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Hiyaa Union - A Lighthouse for Hiyaa Flat Residents

By Iyath Adam Shareef

Hiyaa Union is a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to assisting inhabitants of Hiyaa apartments — the most current social housing project operated by the Housing Development Corporation (HDC). Since the completion of these flats, there has been public outrage over the rent pricing and subsequent construction work. Throughout this, Hiyaa Union has acted as an advocate for tenants in their fight against all of their problems.

Hiyaa flats were delivered to their beneficiaries earlier this year, with recipients completing the final touches. Tenants were granted a four-month grace period — commencing in September — to complete interior improvements before beginning to pay rent in January 2022. Recently, Hiyaa recipients have been cautiously settling into the flats; approximately 200 people are currently residing in the flats. This has resulted in a number of additional complications.

A media spokesperson for Hiyaa Union addressed some of their



worries with bizTimes in an interview. "For one thing, there are no shops close, so getting groceries or even water requires a trip to Phase I. Additionally, there are no buses available from here, making transportation a huge difficulty. This creates a slew of challenges for tenants who do not own a cycle or even a bicycle — for example, single mothers, individuals who commute to work, and those with school children," added the spokesperson. "The second issue we noticed is Hiyaa's lack of adequate waste management resources. There are methods for managing dry trash generated during construction and relocation, but not for food waste, which must be addressed immediately."

Other concerns

have arisen as a result of the anomalies associated with the construction of the flats. "Upon closer examination of individual units, we noticed some drainage difficulties. And, as this is the rainy season, there is also water leaking from several apartments. We have addressed our concerns to HDC, who have stated that they are in contact with the contractors to work out a solution. However, no timeline for resolution or long-term solutions has been presented to us," Hiyaa Union claimed.

Additionally, residents at Hiyaa are having difficulty obtaining materials necessary to complete the interior work. "The financing options available to Hiyaa owners are extremely limited.

Certain individuals have filed for specialty loan schemes for this purpose but have been waiting weeks for their applications to be processed," the Hiyaa spokesperson explained. "There have also been difficulties obtaining building materials — the products are simply not available on the market at the moment. As a result, the owners have been unable to complete their interior work and move in for the last 25-30 days."

Despite these obstacles, Hiyaa Union is convinced that the situation will improve for tenants, particularly with regards to rent price concerns. The Union recently presented a petition to the Maldives' People's Majlis (Parliament), requesting a reduction in rent and an extension of the grace period for new occupants to complete their interior work. The petition is now being discussed by the Parliament's Petitions Committee.

Additionally, Hiyaa Union has been collaborating with HDC and the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to build a temporary mosque near Hiyaa Flats. The Union is also receiving assistance from EHEE Jamiyya — a Maldives-based humanitarian NGO — and is about to sign a collaboration agreement with them for

BML to enable digital payment for public transport

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Visit Maldives announces a new partnership with CNN

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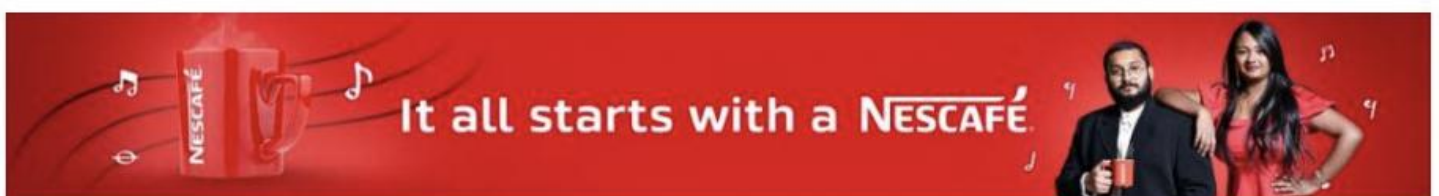
Croshas MV - Crochet Boutique

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the construction of the mosque.

"The Hiyaa Union's primary objective is to advocate for the rights of Hiyaa renters. Carrying out our mandate is challenging because Phase II is not yet fully constructed, but we are working hard to assist tenants socially and to find answers to existing and future problems," Hiyaa Union stated.

