

Proposal to encode
(Maldivian) Rufiyaa Sign
in the Unicode Standard

Submitted By:

Naail Abdul Rahman: naail@intellea.co
Abdulla Shafeeu: abo@encrea.com

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Document History

Revision	Description	Date
Revision 1	Initial proposal	10/03/2025
Revision 2	Remove unicode 1 references	13/03/2025
Revision 3	Minor type fixes, added MMA endorsement	15/05/2025

Abstract

The Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) is the official currency of the Maldives (Maldives Monetary Authority, n.d.). Introduced in 1947, the Rufiyaa is issued by the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) and is commonly abbreviated as "Rf" or "MVR" in financial contexts (IBAN, 2022).



ISO Code (ISO 4217): MVR

Numeric Code: 462

Major Unit: 1 Rufiyaa (Rf)



Minor Unit: 1 Rufiyaa = 100 Laari

In 2022, Maldives Monetary Authority selected and officially introduced a new symbol for the Rufiyaa.

“The symbol was designed by Mr. Hassan Shujau. It was chosen among 70 concept proposals received by MMA through a nationwide competition. The proposals were evaluated by an evaluation committee comprising members from MMA, Dhivehi Bahuge Academy and other areas of expertise.” (Maldives Monetary Authority, 2022)


A description and rationale for selecting the symbol is also provided by MMA:

“The symbol represents the letter “Ra” of Thaana script which also is the first letter in spelling “Rufiyaa” in Dhivehi. A parallel line is added to the letter “Ra” to represent the arithmetic “equal” sign as used in various other currency symbols.” (Maldives Monetary Authority, 2022)

	
(Maldivian) Rufiyaa Symbol	Thaana letter Ra (U+0783)

The Maldives is archipelago in the Indian Ocean, with a resident population of ~400,000 people, who's native tongue is Dhivehi and primary script is Thaana (right to left, U+0780..U+07BF)

Symbol Proposal

Symbol Glyph	
Suggested Code Point	U+20C2
Character Name	RUFIYAA SIGN
General Category	Sc (Symbol, Currency)
Block	Currency Symbols
Script	Common
Canonical Combining Class	0
Bidirectional Class	ET (European Terminator)
Decimal Digit Value	None
Mirrored	No
ISO Comment	None
Uppercase Mapping	N/A
Lowercase Mapping	N/A

Unicode Properties (proposed)

20C2;RUFIYAA SIGN;Sc;0;ET;;;;;N;;;;;

Directionality

The design guideline for the Rufiyaa symbol (see below) dictates that the symbol must always appear to the left of the numeral it qualifies. However, as Thaana is an RTL language, this introduces a layout complexity.

