

Attorney General's Office

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Our Legal System

The Legal System of the Maldives is an admixture of Islamic law, common law principles and customary law. This is reflected in Art 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Maldives. It stipulates that the Maldives is a sovereign, independent, democratic Republic based on the principles of Islam, and is a unitary State, to be known as the Republic of Maldives.

Further, as per Art 4 of the Constitution, all the powers of the State of the Maldives are derived from, and remain with, the citizens. The Constitution lays down the basic framework for the three branches of the State namely the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary.

Legislature: The Legislature of the Maldives is called “The People’s Majlis” or commonly known as “Majlis”. As per Art 5 of the Constitution all legislative power in the Maldives is vested in the People’s Majlis. As of 2019, the Majlis comprises 87 members, including the Speaker. All members are elected by the people, for a 5 (five) year term. As per Art 5 of the Constitution all legislative power in the Maldives is vested in the People’s Majlis.

Executive: The Executive of Maldives comprises the elected President and the Cabinet of Ministers. The President is elected by the people and as per Art 6 of the Constitution, the executive power is vested in the President. The Cabinet comprises the Ministers from all Ministries of the government and the Attorney General. The Attorney General is the prime legal advisor to all the Ministries and other governmental institutions as per Article 133 of the Constitution. And, as per Art 6 of the Constitution, the executive power is vested in the President.

Judiciary: As per Art 7 of the Constitution the judicial power is vested in the courts of the Maldives. The judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court, the High Court and Lower Courts established by law. The administrative works of the Judiciary is overseen by the Department of Judicial Administration.