



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

An introduction to its origins and phases of development in various spheres of life

المجلس
الوطني
للإعلام
National
Media
Council



United Arab

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Dear Reader,

We are pleased to present this introduction to the United Arab Emirates, with information on its formation, constitutional framework, leadership, phases of development and evolution over the years.

The book begins with an overview of the formation of the United Arab Emirates under the leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (May Allah Bless his Soul), who united the seven emirates, established the constitutional pillars of the Federation and initiated the building of the country's great institutions and infrastructure. The book also examines the prominent role played by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, May Allah Protect Him, the current President of the country, in directing the progress of the Union, in collaboration with the Rulers of all the Emirates.

The book reviews the great efforts undertaken by His Highness the President with regard to the development of human resources in the UAE and the building of our strong nation based on the principle: «The human being is at the heart of all real progress.» It goes on to explain the principles followed by the legislative and executive institutions of the country as well as the UAE's consistent policy of providing financial and other development assistance to those in need in different parts of the world, without regard to their race or religion. Up-to-date statistics in these areas are included.

The book profiles the prominent role played by Emirati women in society, including their participation in the building of the nation and their career development, showing the way in which they have benefited from the secure environment provided by the State, which has consistently introduced legislative measures to safeguard their constitutional rights in all fields.

Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber
Minister of State,
Chairman of the National Media Council



Geographical Information

The United Arab Emirates is located in south-west Asia, in the east of the Arabian Peninsula, bordered on the north and northwest by the waters of the Arabian Gulf and to the east by the Indian Ocean. The country shares a maritime border with Qatar on the northwest, while there are land borders with Saudi Arabia in the south and west and with the Sultanate of Oman in the southeast.

The United Arab Emirates is located between Latitudes 22 and 26.5 degrees north and Longitudes 51 and 56.5 degrees east of Greenwich, north of the equator, in the tropical zone. The country has an area of 83,600 km², of which 87 per cent is accounted for by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Its population, according to the latest estimates is 7.9 million.

The federation of the UAE has seven member emirates, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Qaiwain, Ra's al-Khaimah and Fujairah.

Around 74 per cent of its land area has been characterised as desert but there is a wide variety of landscapes including towering red sand dunes in the Liwa area, which extend to Al Ain, a natural oasis dotted with palm trees, rugged mountains and flat coastal plains. The mountains represent 2.6 % of the total area. Within the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates are over 200 islands of different sizes and geological origins and of differing degrees of importance.



The desert covers

74%
of UAE

The mountains cover

2.6%
of UAE



N

Bordered on
the north
by the Arabian Gulf

The country
has more than

200
islands

The area
of UAE is

83.600
Square Kilometers

Bordered on
the west by
Saudi Arabia
& Qatar

W

Abu Dhabi

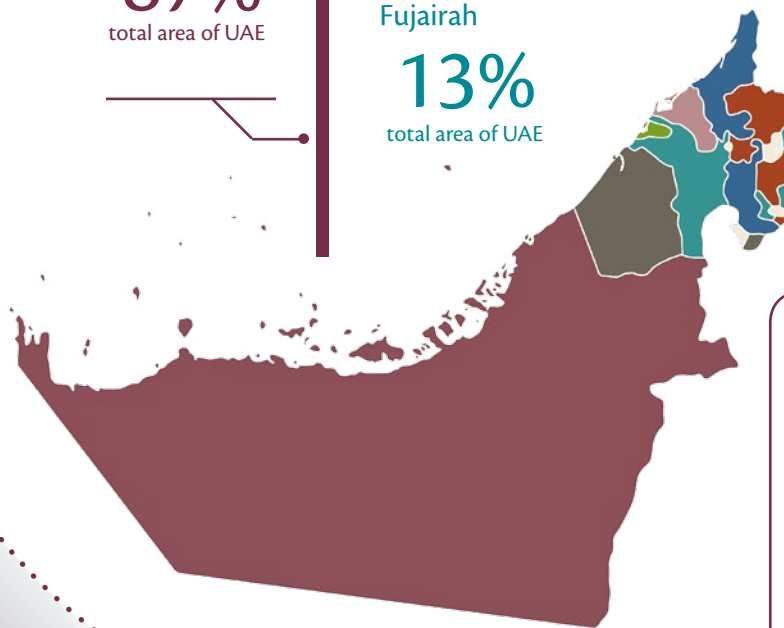
87%
total area of UAE

Dubai
Sharjah
Ajman
Umm al-Qaiwain
Ra's al-Khaimah
Fujairah

13%
total area of UAE

Bordered on
the east by
the Sultanate
of Oman

E



Bordered on
the south
by Saudi Arabia

S



The population is
7.9
million

The Political System

United Arab Emirates

The Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan became Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi on August 6, 1966, launching an extensive series of initiatives to develop the emirate. This programme was not, however, limited to Abu Dhabi as Sheikh Zayed extended support to all of the emirates as he sought to bring them together into federation. This process was initiated less than two years after he became Ruler of Abu Dhabi. In Sheikh Zayed's view, 'The Union is the path to power, pride, strength and mutual welfare. Separation only causes weakness, and weak states do not have a place in today's world...'

He made these remarks during a meeting at Al Samha on February 18, 1968 with the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, then Ruler of Dubai, shortly after the British Government had announced plans to withdraw from what were then known as the Trucial States by December 1971. The meeting between the two Rulers focused on the establishment of a union between their two emirates that would involve a sharing of responsibility for foreign affairs, defence, internal security, health and educational services. They invited the rulers of the other emirates to join them, with a series of meetings later being held to discuss the foundation of the federation of the United Arab Emirates.

Sharing a desire to join together for a common future, to tackle common challenges, the Emirates then had a total population of around 180,000, with considerable differences in terms of area, economic resources, levels of development and inhabitants. Following extensive efforts by the late Sheikh Zayed, the rulers agreed at a meeting in July 1971 to unite, with a Federal Supreme Council being formed that would hold supreme authority in the new country.

Comprised of Their Highnesses, the Rulers, the Federal Supreme Council elected Sheikh Zayed to be the first President, for a renewable term of five years, while Sheikh Rashid was elected as Vice President.



Arab Emirate

The moment of
establishing the
political system in
United Arab Emirates

The signing of
the Federation
Agreement in 1971



Sheikh Zayed continued to be re-elected at five-yearly intervals until his death on November 2, 2004. Following his death, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, then the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, May Allah Protect Him, was elected unanimously by the Federal Supreme Council to succeed him as President.

The political system in the United Arab Emirates comprises a number of federal institutions, with the Federal Supreme Council, comprised of Their Highnesses the Rulers of the seven emirates, being the highest authority. The Federal Supreme Council determines the general policy of the UAE, discusses all issues pertinent to the objectives of the Union and to the common interests of the emirates, elects the President and Vice-President from amongst its members and ratifies federal laws.

The UAE's Interim Constitution, adopted at its inception, defined the political and constitutional structure and the powers granted to the Federal Authorities.

In 1996, the Federal Supreme Council approved an amended text of the Constitution, making it permanent. The city of Abu Dhabi was declared the country's capital.

The Constitution defined the role of the federal authorities, laying down procedures for the issuing of federal legislation and on federal financial issues, spelt out the special provisions for the armed and security forces and the division of legislative and executive powers between the Union and the emirates, in addition to defining the nature of relations between United Arab Emirates and the rest of the world.

In accordance with the Constitution, the federal authorities include five major components: the Federal Supreme Council, The Council's President and Vice President, The Cabinet, the Federal National Council and the Federal Judicial System.

Arab Emirate



The
Federal
Supreme
Council

The
President

The
Vice-President

UAE
Cabinet

The
Federal
National
Council

The
Federal
Judicial
System



The Founder

United Arab Emirates

*The Late Sheikh
Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
Founder of the United Arab Emirates*

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was born in 1918 in Al Hosn Palace in Abu Dhabi. He was named after his grandfather, Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa, Ruler of Abu Dhabi from 1855 to 1909. He was brought up in accordance with Islamic principles and local traditions, receiving elementary education from traditional teachers, as did other children. He also learned much from attending the daily gatherings at the majlis of his father, Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed, who was Ruler of Abu Dhabi between 1922 until 1926.

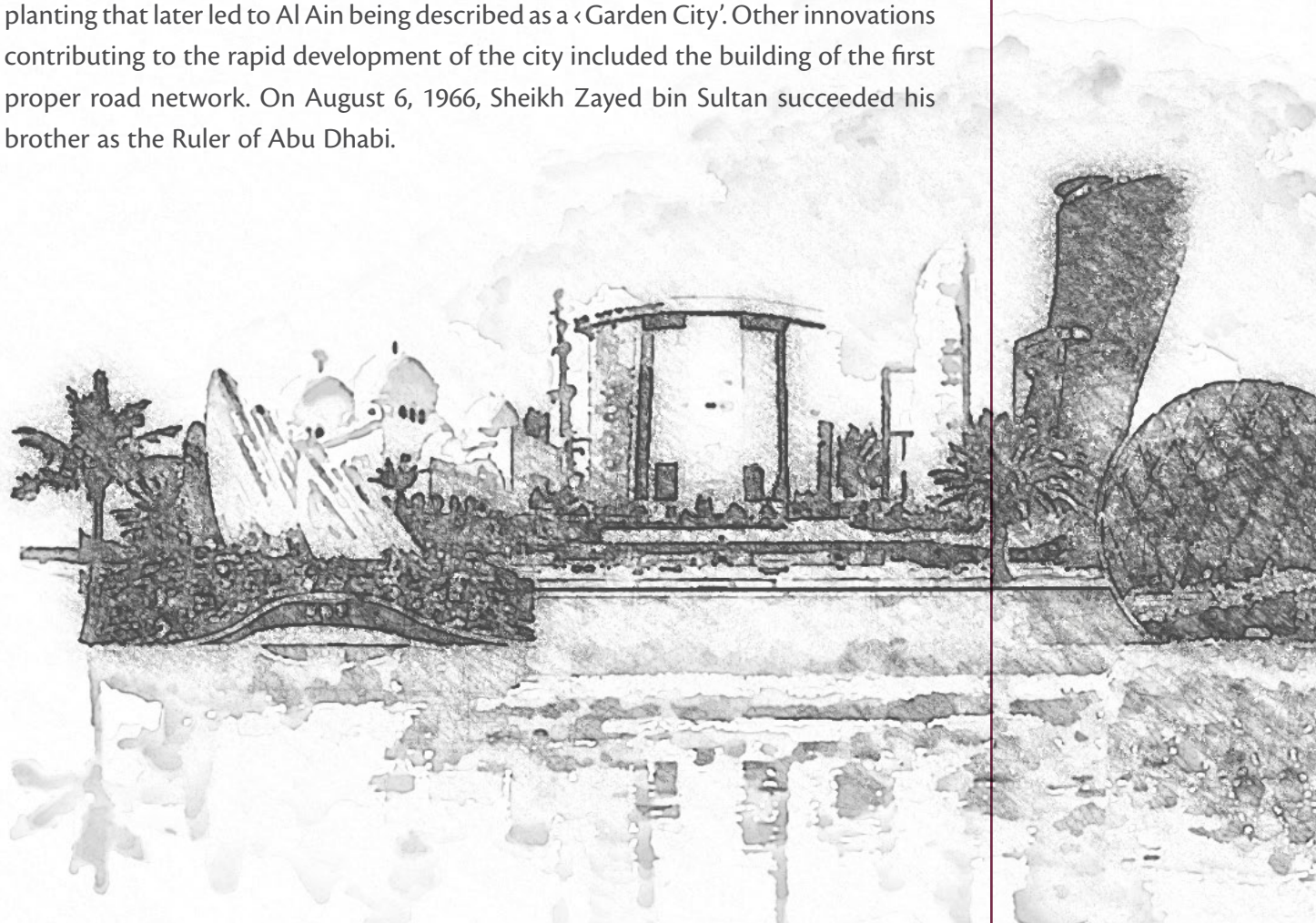
After the death of Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed, Sheikh Zayed, then only eight years old, moved with his family to Al Ain. His mother, Sheikha Salama bint Butti bin Khadem Al Qubeisi, played a central role in his upbringing, with the formative ideas he received in his early years remaining key elements of his personality throughout his life.