"Collaboration is necessary to make our concerns and demands more effective, which is also our goal. We are the sole intermediaries between tenants and HDC, and as such, we rely on the ongoing assistance of all tenants. Collaborate with us as we represent all Hiyaa flats residents."



The Maldives Takes Part in Expo 2020 Dubai

By Iyath Adam Shareef

The Maldives is currently taking part in Dubai's Expo 2020. This World Expo, held by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is intended to highlight the cultures and abilities of countries, organizations, and corporations. The Expo was originally scheduled to run from October 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021, but was postponed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Expo will now run for six months, from 1 October 2021 until 31 March 2022.

The Expo will feature over 191 countries, and for the first time in the Expo's 170-year history, each country will have its own pavilion. These pavilions highlight their culture, architecture, and innovative design. Additionally, there are pavilions presenting the products and ambitions of various organizations and Expo partners. Additionally, the Expo has

distinctive pavilions that deliver engaging educational and entertainment activities for guests.

The topic of this year's Expo is 'Connecting Minds and Creating the Future,' and it is subdivided into three subthemes: sustainability, mobility, and opportunity. Each sub-theme has its own district, which houses the pavilions of various countries according to their chosen sub-theme.

The Maldives pavilion is located in the district of 'sustainability,' and as such, it showcases aspects of our unique ecosystem and natural undersea beauty, as well as our development story. According to the government-run website 'Maldives at Expo 2020,' the Maldivian pavilion "provides a visual voyage through Maldivian history, culture, ecology, food, and arts."

Among the pavilion's remarkable features are 3D depictions of the

sea and sea life on the walls and ceiling. Additionally, there is a Sailboat Theatre where tourists may view 'the Maldivian story' projected onto the sails of a traditional boat. Also, the Maldivian government will organize investor forums during the event to promote the country's investment potential. Maldivian handcrafted items by local designers are available in the Expo's world market area, which allows visitors to purchase things from many countries.

October 25th will be recognized as Maldives' 'Honour Day,' with a special ceremony, display of Maldivian cultural arts, and other activities. Expo 2020 Dubai is the first World Expo to be held in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and South Asia (SA) region. The Expo is planned to attract more than 25 million visitors, the majority of whom will come from abroad.

Peoples Profile

Croshas MV - Crochet Boutique

By Iyath Adam Shareef



Croshas MV is a business that sells crocheted items that are 100% handcrafted and made entirely of wool. Two friends started making wool toys as a hobby and were motivated to launch a business using their crocheting skills. Two friends started making wool toys as a hobby and were motivated to launch a business using their crocheting skills.

Croshas MV offers a diverse selection

of soft toys, including dolls in a variety of sizes and colors, mermaids, and animals such as dinosaurs, penguins, bunnies, and turtles. Additionally, they manufacture soft toys with cartoon characters, customized pretend play kits, and infant pacifiers.

Croshas MV produces the majority of its items in response to consumer demands. Once an order is placed, the size is confirmed, and the product patterns

and colors are made, the crocheting process then begins, with any necessary alterations made along the way until the final result takes shape.

Customers may also request bespoke customized products based on photographs and/or drawings submitted by them. When an order is accepted, the same process of determining the size and color of the garment is followed. Customizations on products are possible based on their size, color, design, and



name.

Due to the fact that these things are handmade and customized for each customer, the pricing varies according to the design, size, and complexity of crocheting required.

Croshas MV faces several challenges, one of which is obtaining

the required quality of supplies from the Maldives. Their supplies are primarily sourced from abroad, which can be hard at times, especially when things are required urgently. Despite this, the crew enjoys creating products, citing their clients as their primary source of inspiration and drive. "The joy it offers to our consumers much outweighs the time and work required to build the things. We intend to continue creating adorable goods that will bring a smile to your face."

On Instagram, follow @croshas_mv to see their exquisitely crocheted toys and one-of-a-kind patterns — the ideal gift for a special loved one.