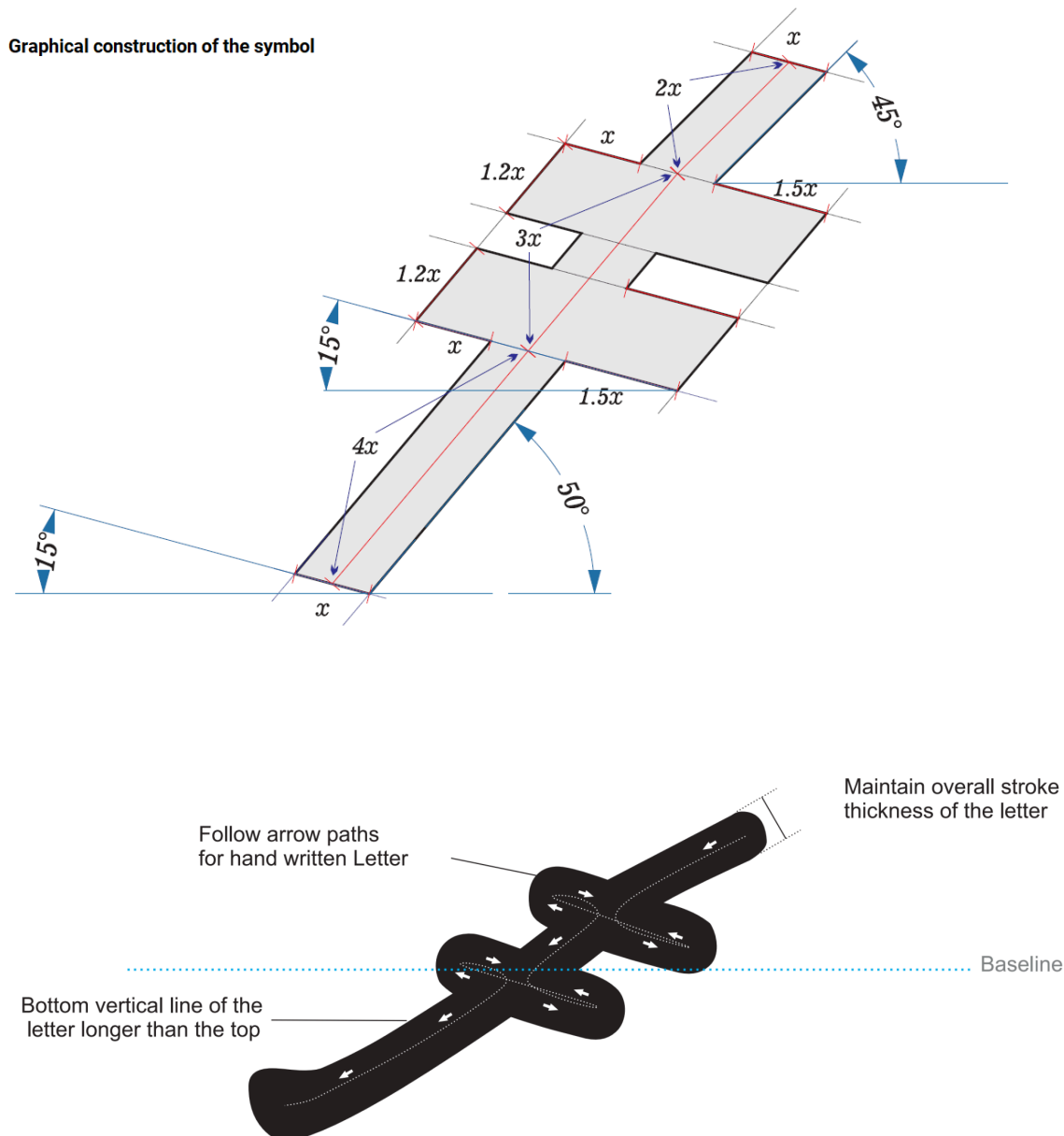
To illustrate, the following table gives examples of currency symbol using \$ and ₤ (U+0783) as placeholders for ET and RTL symbols. Highlighted placement is deemed correct. See design guidelines for further information.

\$ as prefix ދިވެހި ރުފިޔާ 100\$ Dhivehi Rufiyaa \$100 or so	\$ as suffix ދިވެހި ރުފިޔާ \$100 Dhivehi Rufiyaa 100\$ or so
₤ as prefix ދިވެހި ރުފިޔާ 100₤ Dhivehi Rufiyaa 100₤ or so	₤ as suffix ދިވެހި ރުފިޔާ 100₤ Dhivehi Rufiyaa 100₤ or so

As there is no clear way to work around this, it is generally recommended to encode the symbol as ET in the currency symbol block.

Design Guidelines

MMA has published a guideline for placement and implementation of the symbol (Maldives Monetary Authority, 2022). The following screenshots are excerpts from this document.