In 1946, Sheikh Zayed was appointed by his elder brother Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan, then Ruler of Abu Dhabi, as Ruler's Representative in the emirate's Eastern Region, centred on Al Ain. Here he gained his first experience in governance, devoting much attention, in particular, to the promotion of agriculture. He supervised the cleaning



and repair of ancient underground irrigation channels (falaj – pl. aflaj) and the digging of a new one, as well as ordering the digging of new wells, thereby enabling more land to be cultivated. Increased agricultural production led to the revival of the local economy of Al Ain.

Another major concern for Sheikh Zayed during his period as Ruler's Representative in Al Ain was the promotion of education. The first school for boys was opened in 1959, followed by one for girls. He also supported the opening of the area's first hospital, providing services to all the people and launched a programme of tree-planting that later led to Al Ain being described as a 'Garden City'. Other innovations contributing to the rapid development of the city included the building of the first proper road network. On August 6, 1966, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan succeeded his brother as the Ruler of Abu Dhabi.



Arab Emirate



The President

United Arab Emirates

His Highness Sheikh
Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the second President of the United Arab Emirates. He was born in 1948 in Qasr Al-Muwaiji in Al Ain. He received his elementary education there and learned about politics and diplomacy as well as the art of statecraft in his father's court.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa came to political life at a relatively young age, receiving his first training in how to manage state affairs under the supervision of his father. In September 1966, Sheikh Zayed chose Sheikh Khalifa, his eldest son, then aged eighteen to be the Ruler's Representative in the Eastern Region. He was also appointed President of the Judicial Courts in Al Ain.

In 1968, following the announcement of the British withdrawal from the Gulf, Sheikh Zayed re-organised the Government of Abu Dhabi to enable it to face the challenges ahead. In that year, Sheikh Khalifa was appointed Deputy Ruler and Deputy Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Planning Council. In February 1969, Sheikh Khalifa was designated as Crown Prince and was appointed to the post of head of the Defence Department, with the rank of Lieutenant-General. In this capacity, he was able to transform the Abu Dhabi Defence Force and develop separate infantry, armoured and air and naval units, provided with the latest equipment. He also established the Zayed II Military College in Al Ain under his direct supervision.



United Arab Emirates

Sheikh Khalifa played a major role in the progress of the negotiations concerning the formation of the Union. As Crown Prince, he chaired several meetings of the crown princes and deputy rulers of the emirates, including the meeting held in June 1970.

As the formation of the Union approached, Sheikh Khalifa applied his skills of governance to the political and economic development of Abu Dhabi emirate, especially after it became the capital of the young nation.





On July 1 1971, he was appointed as the Chairman of the first local Council of Ministers for Abu Dhabi, also serving as head of the Departments of Defence and Finance in this Council. After the formation of the federation, while retaining his local responsibilities, he became Deputy Prime Minister in the federal Cabinet formed in December 1973. In February 1974, following the abolition of the local Council of Ministers, he became the first Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, which replaced it. As Chairman, he supervised development projects throughout the emirate, paying particular attention to the infrastructure and services sectors. He also worked to create a modern administrative structure and an integrated legislative system as the basis for all economic and social development.

On May 7, 1976, he was appointed as Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, following a Federal Supreme Council resolution to unite the Armed Forces under one command and one flag.

In July 1976, the Financial Investments Board, part of Abu Dhabi Department of Finance, became the new Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, with Sheikh Khalifa being appointed as its Chairman, while retaining the post of Chairman of the Department of Finance.

He laid down the specific targets for the Authority to build up its financial assets from surplus government oil revenues. He also devoted attention to developing the assets of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, of which he had been Chairman since 1972 to become known for pioneering support on a global level. The fund is generously used for alleviating people's suffering in all corners of the world. ADFD's strategy is based on a multi-pronged approach that rapidly changes to overcome the prosperousness and advancement of developing nations. Moreover, it encourages support towards national projects and adheres to its continued active role in funding the constructive process in developing countries, more importantly, to tactically support the activity of local development and integration process.

The achievements of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa as Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi encompassed various spheres of development, including, in particular, those of enhancing skills and the level of education of the human resources of the Emirate.

In 1977, the Executive Council launched the first development plan for Abu Dhabi, for which UAE dirhams 23.8 billion (around US \$ 6.47 billion) was allocated. One key initiative was the formation of what became known as the Sheikh Khalifa Committee, which was responsible for the allocation of land and residential real estate for citizens of Abu Dhabi. The Executive Council also allocated funds for the development of the agricultural sector in the Northern Emirates.

In terms of education, Sheikh Khalifa believed that knowledge of technology was of fundamental importance in the development of the skills of school and college students. In 1986, he ordered the establishment of the first creative laboratory for computers in Abu Dhabi schools. He also provided the latest computers for the United Arab Emirates University, which was founded in 1977, while in 1988; he laid



United Arab Emirates

the foundation stone of a network Higher Colleges of Technology.

The period during which His Highness Sheikh Khalifa was Crown Prince and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council witnessed numerous challenges, both internally and throughout the region which required careful planning in the long term.

As Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa was one of the architects of the Peninsula Shield Force, the GCC's military arm, which was formed by a decree in 1983. The creation of a unified defence system for the Gulf Cooperation Council, he noted, was necessary to ensure the protection of the region and its people.

On November 2, 2004, the world was shocked by the news of the death of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. As his Crown Prince, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa became Ruler of Abu Dhabi, being elected next day by the Federal Supreme Council as the second President of the United Arab Emirates.

Since he became President of this great nation, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa has led a development journey that has had an impact on all aspects of life in the UAE. He has sought to implement plans based on the development of the country's human capital, believing that the imparting of skills to the new generation should be the main goal of any successful government. He has also identified education, culture, health and the family as being among his top priorities.

Calling this stage of the country's development 'The Stage of Empowerment', he has supervised the drawing up of programmes to ensure its implementation, such as the «Emirates 2021 Strategy» and the «Abu Dhabi Vision 2030.»



Arab Emir



The Vice President

United Arab Emirates

His Highness Sheikh
Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, was born on 15th July 1949, and grew up in the house of his grandfather, Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum. He graduated from Britain's Mons Officer Cadet School. Upon his return from the United Kingdom in the late 1960s, his father, the late Sheikh Rashid, then Ruler of Dubai, issued a decree appointing him as the Chief of Police and Public Security. In 1971, Sheikh Rashid issued another decree entrusting him with the task of forming Dubai Defence Force, which later merged into the UAE Armed Forces. On the formation of the first federal UAE Cabinet in 1971, Sheikh Mohammed became the country's first Defence Minister, the youngest minister to occupy such a position anywhere in the world.

Known since childhood for his interest in equestrian sports, his passion for the sport greatly helped him to develop his skills in leadership. The 1968 agreement is considered to be a fundamental pillar in the state's foundation. Sheikh Mohammed was closely following up and learning from the signature of the agreement on unity signed on February 18, 1968 between the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his Dubai counterpart, the late Sheikh Rashid, played an important role in the formation of the United Arab Emirates.

On January 4, 2006, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum became the Ruler of Dubai, after the death of his elder brother, Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Since then, Sheikh Mohammed has concurrently held the posts of UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. He has presided over an acceleration of the pace of the country's development, launching a number of major initiatives at both federal and local level.



At the level of Dubai, he has guided the emergence of the emirate as an international commercial and tourist hub, thanks in part to the continued success of the annual Dubai Shopping Festival, which attracts large numbers of visitors from abroad. One key to this success has been the major expansion of Dubai's urban infrastructure. A particular focus has been on the development of a digital economy, designed to make the very best use of the latest innovations in technology. This process has been facilitated by the establishment of three free zones, Dubai Internet City, Dubai Silicon Oasis and Dubai Media City, which have attracted innovators and entrepreneurs, as well as major media organisations, from around the globe.

In 2013, the Smart Government project was launched, initially seeking to ensure that government services would be accessible to all citizens and residents but subsequently broadened to provide government services to customers on their smart devices.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed has also launched a number of initiatives to help those in need, due to poverty, illness or the impact of natural and man-made disasters. The Mohammed bin Rashid Charity Foundation focusses its attention on empowering communities in need. 'Dubai Cares', launched in 2007, seeks to provide basic education to children around the world, while the 'Noor Dubai initiative', launched in 2008, is devoted to tackling blindness and eye diseases.

Under his leadership as Prime Minister, the UAE Cabinet, following a carefully-crafted strategy, has implemented major initiatives both locally and at a national level. Amongst the goals of the strategy are the achieving of sustainable development throughout the UAE, a more effective investment of federal resources, to be overseen by a consistent follow-up programme, and the instilling of a policy of accountability and transparency throughout government departments.

Arab Emirate

Agreement on the strategy was reached during special meetings of the Cabinet which also reviewed and endorsed the UAE National Agenda, a series of goals and projects in the sectors of education, health, economy, police and security, housing, infrastructure and government services, which together comprise the UAE Vision 2021. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid has also launched initiatives to improve communication with the community at large, while his majlis has become a centre for discussions and debates on cultural, social and intellectual issues.



The Federal Supreme Council

The Federal Supreme Council is the highest constitutional authority in United Arab Emirates. It consists of the rulers of the seven emirates:



His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
President of the Federal Supreme Council, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi.



Arab Emirate



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed
bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President of the Federal Supreme
Council, UAE Vice President, Prime
Minister and Ruler of Dubai.



His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin
Mohammed Al Qasimi
Member of the Federal Supreme
Council and Ruler of Sharjah.



His Highness Sheikh Humaid bin
Rashid Al Nuaimi
Member of the Federal Supreme
Council and Ruler of Ajman.



His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin
Mohammed Al Sharqi
Member of the Federal Supreme
Council and Ruler of Fujairah.



