General's Office highlights that the Courts should be free to make their decision without influence from third parties and further, that their decision must be adhered to.

The Prosecutor General's Office looks forward to the decision of the court and this matter being brought to its conclusion.

09th September 2015

