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## PRESS RELEASE

### MATATO calls on assistance from MACL and Pension Office

14 June 2020, Male'

MATATO as an association in the last few months have been working with various stakeholders to provide support to its members and for the industry as a whole, during these difficult times in relation to Covid-19 Pandemic.

The association has written to MACL and Pension Office, for their support in facilitating an assistance to lessen the burden on SME tourism service providers and to support the long-term sustenance of the industry and thereby the future revenue for MACL and Pension Office.

The association has requested to waive off pension contribution for six months. As for small businesses to retain employment is critical currently and having to pay pension becomes a huge burden to both employee and employer, as everyone is on tight cash flows and liquidity. Unfortunately these funds are untouchable or inaccessible for employees even in a time like this thus having liquidity is vital for them.

The association has also requested from MACL to waive off all airport counter charges and other services fees for six months as well.

As the travel market is led by the tourists and such an unprecedented level of drop in arrivals and cancellation of future bookings, is creating unimaginable losses to the Maldives economy and many of our members are on the verge of bankruptcy, without the appropriate support from various authorities.

End.

#### ABOUT MATATO

A non-profit membership organization exclusive to Maldivian travel enterprises. A diverse membership representing Tourist Resorts, Hotels Brands, Guest Houses, Airlines and other travel service providers as associate members. MATATO owns two travel publication, MALDIVES FINDER and TRAVEL AGENTS GUIDE.

MATATO is also the organizer of Maldives Travel Awards, the highest recognition in Maldives Travel Industry, established in 2011.

MATATO is also a regular exhibitor at International Travel fairs and Exhibitions in addition to hosting roadshows and creating business networks for destination marketing

Since 2018 MATATO also represents PATA Chapter Maldives.

MALDIVES CHAPTER