His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Rashid
Al Mu'alla
Member of the Federal Supreme
Council and Ruler of Umm Al-
Qaiwain



His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al
Qasimi
Member of the Federal Supreme
Council and Ruler of Ra's al-Khaimah

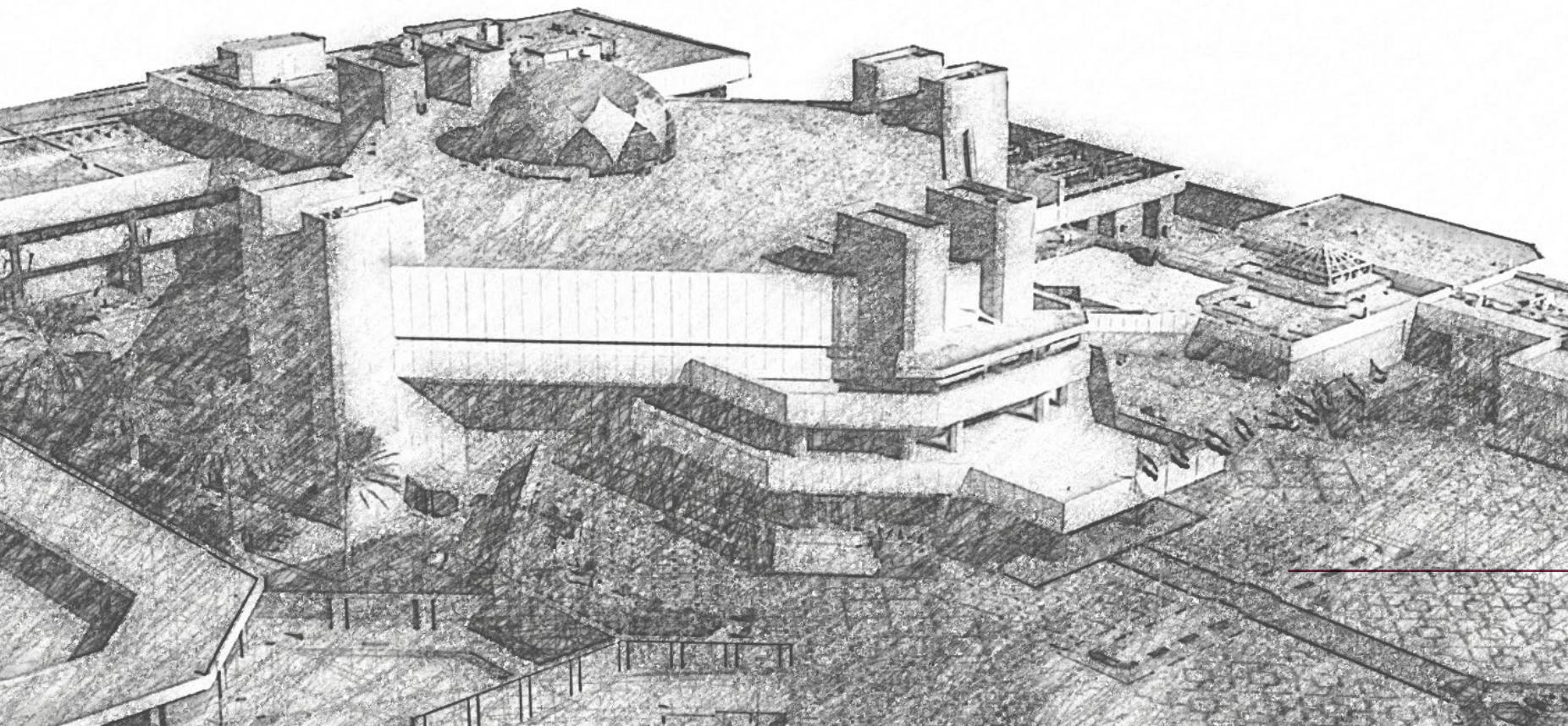
The Functions of the Federal Supreme Council

- 1 Defining the general policy on all issues assigned to the Council in accordance with the Constitution, in addition to deliberating on all matters related to achieving the objectives of the Union and the mutual interests of the member emirates.
- 2 Ratifying federal laws before their issuance, including laws relating to the annual general budget of the Council and the final accounts.
- 3 Ratifying decrees that are the responsibility of the Federal Supreme Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- 4 Ratifying treaties and agreements where a decree on ratification is required.
- 5 Approving the appointment of the Prime Minister, accepting his resignation or acting upon it, in accordance with the recommendations of the President.
- 6 Approving the appointment of the President and Judges of the Federal Supreme Court, accepting their resignations and terminating their services in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, all such decisions to be issued through decrees.
- 7 The supreme oversight of all affairs of the Union
- 8 Any other functions mentioned in the Constitution or the federal laws.

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United Arab Emirates



The UAE Cabinet

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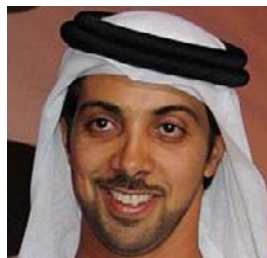
The Cabinet, or Council of Ministers, is the country's Executive Authority, being responsible for handling both internal and foreign affairs in accordance with the constitution and the federal laws, under the supervision of the UAE President and the Federal Supreme Council. The Cabinet consists of the Prime Minister, his two deputies and other ministers, with a secretariat managed by the Secretary General of the Cabinet. In February 2016, President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa approved the formation of the UAE's 12th Cabinet, with the inclusion of eight new ministers including five women, with an average age of 38 years old. The youngest minister, a woman, was 22 years old. The new Cabinet included ministries for Tolerance, Future, Youth, Happiness and Climate Change, while two new ministers were added to the education sector in addition to the current minister. The government also ordered the formation of the Supreme Council of Education, the Youth Council and the Emirati Scientists Council. The structure of the new Cabinet targets five major themes: preparing for the future, the issues and needs that are specific to youth, providing full access to opportunities for them to explore their ideas in a way that serve their future and their country, creating happiness in society and developing education in a way that will support the country's growth.



**HH Sheikh Mohammed
bin Rashid Al Maktoum**
Vice President, Prime Minister
and Ruler of Dubai



**HH Lieutenant General Sheikh
Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Interior



**HH Sheikh Mansour bin
Zayed Al Nahyan**
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Presidential Affairs



**HH Sheikh Hamdan bin
Rashid Al Maktoum**
Minister of Finance



**HH Sheikh Abdullah bin
Zayed Al Nahyan**
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation



HH Sheikh Nahyan bin
Mubarak Al Nahyan
Minister of Culture and
Knowledge Development



HE Sheikha Lubna bint
Khaled Al Qasimi
Minister of State for
Tolerance



HE Mohammed bin Abdullah
Al Gergawi
Minister of Cabinet Affairs
and the Future



HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri
Minister of Economy



HE Dr Anwar bin Mohammed
Gargash
Minister of State for Foreign
Affairs



HE Obaid bin Humaid Al Tayer
Minister of State for Financial
Affairs



HE Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemi
Minister of State for International
Cooperation



HE Dr Sultan bin Ahmed Sultan
Al Jaber
Minister of State



HE Abdul Rahman bin
Mohammed Al Owais
Minister of Health and Prevention



HE Saqr bin Ghobash Saeed
Ghobash
Minister of Human Resources &
Emiratisation



HE Sohail Mohammed Faraj
Faris Al Mazroui
Minister of Energy



HE Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed
Belheef Al-Nuaimi
Minister of Infrastructure
Development



HE Mohammed bin Ahmed Al
Bawardi
Minister of State for Defence



HE Jameela bint Salem Misbah Al
Muhairi
Minister of State for Public
Education



HE Dr Ahmed bin Abdullah
Hamid Balhoul Al Falasi
Minister of State for Higher
Education



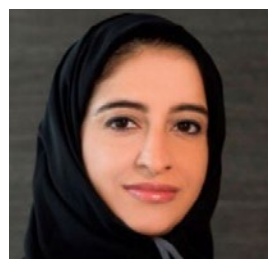
HE Noura bint Mohammed Al
Kaabi
Minister of State for Federal
National Council Affairs



HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Badi
Minister of Justice



HE Hussein bin Ibrahim Al
Hammadi
Minister of Education



HE Najla bint Mohammed Al
Awar
Minister of Community
Development



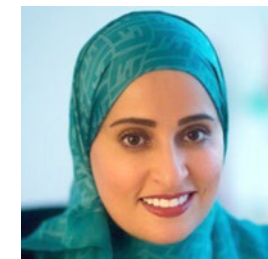
HE Dr Thani bin Ahmed Zyoudi
Minister of Climate Change &
Environment



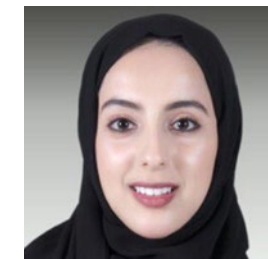
HE Dr Rashid bin Ahmed bin Fahd
Minister of State



HE Dr Maitha bint Salem Al
Shamsi
Minister of State



HE Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi
Minister of State for Happiness



HE Shamma bint Suhail bin Fares
Al Mazroui
Minister of State for Youth



In an article published following the formation of the new Cabinet, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, explained the reasons for the formation of the new ministries. Analysing the nature of the role that the Government must play to meet the challenges of the region, the article also provided a clear definition of how the government should respond to the needs of citizens, in particular of young people, by providing opportunities for them to build their future.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed wrote: 'Our region taught us through the horrible events in the recent years that the lack of prospects for the youth who represent more than half of the Arab societies is like swimming against the current and the beginning of the development and settlement end'.

He added: 'Our region has taught us that the governments that turned their backs to the youth and closed the doors in their faces have only closed the doors in front of whole nations. We shall never forget that the beginning of the tensions in the region, which is unfortunately called the Arab spring, was because of reasons related to providing chances and environment for the youth through which they can achieve their dreams and ambitions'.

He added: 'We are young country and we are highly proud of our youth in whom we invest. Therefore, we have appointed a young female minister from their age category to be their representative. We have established a special council for them. We believe that they are faster than us in learning and acquiring knowledge since they have tools and methods that we did not have in our youth. We are confident that will move the country to new levels of development and growth. The latest years in the 'new' Middle East have taught us that we need to learn, teach and practice tolerance and feed it to our children in their mentality, values, education and behaviour. Furthermore, we must put laws, policies and complete system of programs and initiatives for it. We have learnt this tough lesson from the thousands of people who were killed or made refugees in the last five years in this region because of sectarian, intellectual, cultural and religious sectarianism, heterophobia and intolerance.'

The Federal National Council

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan always recognised value of advice and exchanges of opinion with respect to the homeland and issues of importance to the country's citizens. The principle of Al Shura (meaning consultation) was a fundamental element of his approach to governance while those matters which were of most concern to him were those related to the needs of citizens. In his regular meetings in his majlis (court), he listened to their problems, grievances and demands and did his best to satisfy them.

In 1972, he announced the establishment of the Federal National Council, FNC, a parliamentary body charged with the responsibility of contributing to the UAE's construction, progress and development.. During the years when Sheikh Zayed was the country's President, the FNC worked closely with him and with his brothers, Their Highnesses The Rulers of the Emirates, to review laws and other legislation put forward by the Government and to build a firm and fruitful relationship between the federal and local authorities.