Guideline for symbol construction (Maldives Monetary Authority, 2022)

68 بحر (مَرْجُوْهُ رَسُوْهُ مَرْجُوْهُ)

~~68~~ 68 (Sixty eight Rufiyaa only)

✂ 68 (SIXTY EIGHT RUFIYAA ONLY)

Possible Variations for different fonts



gqptdl	GQPTDL
gqptdl	GQPTDL
275	275
Rufiyaa	RUFYAA

✗ *gqptdl* ✗ GQPTDL
✗ *gqptdl* ✗ GQPTDL
✗ 275 ✗ 275
✗ ***Rufiyaa*** ✗ **RUFIIYAA**

Past Proposals

For reference, proposal L2/00-120 (2000/04/07) suggested (among others), adding a localised currency rate symbol to the Currency Symbol Block. This petition however was unsuccessful for the proposed currency symbol on the basis of not having sufficient official recognition for the same. However this document was partially accepted to accommodate the inclusion of a new dialect consonant (Naa U+07B1).

Keyboard an input methods

At the time of this proposal, no major software or hardware platform provided a specific placement for the new (Maldivian) Rufiyaa symbol.

Input methods for the symbol seen in use has been one of the following:


- Encoded in fonts replacing the \$ (U+0024), which allows visual presence with a standard keyboard layout.
- As ligatures, such as on the “Rasmee” font by Akuru Type (Akuru Type, n.d.), which utilizes ligatures encoded on ރ- (U+0783 U+002D)

As a general recommendation, we propose utilizing the same position currently occupied by \$ (U+0024) for common Thaana keyboard layouts (*Dhivehi Keyboard* - ދިވެހި - *Type Dhivehi Online*, n.d.)

Samples of actual usage

Usage	Description
	<p>Symbol used in the MVR 50 currency note. In circulation since September, 2022 (Maldives Monetary Authority, n.d.)</p> <p>The symbol has also been recently introduced on the MVR 100 currency note as of the new circulation starting in July 2024.</p> <p>At the time of this proposal, other denominations do not carry the symbol as they have not received a new circulation since the introduction of the symbol.</p>
	
	

	<p>Screenshot, social media advertisement by Dhiraagu, a local ISP.</p>
	<p>eCommerce platform utilizing the symbol to display the pricing (top right).</p>

<div><div><div>Woven Tote Bag - S/M</div><div>✂300/-</div><div><div>#BRANDNEW_ITEMS</div><div></div><div>ONLY 2 COLORS AVAILABLE</div></div><div>@urbanmarketmv</div></div></div>	<div>Screenshot of a promotional post on social media</div>
<div><div><div><div>120g</div><div>Baby Food</div><div>غذاء رضيع</div><div>27.00</div><div>Lowest Price from 3 Brands/Variants</div><div>Last Updated on 06/03/2025</div></div><div><div>400g</div><div>Baby Milk Powder</div><div>مسحوق لبن الرضيع</div><div>140.00</div><div>Lowest Price from 4 Brands/Variants</div><div>Last Updated on 06/03/2025</div></div><div><div>1kg</div><div>Beans</div><div>فول</div><div>80.00</div><div>Lowest Price from 1 Brands/Variants</div><div>Last Updated on 06/03/2025</div></div><div><div>1kg</div><div>Bell pepper</div><div>فلفل</div><div>75.00</div><div>Lowest Price from 1 Brands/Variants</div><div>Last Updated on 05/03/2025</div></div></div></div>	<div>The symbol in use on government sponsored goods and services price listing website (Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, n.d.)</div>

Acknowledgements

Mr. Abdulla Shafeeu, Akuru Type Marketplace, for general assistance and providing samples and typographic assistance (<https://www.akurutype.com/>)

Mr. Hassan Irfan, MICTA (Maldives ICT Alliance), for general guidance and counsel.

Mr. Abdulla Gadhira, Unicode Expert and co-author of previous proposals for Thaana, for general guidance, counsel and authorship of the symbol guidelines as published on the MMA website.

Dr. Sarmad Hussain, ICANN, for general guidance and counsel.

Maldives Monetary Authority, Acknowledgement of this proposal and general guidance.

