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BML BEGINS ISSUING DOLLARS FROM VELANA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - Positive initial response to online system that avoids queueing

Bank of Maldives has today begun to issue US Dollars to travelers from Velana International Airport under its convenient new online booking system. Travelers departing from today onwards can pre-purchase dollars through the online portal hosted on the Bank's website, and then can simply pick up their currency at the airport prior to departure.

The commencement of the new system was marked at an event held at the airport this morning where it was announced that the first 10 travelers would receive a bonus gift of USD 100 each. The Bank also screened a short video showing the new set-up at the airport's departure terminal, which features a dedicated set of counters opposite Gate 4 where pre-booked dollars can be collected by travelers without delay.

In order to support the transition to BML's new system, MMA is continuing to sell dollars to travelers over both today and tomorrow. After this, BML will be the exclusive provider of this service. While the Bank's online portal allows people to purchase dollars conveniently without the need to queue, those who do not have online access can pay at any BML branch and then pick up their dollars at the airport. Special support will be given to elderly and disabled travelers at all times.

Bank of Maldives, together with MMA, has been conducting a series of information briefings on local television stations as well as on social media to maximize awareness of the new dollar process. In particular, travelers requiring dollars should note the following:

- The Bank's systems will be open for bookings within 5 days (120 hours) of your flying time, however you must book at least 8 hours in advance.
- In order to avoid any delays at the airport, it is important to ensure that all details of those traveling provided at the time of booking are correct.
- If a confirmed booking needs to be amended or if you have any queries, specially trained staff will be available 24 hours a day in the Bank's Contact Centre, telephone 3330200.

Speaking at the airport this morning, BML CEO and Managing Director, Andrew Healy said, "It is early days but we are encouraged by the initial response to our online system. The system went live over the weekend and the first travelers are departing today. Our staff at Velana International Airport are in place at our new dedicated area opposite Departures Gate 4 and we are very determined to ensure that all travelers will enjoy a fast, smooth service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank MMA for their support and for continuing to sell dollars today and tomorrow in order to facilitate a smooth transition to our new system for the traveling public."

BML's online dollar booking portal can be accessed through the Bank's website at www.bankofmaldives.com.mv

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