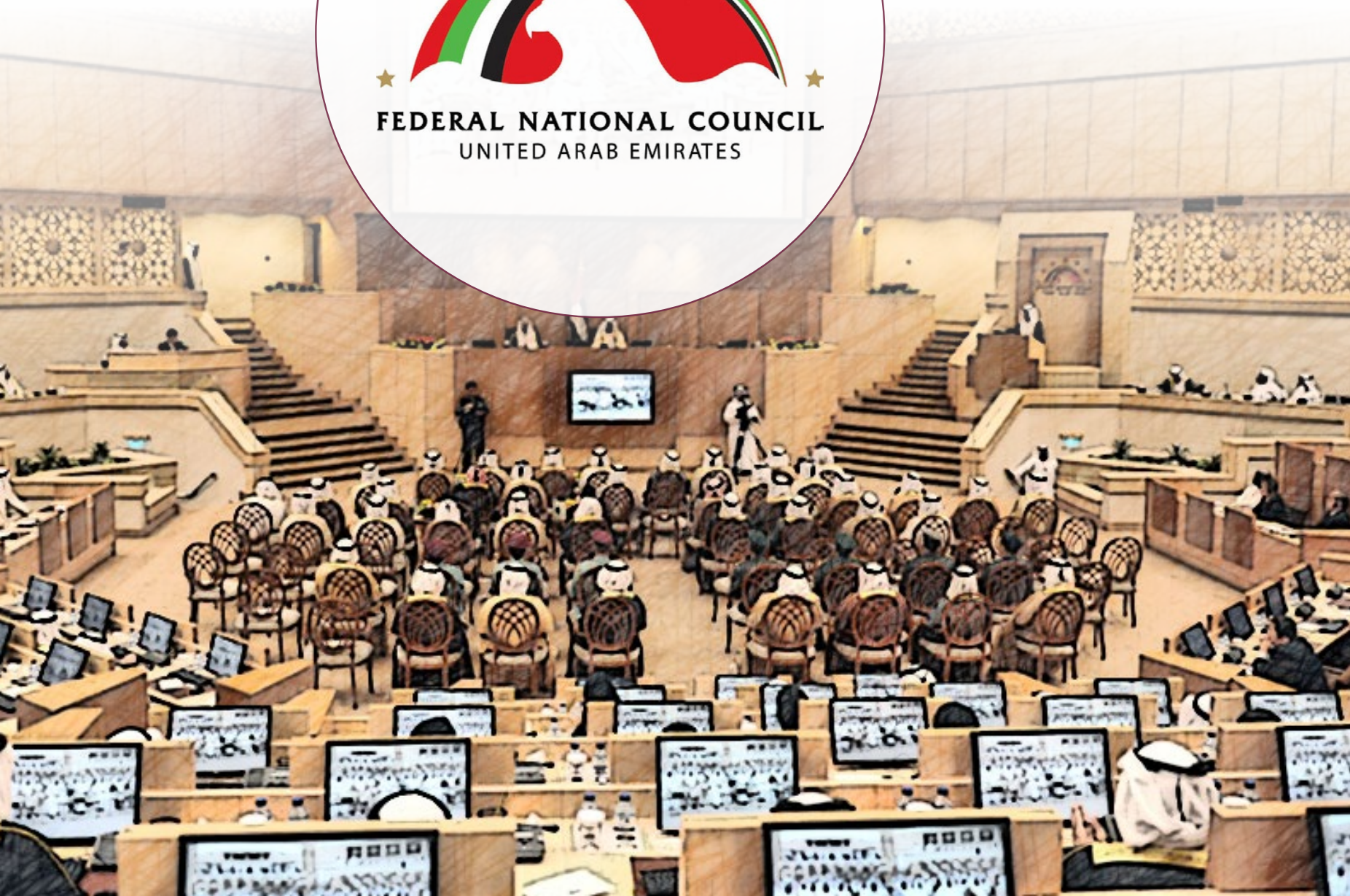
Following his accession in 2004, President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan introduced a series of changes to promote greater public participation in government, through the FNC, thereby enhancing the Council's ability to exercise its constitutional obligations, and to discuss issues related to the country and its citizens.

The Federal National Council has the important responsibility of contributing to the building of a nation where the people respect its laws and institutions, through a strengthening of the Shura approach, ensuring the participation of citizens in decision-making and enabling them to contribute to the process of comprehensive development.

Through its work, the FNC has had a significant impact on the modernisation of the country's legislative environment, discussing issues that are directly related to the affairs of the nation and its citizens. It has also helped to ensure that the issues it has taken up are reflected in the policies of the Government, reflecting its role as a platform for the exercise of the principle of Shura.



Arab Emirates



The FNC was established as one of the five federal constitutional authorities when the Union was created by the country's Founding Fathers. They dedicated their time and effort to ensure the success of this unique experiment which sought to establish a privileged relationship among the constitutional authorities, to represent the political experience of the leadership in its activities and to ensure participation of the citizens in the decision-making process.

In his speech delivered at the opening of the first ordinary session of the first legislative chapter of the Council on February 13, 1972, the late Sheikh Zayed noted: "This country is engaged in creating life on the soil of this good land, and building a brilliant, bright and prosperous future for us and for the coming generations".

The UAE's wise leadership continues intensive steps to enhance and activate the political participation of its citizens in building the nation. This is being achieved through the gradual process that is characterised by the political programme put forward by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa in 2005, in accordance with the specific nature and circumstances of our society.

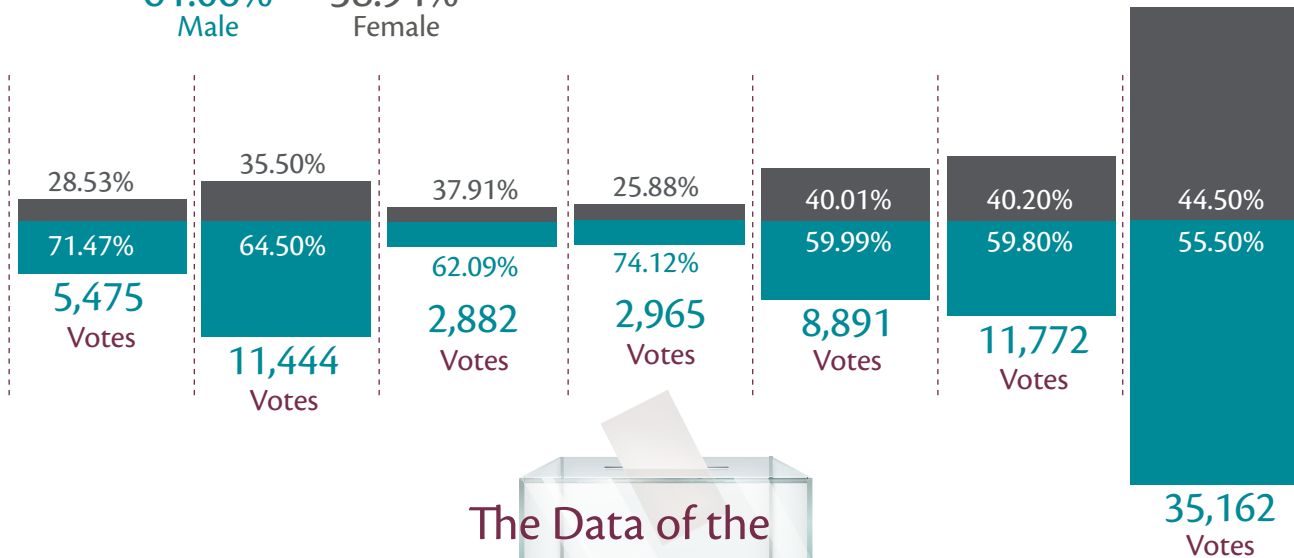
This programme was based on strategies that have specific goals and objectives and that have been devised on the basis of a scientific methodology, together with carefully-designed plans that allow for participation in the building of the nation and the preservation of the tremendous achievements of the past.

A key element of the progress made by the Federal National Council under the leadership of President Sheikh Khalifa has been the implementation of a programme of political empowerment and popular participation that began with the holding in 2006 of the first elections for half of its membership. Further elections were held in 2011 and 2015, with the electorate including women and with women becoming members of the Council.

The percentage of the participation in the elections **35.29%**

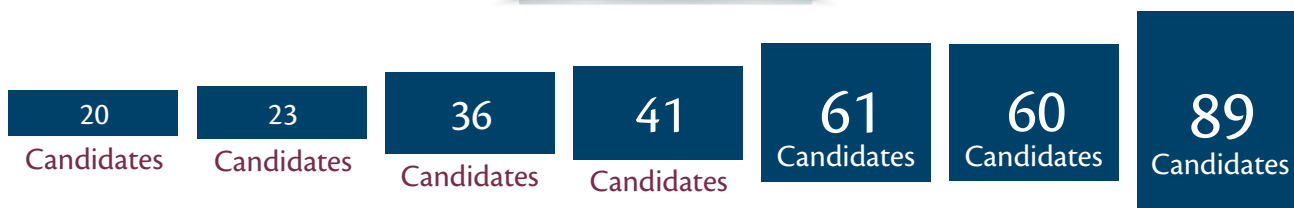


The number of the votes in each emirate

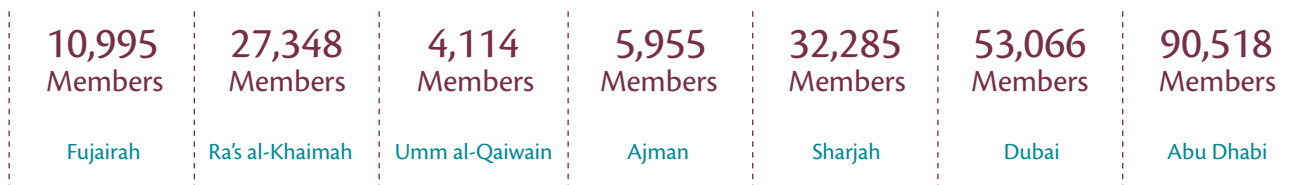


The Data of the
Federal National
Council elections
October 3, 2015

The number of the candidates in each emirate



The number of the electoral committees



The electoral committees consist of **224,281** members

United Arab Emirates

During the course of that process, the number of electors rose from around 7,000 during the first elections, in 2006, to around 224,000 in 2015, when the 16th legislative chapter of the FNC began. Through this process of gradual change, more and more citizens are now able to play an active part in the country's political development. On November 18, 2015, Dr Amal Al Qubaisi was elected as the FNC Speaker, the first time that a woman was elected to head a parliamentary institution in the Arab world, reflecting the way in which the country's leadership has sought to promote the involvement of the country's women in all aspects of national life.

During the opening of the second regular session of the 16th legislative chapter of the Council, the FNC launched its strategy for the years 2016-2021. This covered a wide range of topics that reflect the thinking of the UAE's leadership, including the political empowerment programme launched by President Sheikh Khalifa in 2005. The strategy puts forward a model for parliamentary activity that will allow the FNC to support the efforts of the leadership to provide the UAE's people with full access to opportunities and that will contribute to the objective of making the country one of the best in the world.

Arab Emirate



Dr Amal Al Qubaisi
The FNC Speaker
The first woman to head a
parliamentary institution in the
Arab world and the Middle East.

The Foreign Policy

United Arab Emirates

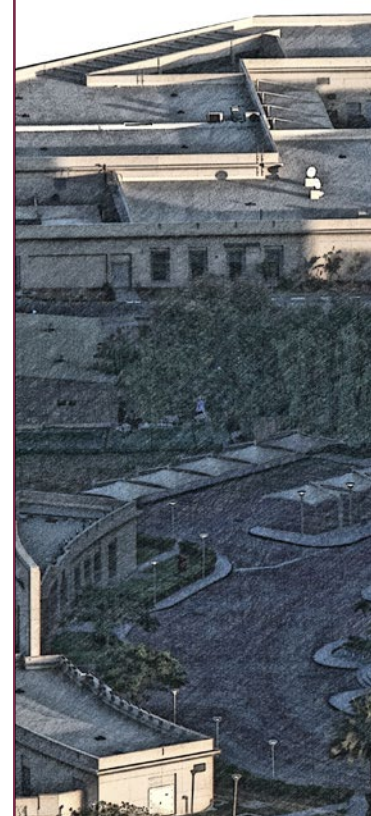
Since its foundation in 1971, the United Arab Emirates has adopted a foreign policy that has been characterised by wisdom, moderation, balance and support for rights and justice, based on the foundations of dialogue and understanding between countries, respect for international treaties, adherence to the United Nations Charter, respect for the rules of good neighbourliness and the leadership of other countries and the integrity of their territories, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The United Arab Emirates has always remained open to the outside world, this having led to the establishment of strategic partnerships covering political, economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, educational and health issues with many countries throughout the world. These have enhanced the prestige of the UAE in the international community.

