Maldives Company Law Reform
Business Registration Services

- Procedural Clarity
- Deregulation
- Business Process re-engineering
- Policy organization
What we do

Our key services are:
1. Sole Proprietorship Registration
2. Company Registration
3. Partnership Registration
4. Cooperative Societies Registration
5. Business Visa & Corporate Resident Visa
6. Other Services (IP)

Total of 58 Services are provided by the Business Registration Section
### Year in Review 2021

**Registrations**
- 3482 Sole Proprietorships
- 1380 Companies
- 25 Foreign Company Re-registrations
- 204 Partnerships
- 7 Cooperative Societies
- 5314 Business Names

**Dissolutions/Cancellations**
- 334 Sole Proprietorships
- 54 Companies
- 2 Foreign Companies
- 9 Partnerships
- 1 Cooperative Society

**Other Registrations**
- **New Registrations:**
  - 1403 Logos
  - 11 Shipping Mark
  - 96 Trade Mark
  - 1734 Seal (4 types of entities)

- **Cancellations:**
  - 49 Logos
  - 2 Shipping Mark
  - 3 Trade Mark
  - 49 Seal (4 types of entities)

**Visa’s**
- 2412 Business Visa
- 19 CR Visa
- 35 Cancellations

**Foreign Investments**
- 94 New Applications
- 61 FDI Agreements

**Portal accessibility data**
- 32,793 Public via online portal
- 68 Direct Access
- 15 Web API User accounts

**USP**
- 72 Applications
- 4 Approved
- 10 F. Agreements
- 5 Contracts Signed

**MED OTC & back office services – average 200 customers per day**

58 services
Strategy 1: Review / revamp legal & regulatory framework

Strategy 2: Transforming to a Corporate Regulatory Policy Organization

Strategy 3: Strengthening the ICT Infrastructure of Business Portal

Strategy 4: Developing Institutional Capacity

Strategy 5: Create awareness & improving service accessibility
Legislations

- Business Registration Act (1st Amendment) – Effective
- Sole Proprietorship Act (1st Amendment) – Effective
- Companies Bill – Parliament’s Committee Stage
- FDI Bill – AG review stage
- Corporate Insolvency Bill – Drafting stage
Company Law Reform

- Current Companies Law dates back to 1996, broad framework has been in existence since 1980s
- Use of separate legal entities has evolved
- Debate on Corporate Governance Principles and its application to various types of companies (PVT, PLC & Government Companies)
- Need to provide certainty, harmonize with global practices
Why Reform?

- Ease the process of incorporating companies
- Create an environment to take risk and perform, creating shareholder value
- Enable accessibility to services by embracing technology and less burdensome processes
- Address misconceptions and lack of clarity in law, regulation & processes and powers (relating to the concept/role of separate legal entity, members, Directors, Managing Director, Secretaries)
- Provide clarity in various forms of registration
- Promote corporate transparency & accountability
Approach

• Took a stock of both legal and practical difficulties faced by entrepreneurs during the past 26 years
• Identify areas where International Agencies continue to advocate for corporate transparency, ease of starting a business – towards a business enable environment
• New Zealand, Singapore & UK Companies legal framework was reviewed to establish what’s suitable for Maldives
• Bill consists of important procedural details – if otherwise the recourse will be interpretation (creates uncertainty)
• World Bank, OECD, GCGF recommendations and other best practices has been considered
Panel Discussion