

Press Release

**Majlis Speaker Informs the President that the Presidential Term that Began on
11 November 2008 has ended on 10 November 2013**

Speaker of the People's Majlis, Abdulla Shahid has informed President Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik that as stated in the Maldives Constitution the presidential term that began on 11 November 2008 has come to an end on 10 November 2013. In his letter to the President, the Speaker stated that, since Article 18 of the Constitution states that the State is obliged by the Constitution, in his capacity as the Speaker of the People's Majlis that is empowered to enact legislation, he felt duty bound to raise this matter with the President.

Article 107 of the Maldives Constitution stipulates that a presidential term is for a period of five years. According to Article 262, in order to institute any amendment to the term of office of the President, Article 107 would need to be revised and approved by a ¾ majority of the full parliament, and prior to being ratified by the President must receive a majority support from the people of the Maldives voting in a public referendum. In the event the amendment fails to receive majority support from the people, it will become nullified. There is no other provision for extending the period of office of the President. Hence, in his letter to the President, the Speaker stated that the term of office that began on 11 November 2008 has come to an end on 10 November 2013, and that the term of the presidency cannot be extended in any other way except through as provided for in Article 262 of the Constitution.

The Speaker further highlighted that abiding by the Constitutional provisions is mandatory on all the three branches of the State and all persons entrusted with state responsibilities; as such, it is very clear that any act that is contrary to the provisions of Article 268 of the Constitution is deemed null and void.

In addition to his letter to the President, the Speaker also sent similar letters to the Chief Justice, Uz. Ahmed Faiz, Chief of Defence Force, Major General Ahmed Shiyam and the Heads of all State independent institutions, such as Civil Service Commission, Maldives Human Rights Commission, Prosecutor General's Office, Elections Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission.

11 November 2013