The history of the past few decades have proved the correctness of the UAE founder's approach. The framework of policies and perspectives laid down by the late Sheikh Zayed has enabled the country to gain respect as a responsible member of the international community.

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has noted: «The prominent position and the great respect that the UAE enjoys internationally has resulted from the principles of our foreign policy, laid down by our father and leader, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Our foreign policy is based on our commitment to our Gulf, Arab and Islamic brethren, our friendship with all the countries in the world, good neighbourliness, respect for the sovereignty of other countries and the integrity of their territories and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The fundamental basis of our approach to our foreign policy is our commitment to resolve disputes peacefully and our adherence to the United Nations Charter and International Law.»

He added: 'The success of our foreign policy is one of the UAE's most distinguished achievements. This success is based on a group of foundations and principles whose pillars were built by the founding leader, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.»



Arab Emirate

The co-operative relationship between the United Arab Emirates and the countries of the world has included a variety of initiatives and humanitarian programmes.

These have contributed in enhancing international cooperation and promoting security and stability in different regions and societies around the world. This was the motivation behind the objective of making the United Arab Emirates the first Arab country to be exempted from the requirement for an entry visa to the Schengen countries, in accordance with an agreement signed between the United Arab Emirates and the European Union in Brussels. UAE citizens can now travel to the 26 European countries that are members of the Schengen agreement for up to six months every year, provided that each visit does not exceed 90 days.

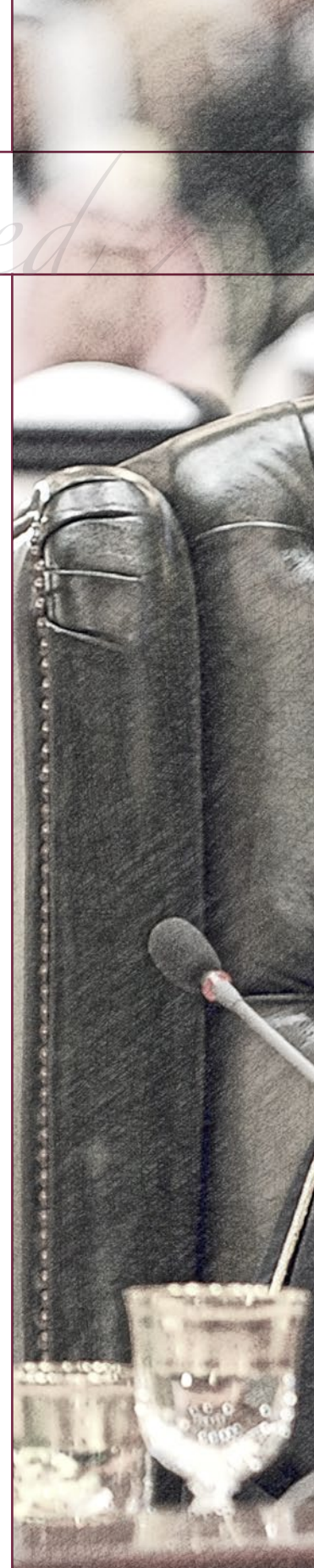


United

The United Arab Emirates believes in the values of justice, international law, human rights and the provision of a happy environment for its citizens and residents. This belief emanates from realistic policies that stress that real development must include more than economic growth. It is also necessary to invest in the people, based on the values of tolerance and acceptance of others, gender equality and the like. Other policies deal with the empowerment of women, protecting the country, guarding it against extremism and sectarianism, protecting its institutions and ensuring its stability.

In pursuit of this, the Government has established the Hedayah Centre, and the Sawab Centre to fight against extremist ideas while the Muslim Council of Elders is another initiative to promote greater recognition of the true teachings of Islam. All these institutions aim to protect the youth from extremism, sectarianism and terrorism, while they also seek to rebut the false claims and assertions of extremist groups.

As part of the process of building relations with other countries around the world, diplomatic relations have been established with 189 other states while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has 82 embassies, 18 consulates and four permanent missions. The UAE hosts 110 embassies, 73 consulates and 15 offices of regional and international organisations.





Emirate

دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة

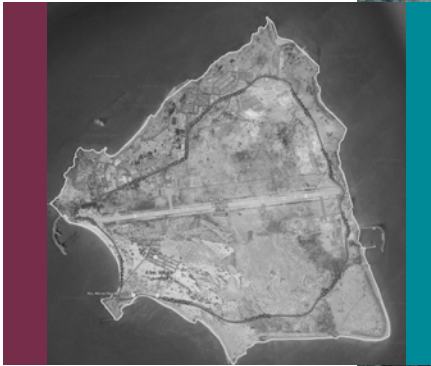
UAE Policy towards the Gulf Countries and the region

Since its foundation, the United Arab Emirates has been working in cooperation with its brothers in the GCC and the Arab League and other groups to support all efforts to contain and resolve tensions and conflicts in the Middle East, emphasising its belief in the need for settling disputes peacefully.

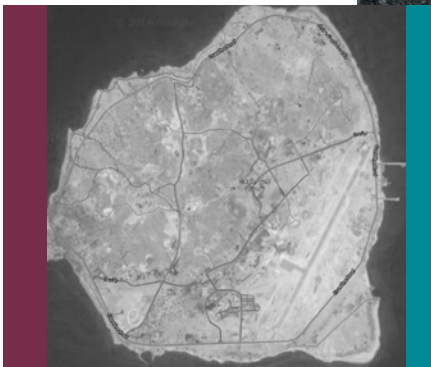
Bilateral cooperation with the other GCC States is continuously enhanced through agreements, summits, reciprocal visits and meetings at various levels.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, noted in his speech to the 71st General Assembly of the United Nations in New York: «We cannot allow the crisis in the region to take our attention away from the three UAE islands occupied by Iran - Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. The occupation of the islands is in clear violation of the UN Charter and International Law».

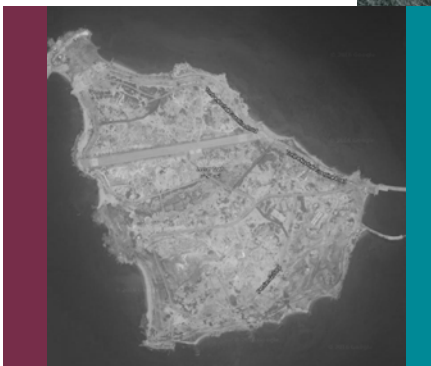
Arab Emir



Abu Musa



Greater Tunb



Lesser Tunb



He called upon Iran to return the islands to their rightful owners voluntarily or through international arbitration.

Overseas Aid and grants

The UAE is one of the leading countries in the field of philanthropy, with numerous initiatives in all fields of charitable and humanitarian work, both at home and overseas. The UAE leadership believes that humanitarian work is both a moral responsibility and a duty, embodying a spirit of collaboration and synergy among peoples and nations.

The value of the development assistance and humanitarian and charitable aid provided by the United Arab Emirates since it was established now amounts to around AED 173 billion (around US \$ 47 billion), with further assistance being provided every year. A total of 178 countries have now benefited from the projects and programmes of the UAE's various donor institutions.

The Development Aid Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development has stated that, in 2015, according to preliminary data on the provision of official development assistance, the UAE is in the top ten countries worldwide in terms of the percentage of its gross national income allocated.

In its latest annual report, for 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation noted that the UAE had provided foreign aid, both official and non-official, with a total value of AED 32.34 billion (the equivalent of US \$ 8.08 billion), disbursed by 42 donor organisations and bodies in 155 countries around the world. For the third successive year, the value of the official UAE development aid during 2015 exceeded the target set by the United Nations of 0.7% of the national income of the donor countries. The UAE provided AED 16.12 billion (the equivalent of \$ 4.39 billion) in aid, representing 1.09% of its national income.

Arab Emirates

Provided to

178
Countries



173
BILLION AED

The value of the development assistance and humanitarian and charitable aid provided by the United Arab Emirates in

44
Years



In parallel with the UAE approach in previous years, the majority of foreign aid, amounting to 92%, equivalent to AED 75.29 billion (the equivalent of US \$ 8.10 billion) was spent to support development projects, while humanitarian and relief aid in emergency situations representing 6.7% of aid, and charity donations accounted for aid the remaining 1.3%.

Continuing a pattern from previous years, the African continent received the lion's share of the UAE's official and non-official aid during 2015, amounting to AED 25.12 billion (the equivalent of US \$ 6.84 billion), 66.7% of the total aid disbursed. Asia received AED 6.63 billion (the equivalent of US \$ 1.81 Billion), followed by Europe, with AED 162.41 million (the equivalent of US \$ 44.2 million). Oceania (the South Pacific) received Emirati aid with a total value of AED 96.97 million (the equivalent of US \$ 26.4 million), while the Americas received aid worth AED 6.38 million (the equivalent of US \$ 1.7 million).

Among the most significant form of aid provided during 2015 was that allocated for refugees and internally displaced persons and those affected by crises and conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Iraq. Aid provided for construction of roads and bridges and other types of infrastructure as well as for renewable energy projects was also important.

During 2015, aid provided directly by the Government accounted for AED 27.84 billion (the equivalent of US \$ 7.57 billion), or 86.1% of the total. The second largest donor was the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development Fund with a value of AED 2.70 billion (the equivalent of US \$ 736.73 million), followed by the Khalifa bin Zayed Foundation with a value of approximately AED 568.32 million (the equivalent of US \$ 154.73 million), and the UAE Red Crescent Authority with a value of AED 380.42 million (the equivalent of US \$ 103.57 million).