References

- Akuru Type. (n.d.). *Rasmee Font*. Akuru Type. <https://www.akurutype.com/fonts/rasmee>
- Dhivehi Keyboard* - ދިވެހި - Type *Dhivehi Online*. (n.d.). branah. Retrieved March 9, 2025, from <https://www.branah.com/dhivehi>
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ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title: Proposal to encode Maldivian Rufiyaa Sign in the Unicode Standard
2. Requester's name: Naail Abdul Rahman
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): Individual Contribution
4. Submission date: 10th March 2025
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:
This is a complete proposal: Yes
(or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
 - a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): No
Proposed name of script:
 - b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: Yes
Name of the existing block: Currency Symbol
2. Number of characters in proposal: 1
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B.1-Specialized (small collection)	<input type="checkbox"/>	B.2-Specialized (large collection)	<input type="checkbox"/>
C-Major extinct	<input type="checkbox"/>	D-Attested extinct	<input type="checkbox"/>	E-Minor extinct	<input type="checkbox"/>
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic	<input type="checkbox"/>	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols		<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? Yes
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes
5. Fonts related:
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? Abdulla Shafeeu, Akuru Type
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):
abo at encrea.com
6. References:
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? Yes
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? Yes
7. Special encoding issues:
Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? Yes
Directionality recommendation, dominant use in right-to-left script (thaana)

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (<http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/>) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	No
If YES explain	
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?	Yes
If YES, with whom?	Yes. General community, type designers, MICTA (ICT alliance)
If YES, available relevant documents:	Enclosed
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	Yes
Reference:	Enclosed
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	Common
Reference:	Enclosed
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	Yes
If YES, where? Reference:	Yes. Websites, publications, currency notes
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	Yes
If YES, is a rationale provided?	No
If YES, reference:	
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	N/A
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	No
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	No
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character?	Yes
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	Yes
If YES, reference:	Enclosed. Derived from U+083, visually similar with extra marks
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	No
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	
If YES, reference:	
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	
If YES, reference:	
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?	No
If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?	No
If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?	
If YES, reference:	

Ref. No: MIS/2025/11390

15 May 2025

The Unicode Consortium
611 Gateway Blvd.
Suite 120
South San Francisco, CA
94080
USA

Subject: Endorsement of Proposal to Encode the Maldivian Rufiyaa Symbol in the Unicode Standard

Dear Unicode Technical Committee Members,

On behalf of the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA), the central bank of the Republic of Maldives, I am writing to express our formal endorsement of the proposal to encode the Maldivian Rufiyaa symbol in the Unicode Standard.

The Rufiyaa has been the official currency of the Maldives since 1981. The new Rufiyaa symbol was introduced in 2022, after a country wide search for designs after which the selected design was formally adopted by the MMA. We now consider this symbol an essential character in our national and financial communications. Having a dedicated Unicode code point for this symbol will facilitate:

1. Accurate representation of the Rufiyaa symbol in digital communications
2. Standardized display across various platforms and devices
3. Proper implementation in financial software and systems
4. Preservation of our national monetary identity in the digital realm

We have reviewed the technical specifications provided in the proposal, including:

- Symbol Glyph: ރ
- Suggested Code Point: U+20C2
- Character Name: RUFIYAA SIGN
- General Category: Sc (Symbol, Currency)
- Block: Currency Symbols
- Script: Common

These specifications accurately represent the Rufiyaa symbol and its appropriate categorization within the Unicode Standard.



ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް
MALDIVES MONETARY AUTHORITY

As the financial authority responsible for the issuance and management of the Rufiyaa, we confirm that this encoding will benefit the Maldivian government, financial institutions, businesses, and citizens by ensuring consistent digital representation of our national currency symbol.

We appreciate the Unicode Consortium's consideration of this proposal and are available to provide any additional information or clarification that may be required to support this encoding.

Yours sincerely,

Aishath Asha Ali
Managing Director
Banking and Market Operations