

03/NBAM\_PR/2024

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## **NATIONAL BOATING ASSOCIATION OF MALDIVES APPLAUDS EPA'S DECISION TO HALT COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AMID CORAL BLEACHING CRISIS**

---

The National Boating Association of Maldives (NBAM) extends its full support to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its recent decision to pause all major coastal development projects and activities until June 10, 2024, in response to the alarming mass coral bleaching event afflicting our precious marine ecosystems.

The Maldives, renowned worldwide for its breathtaking coral reefs and vibrant marine life, faces an unprecedented threat due to the ongoing coral bleaching event exacerbated by climate change. As an NGO dedicated to supporting and promoting sustainable practices within the boating industry, NBAM recognizes the critical importance of preserving our marine environments for current and future generations.

The decision by the EPA to halt coastal development activities demonstrates a proactive and responsible approach toward mitigating the adverse impacts of human activities on our fragile coral reefs. By giving precedence to conservation efforts during this crucial period, we have an opportunity to safeguard the ecological integrity of our marine ecosystems and ensure their resilience in the face of climate-induced challenges.

NBAM urges all stakeholders, including government agencies, businesses, and individuals, to heed the EPA's directive and refrain from engaging in any activities that could further exacerbate the coral bleaching crisis. We encourage the adoption of sustainable practices and the promotion of eco-friendly initiatives within the boating industry to minimize our environmental footprint and contribute to the long-term health of our oceans.

As advocates for responsible boating and marine stewardship, NBAM remains committed to working collaboratively with government authorities, conservation organizations, and industry partners to address the underlying causes of coral bleaching and implement effective strategies for marine conservation and sustainable development.

Together, let us stand united in our efforts to protect the natural heritage of the Maldives and ensure a vibrant and resilient future for our oceans.