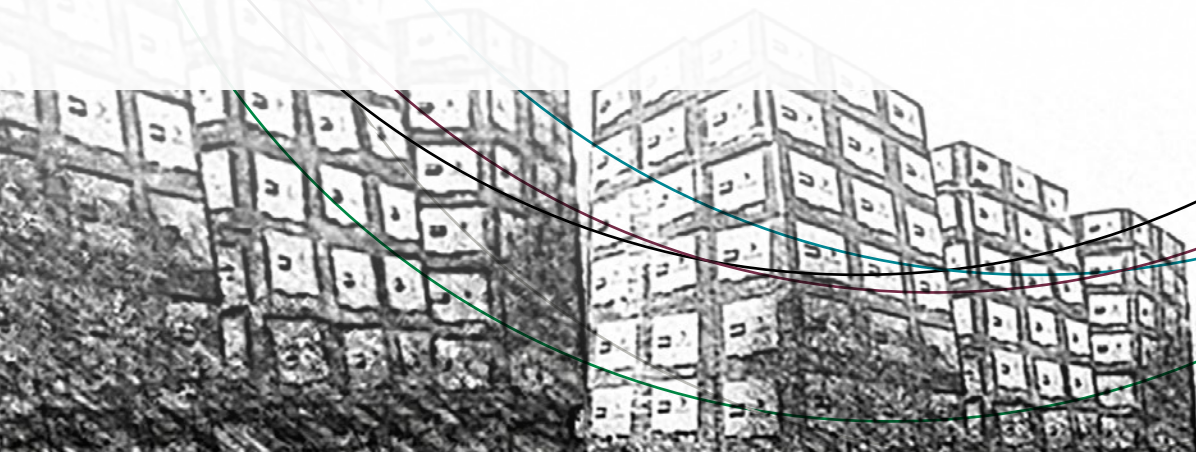
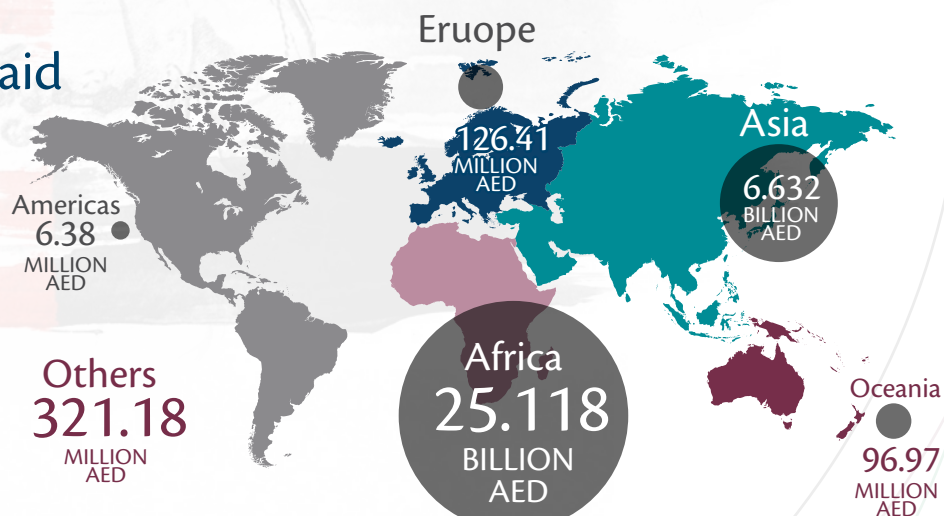


Abu Dhabi



The value of the foreign aid

32.34
BILLION AED
in **2015**



Returning Hope to Yemen

Following the completion of 'the storm of resolve' operation in Yemen, it was followed by the launching of 'Operation Returning Hope' in order to continue the liberation of Yemen and to allow for the rebuilding of what had been destroyed by the Houthis and the forces of the ousted President, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

During 2015, the United Arab Emirates was the top international donor of aid to tackle the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, providing a total of around AED 3.34 billion – the equivalent of US \$ 908 million. The aid, all in the form of grants, is estimated to have helped around two million people in ten provinces in both the north and south of the country, including Aden, Lahj, Ta'iz, Dhala, Shabwa, Abyan, Al Mahra, Ma'areb, Hadramaut and Socotra.

United Nations figures indicate that the United States of America and the United Kingdom followed the UAE in terms of assistance to Yemen in all fields.

The UAE's humanitarian aid to Yemen included emergency food supplies and the distribution of more than 30 million tons of food products with a value of AED 400 million (the equivalent of US \$ 109.1 million), and the provision of more than 1000 tons of medicines and medical equipment, worth AED 152.1 Million (the equivalent of US \$ 41.4 million). Other aid worth AED 145.9 million (the equivalent of US \$ 39.7 million) was also distributed.

This other assistance included maintenance work by the Emirati Red Crescent at Aden Hospital, the establishment of the National Cancer Centre in Sana'a and the payment of doctors' salaries.

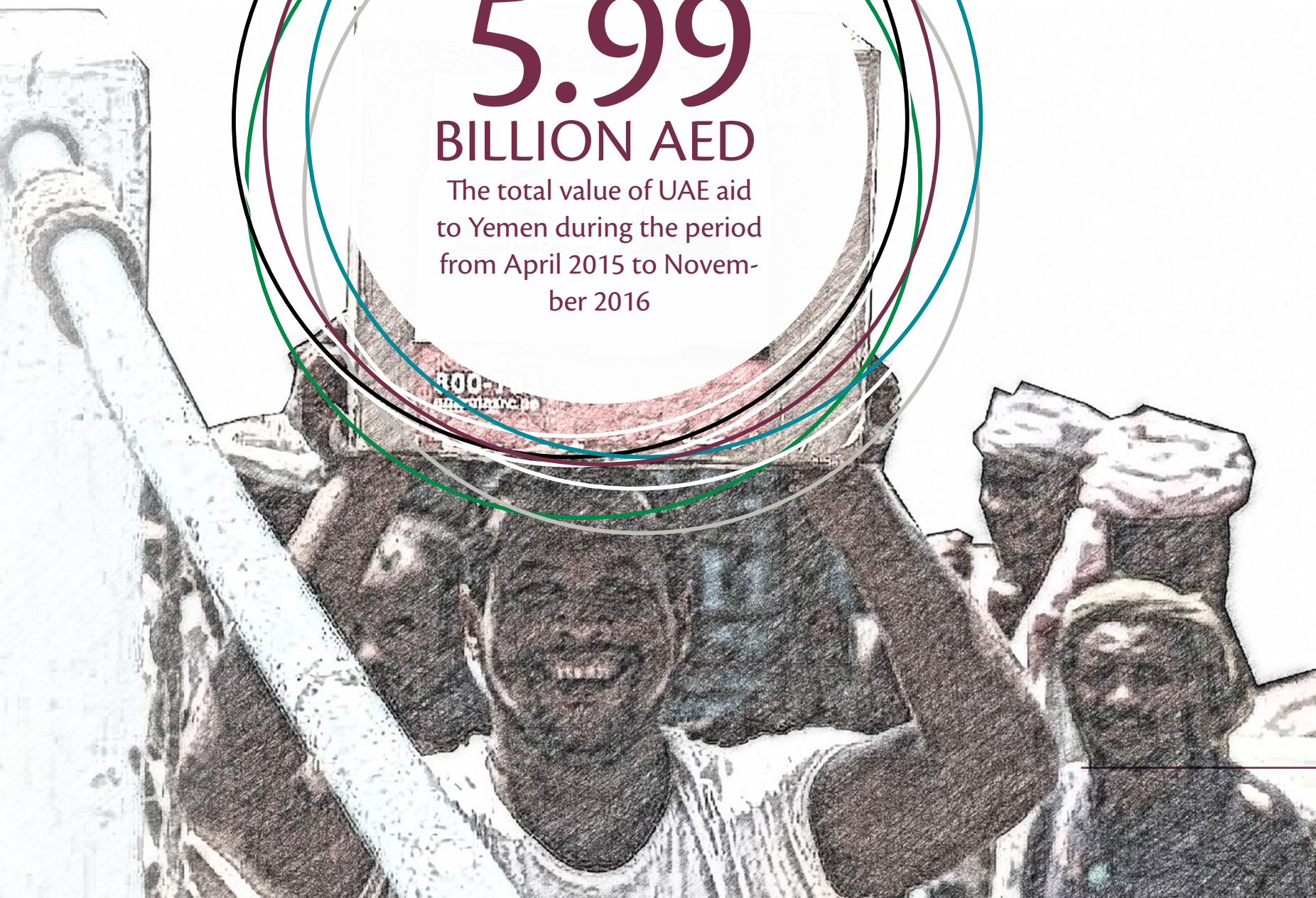
In response to the damage caused by the Megh and Chapala cyclones along Yemen's southern coastline and on the island of Socotra in November 2015, an air-bridge from the UAE delivered 135 tons of food and non-food goods and emergency shelter items.

Other assistance included the provision by the UAE Red Crescent and the Khalifa bin Zayed Foundation of new power generating plants, with a total value of AED 405.2 million (the equivalent of US \$ 110.3 million), along with fuel supplies worth AED 200 million (the equivalent of US \$ 54.5 million).

Arab Emirates

5.99
BILLION AED

The total value of UAE aid
to Yemen during the period
from April 2015 to Novem-
ber 2016



The UAE also provided a total of AED 151.8 million (the equivalent of US \$ 41.3 million) for reconstruction work at the port and airport in Aden. A further AED 37.8 million (US \$ 10.3 million) was allocated for the repair of water and sanitation plants and maintenance of freshwater networks in Aden and adjacent provinces.

In terms of education, AED 80.7 million (the equivalent of US \$ 22 million) was allocated for the rebuilding and maintenance of 154 schools, in addition to the supply of educational materials.

The majority of the aid offered to this sector, amounting to 98.7% of the total, was allocated to support public administration, including internal security and the rehabilitation and maintenance of 11 security centres, including the Police and Coast Guard Stations and control and inspection buildings.

Many UAE charitable organisations have participated in the programme of assistance to Yemen,. These included the Emirati Red Crescent Society, the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, along with the Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable & Humanitarian Foundation, the institutions of charity and humanity, the Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan Humanitarian & Scientific Foundation, UAE watering, Al Rahma for Charity, Sharjah charitable House.

UAE aid to Yemen: statistics for 2015, 2016

Between April 2015 and November 2016, UAE support for Yemen amounted to about AED 5.99 billion (the equivalent of US \$ 1.64 billion), including development assistance and humanitarian and charitable aid.

Humanitarian aid amounted to AED 1.829 billion (the equivalent of US \$ 507.30 million) or 30.5% of the total value of UAE aid to Yemen over this period. This included the supply of food, medicines, medical equipment, an ambulance and medical devices.

Development aid over the same period amounted to AED 4.148 billion (the equivalent of US \$ 1.129 billion).

AED 929.73 million (US \$ 253.13 million) was allocated to support the energy and electricity sector, covering the operational expenses of electricity generation and the electricity supply services.

AED 486.79 million (about US \$ 132.53 million) was provided to the transport sector with the health sector receiving AED 277.65 million (around US \$ 75.59 million).

AED 161.82 million (the equivalent of US \$ 44.06 million) went to support education, while AED 18.98 million (the equivalent of US \$ 5.17 million) was dedicated to the rebuilding of water and sanitation network in several cities.

Support for the government sector amounted to AED 452.55 million (the equivalent of US \$ 123.21 million), for expenditure aimed at meeting the daily needs of citizens in various fields.

FOR THE REHABILITATION OF WATER & SANITATION PLANTS

FOR THE EDUCATION SECTOR

FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRPORT & PORT OF ADEN

FOR FUEL

FOR NEW ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATIONS

FOR RELIEF MATERIALS

FOR MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AID

80.7 M AED

37.8 M AED

151.8 Million AED

200 Million AED

405.2 Million AED

145.9 Million AED

152.1 Million AED

400 Million AED

3.34

Billion AED

The total value of the humanitarian aid offered by UAE to Yemen during 2015.



UAE Vision

His Highness Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, launched the UAE Vision during a Cabinet meeting in 2010. It seeks to ensure that the UAE is one of the best countries in the world by the time that its 50th anniversary is reached in 2021.

