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Maldives govt suspends three ministers over derogatory remarks on PM Modi

The three suspended ministers are Mariyam Shiuna, Malsha Sharif and Mahzoom Maajid.

By: **Express Web Desk**

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu. (ANI file)

The Maldives government on Sunday suspended three deputy ministers after they took to social media to make derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, local media *Atoll Times* reported. In an earlier statement, the government had said it “will not hesitate to take action against those who make such derogatory remarks”.

The three suspended ministers are Mariyam Shiuna, Malsha Sharif and Mahzoom Maajid.

In a statement, the government said: “The Government of Maldives is aware of derogatory remarks on social media platforms against foreign leaders and high-ranking individuals. These opinions are personal and do not represent the views of the Government of Maldives.”

Earlier, Maldives Deputy Minister of Youth Employment made disparaging comments against Modi on social media, leading to condemnation from former Maldivian president Mohamed Nasheed.

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jacket. #VisitMaldives #SunnySideOfLife,” the post said. She also compared India to cow dung.



Another deputy minister, a colleague of Shiuna, Malsha Sharif, made similar derogatory comments against India and the tourism campaign in the Maldives.

These posts, along with others by prominent politicians and leaders, instigated other users into posting a wide range of racist remarks against Indians and Indian tourists who travel to the Maldives.

Twitter post by Mohamed Nasheed (@MohamedNasheed) dated Jan 7, 2024, 10:18 AM. Text: "What appalling language by Maldives Government official @shiuna_m towards the leader of a key ally, that is instrumental for Maldives' security and prosperity. @MMuizzu gov must distance itself from these comments and give clear assurance to India they do not reflect gov policy." 5.7K likes, 383 replies.

TAVLEEN SINGH WRITES: Mixing religion with politics has ruined countries like Iran and Pakistan. Includes a small image of a person.

In a post on X, Nasheed, who was seen to be more administration, said, “What appalling language by Maldives Government official @shiuna_m towards the leader of a key ally, that is instrumental for Maldives’ security and prosperity. @MMuizzu gov must distance itself from these comments and give clear assurance to India they do not reflect gov policy.”

social media users. Others posted about the various ways in which India has offered assistance to the Maldives over the years and some of the more well-known aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, in response to the mockery by Maldivian social media users.

Following the derogatory remarks by Maldivians, Indian social media users used the hashtag “Boycott Maldives” and vowed to refrain from travelling to Maldives for their vacations.

In November 2023, the Maldives government headed by Mohamed Muizzu had “formally requested” the Indian government to “**withdraw its military personnel**” from the island nation.

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