



Operation "KURAN'GI"

An Initiative by the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology

Operation "KURAN'GI" is a government-led initiative aimed at updating the biometric records of all migrant workers in the Maldives whose biometric data is older than **November 17, 2023**. This mandatory biometric update is a crucial step in ensuring accurate documentation, enhancing security, and safeguarding the rights of migrant workers.

Phases of Operation "KURAN'GI"

- 1. Biometric Update** – The collection of biometric data from all expatriates working in the Maldives, regardless of their documentation status. No verification of legal status will be conducted during this phase—only biometric data will be recorded.
- 2. Legalization Process** – Expatriates who have completed their biometric updates will receive government assistance. This includes quota allocation and work permit issuance for those with sponsors. The government will also provide job-matching support for individuals seeking to legalize their status.
- 3. Enforcement & Deportation** – Expatriates who fail to update their biometric records and continue to violate visa regulations will be subject to deportation.

Note: No Enforcement and deportation will take place during phase 1 and 2

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Failure to complete the biometric update of all work permit holders of the employer will result in a temporary suspension of key services provided, including: access to New Work Permits, Employer Change Work Permits, Regularization Work Permits, New Quota Pools, Quota Increases, and New Work Site Registrations. The Ministry will announce the deadlines for biometric updates via the official government gazette and media platforms.

Where to Update Biometric Data

Greater Malé Area:

- **Location:** Operation Kuran'gi Joint Operation Center, NCIT Building, Malé
- **Service Hours:** Saturday – Thursday, 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM (excluding public holidays)

Outside Greater Malé:

- Updates can be done at **Local Council Offices** during official government working hours.

For further details, please contact **7690228** or email at operation.kurangi@mohst.gov.mv



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **Is biometric registration mandatory for all work permit holders?**

Yes, all expatriates whose biometric data is older than **November 17, 2023** regardless of their legal status, must update their biometric records as part of this initiative.

2. **Will all expatriate's status be checked during biometric registration?**

No. During the biometric update phase, the government will not check or verify the employee's current documentation status. The focus is solely on collecting biometric data. No action will be taken for undocumented workers.

3. **What happens if the employer does not update their expatriate employees' biometric records?**

Failure to update your biometric data will result in the suspension of essential services provided from the Xpat system.

4. **What is the purpose of the legalization process?**

Operation "KURAN'GI" helps undocumented expatriates transition to legal status after the biometric phase is completed. Those with sponsors will receive work permits, and the government will assist with job-matching opportunities.

5. **Who is eligible for government assistance in legalization?**

Expatriates who have completed their biometric update and have a sponsor will receive government support in obtaining work permits and legal documentation.

6. **Does the employer need an appointment for employee's biometric registration?**

No, appointments are not required. Expatriates can visit the Joint Operation Center during operating hours.

7. **Does the expatriate need to be physically present for biometric collection?**

Yes, the **expatriate must be physically present** at the biometric collection site to complete the process.



8. **What information is needed for biometric registration?**

If available expatriates can provide the following information:

Passport Number or work permit number

Current Accommodation Address (house name, island)

However, if any of these information is not available you can still complete the process.

9. **Does biometric collection include third-party expatriates at a worksite?**

Yes. If a worksite includes third-party expatriates, their biometric data can/may also be collected during the site visit. No action will be taken against undocumented workers or their employers during this phase, as it is solely for data collection.

10. **What if an employer's worksite has more than 100 expatriates?**

If a worksite has more than 100 expatriates, the Ministry may deploy a mobile biometric team based on available resources, the site's location, and the level of support provided by the employer. Alternatively, employers can:

- ✓ Send employees to the Joint Operation Center for biometric registration.
- ✓ Coordinate with the respective local councils to facilitate the process.
- ✓ Employers are encouraged to cooperate with the Ministry to ensure a smooth and efficient biometric update process.

11. **How can an employer request a mobile biometric team for a site visit?**

To request a **site visit for biometric collection**, please fill out the official request form <https://tinyurl.com/kurangi-op> or scan the below QR code