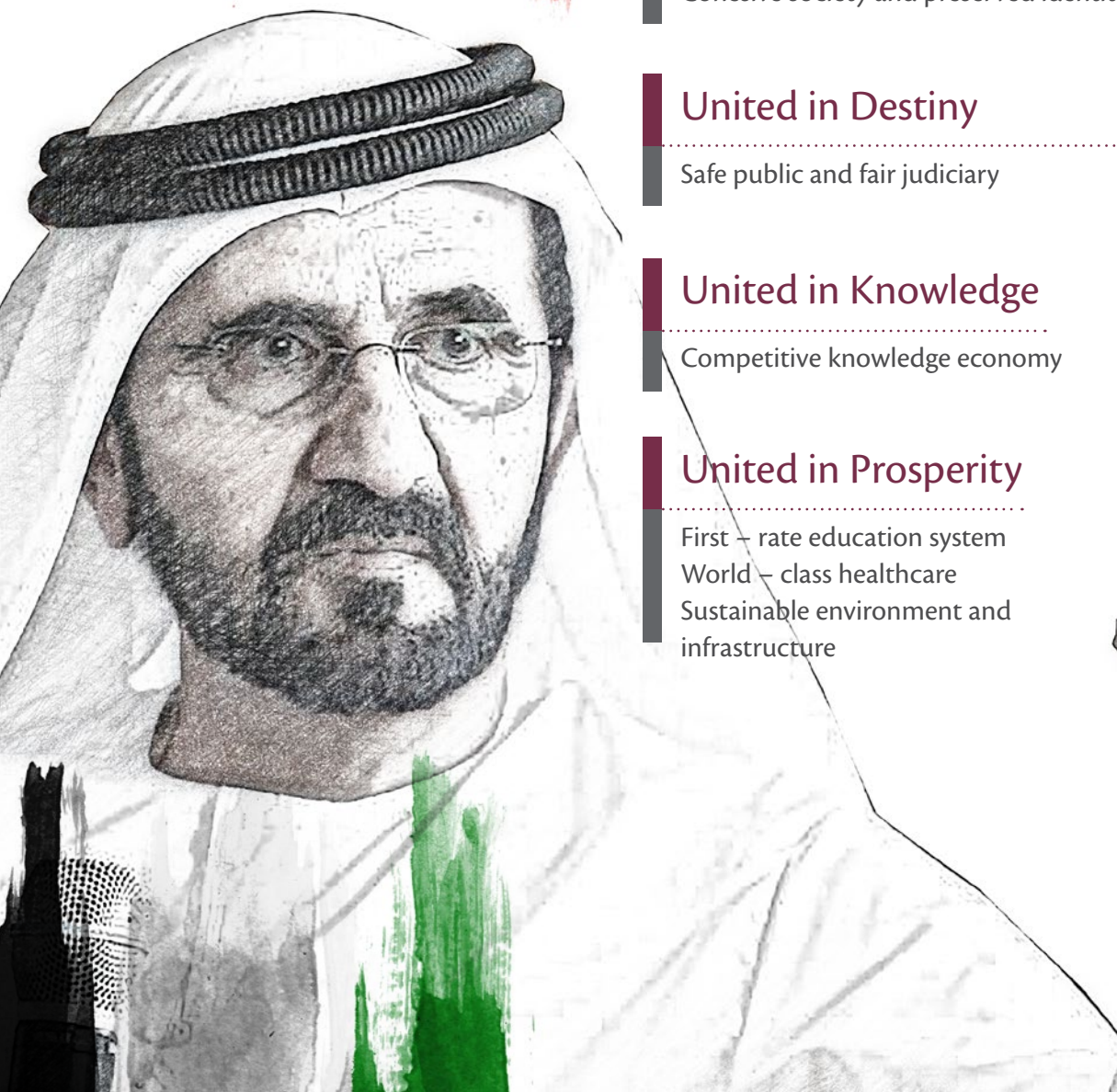
In order to achieve this vision, the country is continuing on the path laid down by its founding fathers, inspired by the programme of national work launched by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and adopted by their Highnesses the Rulers of the seven Emirates.

The programme prepared to ensure the achievement of this vision was put together by more than 300 leading officials and experts in a variety of fields. It sets out a series of national indicators in education, health, economy, police, housing, infrastructure and government services, with a long term vision that will measure results against a series of national priorities. It will also compare the UAE's performance in a range of international indicators against the rest of the world.





Emirates



United in responsibility

Cohesive society and preserved identity

United in Destiny

Safe public and fair judiciary

United in Knowledge

Competitive knowledge economy

United in Prosperity

First – rate education system
World – class healthcare
Sustainable environment and
infrastructure



The elements of this vision were divided into the following four elements:

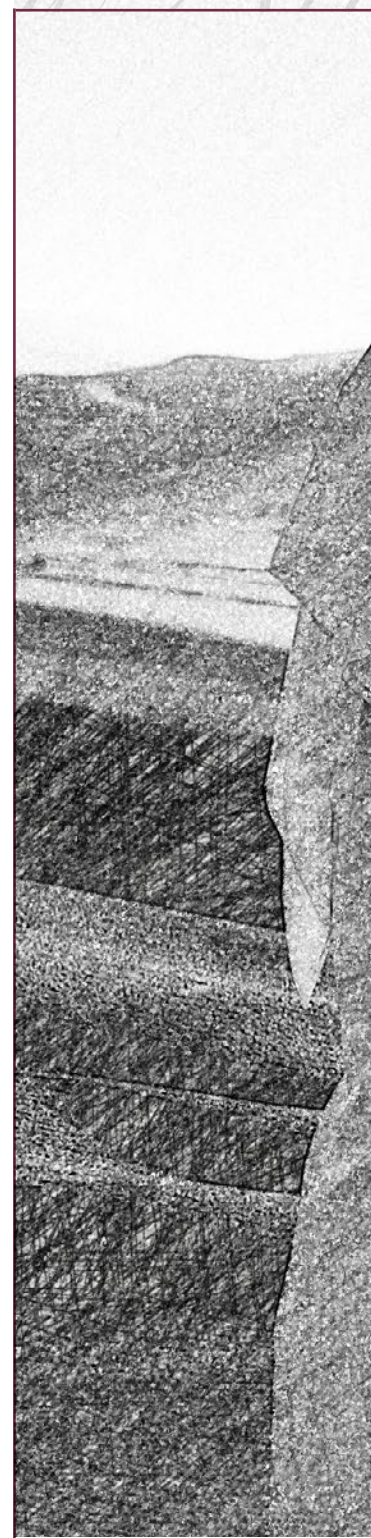
United in responsibility: Ambitious and responsible Emiratis will successfully carve out their future, actively engaging in an evolving socio-economic environment, and drawing on their strong families and communities, moderate Islamic values, and deep-rooted heritage to build a vibrant and well-knit society.

United in destiny: The UAE Federation will uphold the legacy of our Founding Fathers to ensure balanced development throughout the Emirates, through active coordination among levels of Government and integrated national planning and execution in all policy areas. The UAE Government will continue to be the custodian of a safe and secure nation, ensuring economic resilience and stability, upholding fairness and justice, and offering an advanced welfare system to allow all Emiratis to overcome adversity and contribute positively to society. The UAE's international standing will continue to grow as its successes highlight its prestige as a regional and international role model, developing sectors of excellence and national champions.

United in knowledge: A diversified and flexible knowledge-based economy will be powered by skilled Emiratis and strengthened by world-class talent to ensure long-term prosperity for the UAE. The UAE will harness the full potential of its National human capital by maximising the participation of Emiratis, encouraging entrepreneurship, and nurturing home-grown public and private sector leaders while attracting and retaining the best talent. The UAE will benefit from a sustainable and diversified economy, flexible in adopting new economic models, and capitalising on global economic partnerships to guarantee long-term prosperity for current and future generations of Emiratis. Innovation, research, science and technology will form the pillars of a knowledge-based, highly productive and competitive economy, driven by entrepreneurs in a business-friendly environment where public and private sectors form effective partnerships.

United in prosperity: Emiratis will enjoy the highest living standards, long and healthy lives, first-rate education and well-rounded lifestyles guaranteed by excellent public services and recreational activities, within a safe and rich natural and social environment.

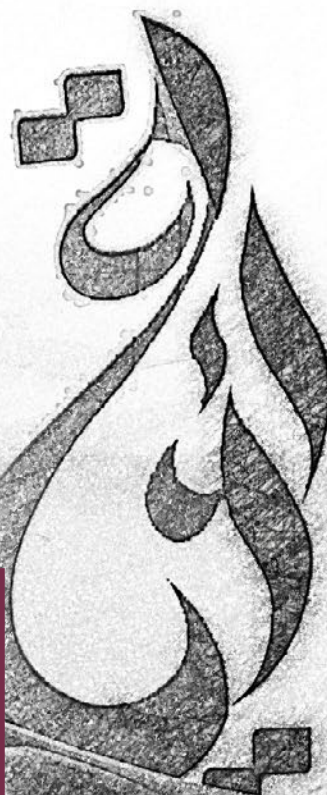
United Arab



UAE Emirates

The elements of the vision

- United in Responsibility
- United in Destiny
- United in Knowledge
- United in Prosperity



The Vision identifies the pillars of the National Agenda as follows:

Cohesive Society and Preserved Identity: by providing a comprehensive environment that integrates within it the different categories of society, protecting UAE culture and traditions and enhancing its social and family unity.

Safe public and fair judiciary: by enhancing the feelings of all members of the community and upgrading the preparedness of the police and emergency services while improving road safety, increasing the transparency of the courts and judges while continuing to guarantee the rights of individuals and institutions through an effective judicial system.

Competitive knowledge economy: The UAE government is continuing its efforts to achieve a knowledge-based economy by encouraging innovation, research and development; enhancing the organisational structure of key sectors; encouraging the sectors with high added value develop in such a way as to promote the business environment and attract foreign investment.. One of the main goals of the national agenda is to make UAE as one of the best countries worldwide in business.

First-Rate Education System: the National Agenda seeks to provide all schools and universities, as well as students with smart devices and systems, with the objective of offering courses, projects and research programmes on such smart systems. The Agenda seeks to enable our students to reach top international rankings in the evaluation tests of their knowledge, reading skills, mathematics and science.

World-Class Healthcare: International standards for the health system: the country will work in cooperation with all its health authorities to develop private and public hospitals in accordance with the clearly-understood national and international standards regarding the provision of top quality services and in terms of the sufficiency of the available medical personnel, so as to improve disease prevention and reduce the incidence of chronic diseases.

Sustainable environment and infrastructure: maintaining appropriate air quality, protecting water resources, increasing reliance on clean energy, paying the necessary attention to the quality of the infrastructure of the country's airports, sea ports and roads and enhancing the quality of electricity supply and telecommunications services, thereby making the UAE a leader in the provision of Smart services.

Arab Emirate

The pillars of the vision

- Cohesive Society and Preserved Identity.
- Safe public and fair judiciary.
- Competitive knowledge economy
- First –Rate Education System.
- World-Class Healthcare.
- Sustainable environment and infrastructure.



International competition

The United Arab Emirates has adopted a carefully-designed approach to ensure that the state and all of its institutions are competitive, as a way of enhancing sustainable growth and prosperity in the future. Key features of the global economy in the 21st Century, like globalisation and the growing integration of the international economy, are considered the engines that will drive the competitiveness strategy of the country.

Over the last five years, and within the framework of its overall renaissance, the United Arab Emirates has made a number of important achievements that have contributed to the establishment of its unique position, both regionally and internationally. It has become an exemplary model in a range of aspects of development, this, in turn, having made the country a beacon for stability and development in the Middle East.

Various international assessments, based on global standards and carried out in accordance with scientific principles have shown the success of this approach. The Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme, for example, now ranks the UAE among countries that have attained a very high level of human development. This classification includes a wide range of different sectors of development.

In the 2016 Report, the UAE occupies, for the third successive year, the 1st place within the region in terms of the ease of doing business, while it rose one place, to 31st in the world as a whole. The UAE has also occupied the 1st place for three years consecutively in the ease of conducting business, putting it ahead of all other countries in the region that are included in the 2016 report.

The Report also places the UAE in the top five countries globally in three key areas, the level of the impact of taxation on business, the issuing of construction permits and the level of electricity connections.

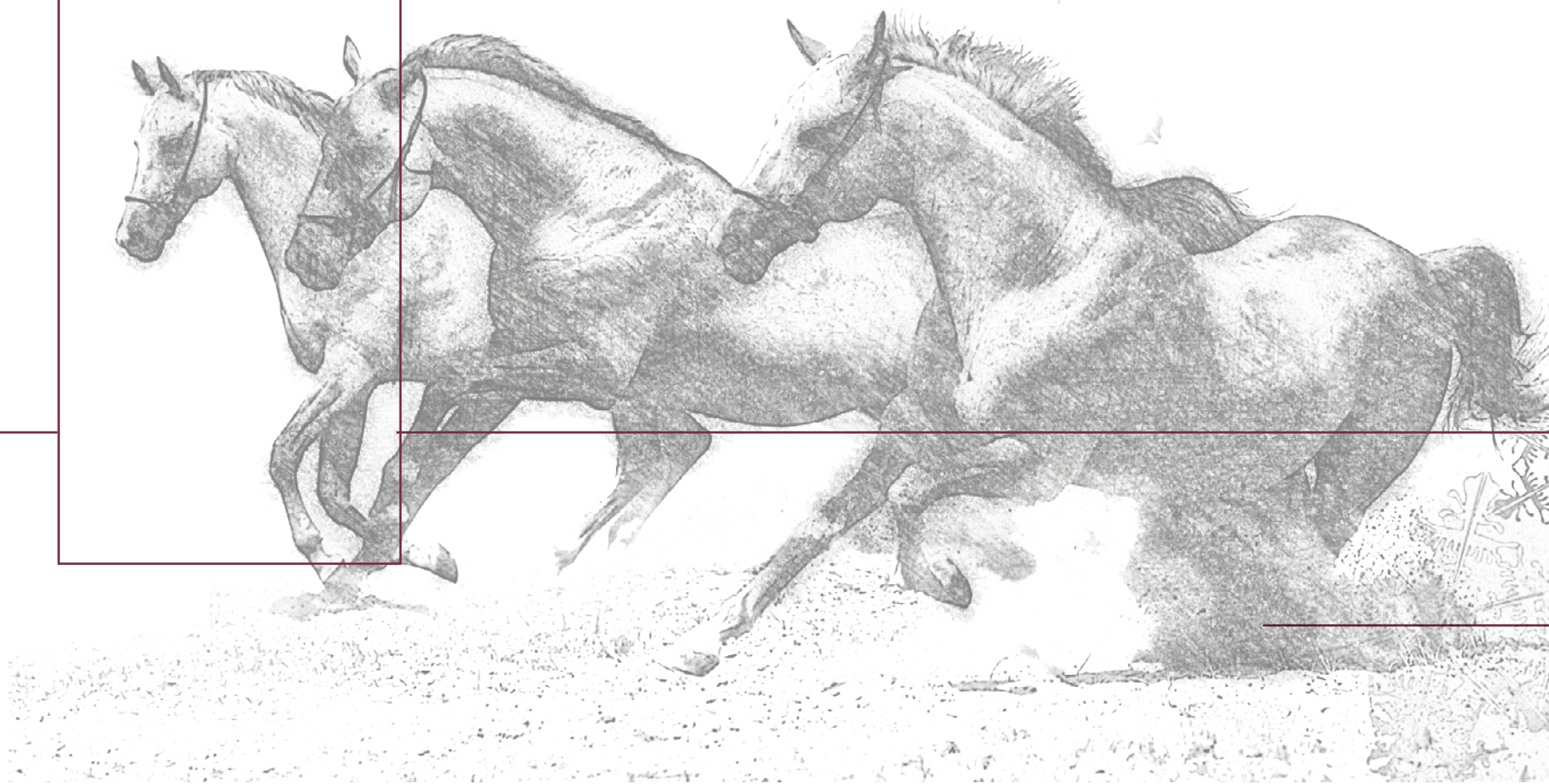
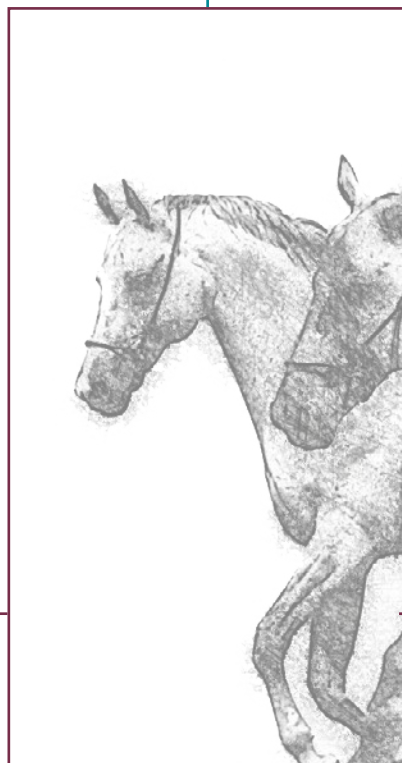
The World Bank rates the UAE as top in the region and within the first ten countries globally in terms of documented improvements over a one year period with regards to electricity connections, issuing of construction permits, protection of investors and contract execution.

Arab Emirate

UAE has also occupied the 1st place for three years consecutively in the ease of conducting business in the 2016 report

The UAE has also occupied the 1st place globally in three key areas, the level of the impact of taxation on business

The UAE has also occupied the 1st place globally in the protection of investors and contract execution.



The 2016 World Bank report notes progress in a number of areas, in particular in terms of the resolution of disputes between two parties over commercial contracts. Here the UAE occupies the 1st place on the Arab level and 18th. regionally. The growth of the UAE's economy and the accompanying prosperity has meant that it now is ranked top internationally in terms of some economic indicators, such as the income per capita.

The Prosperity Index for 2016 of Britain's Legatum Institute puts the UAE first in the Arab world and the 5th globally. The state also protected its existence within the 'green list' which is the list that classifies the wealthiest countries in the world and includes 30 countries only.

UAE also came in the 1st place globally in the reports of 'Confidence index while occupied the 1st place regionally for the third year respectively and 12th globally in the 'Global Competitiveness yearbook 2015'.

Furthermore, UAE took the 1st place in the Middle East and North Africa and 12th globally in the report of 'Strengthening the Global Trade' for the year 2014.

Furthermore, UAE occupied the 1st place globally in the three indices of the global Competitiveness in Tourism. UAE was the top Arab country and 24th globally.

UAE took the 1st place in the Arab world in the Networked Readiness Index of the 2016 Global Information Technology Report, issued by the World Economic Forum. It also was ranked well in the related sub-indices, in 13th place and top Arab country in the Usage sub-index and pillars, and 18th place and top Arab country in the impact sub-index and pillars.

In the human capital report, UAE came in the 1st place regionally and 54th globally. The UAE was placed 28th and the top Arab country in the World Happiness Report, issued in 2016 by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network of the United Nations.

Arab Emirate

1#
in the
Arab
world

UAE is the First in
the Arab World in 9
out of 14 Reports in
the Global Competi-
tion Report

The Global Competition Annual Book

The Report of Confidence Index

The Report of the Prosperity Index

The Report of the Country Brand Ranking

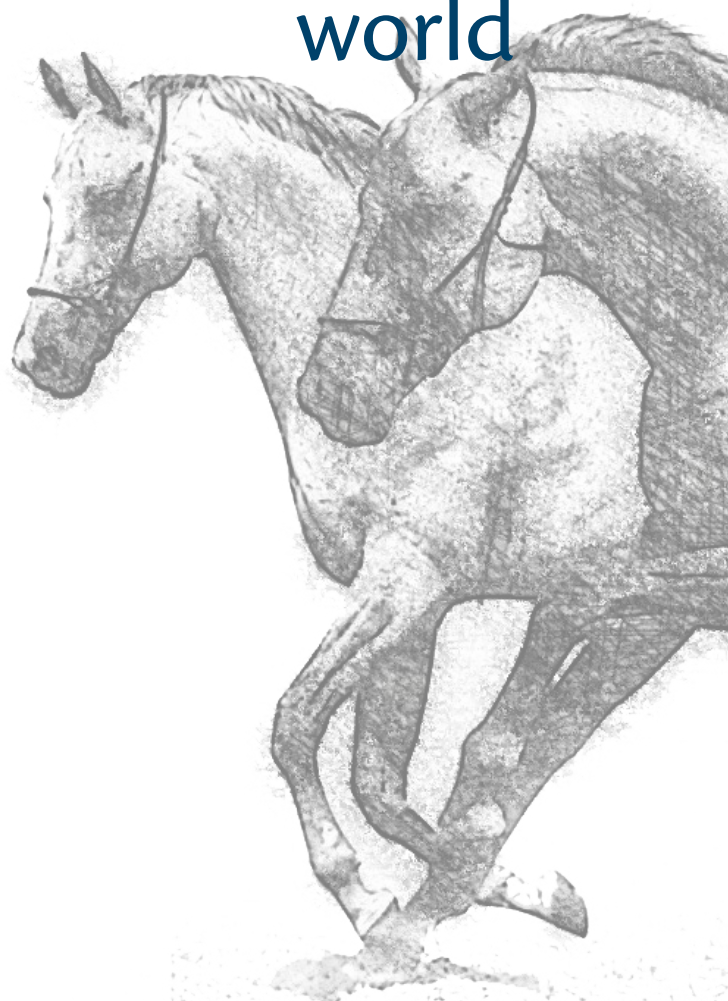
The World Happiness Report

Doing Business Report

Global Information Technology Report

Global Competitiveness in Tourism Report

Strengthening The Global Trade Report



The UAE topped the Arab countries in the 'Doing Business Report' for the year 2017, issued by the World Bank in October 2016. It has also globally advanced in the method of paying taxes and moved forward eight places to come in the 28th place in the general international order. According to the methodology adopted by the World Bank for the year 2016, the UAE has jumped from the 34th place to 26th place to be on the lead of all Middle East countries that are covered by the report.

The latest edition of the 'Doing Business Report 2017', revealed that UAE has occupied an advanced place within the best 20 countries globally in five axes out of the ten that are covered by the report, namely: the 1st place globally in 'the Ease of Paying Taxes, 4th place in 'the Ease of Construction Permits' and 'Electrical Conductivity', 9th place in 'Protecting the Minority of Investors' and 11th in 'the Ease of Registering Property'.

The latest report of the World Global Competitiveness 2016 issued by World Economic Forum 'Davos' revealed that the UAE is came in the 1st place globally in the index of 'the Absence of the Crime and Violence Impact on Business', and in the 2nd place in the index of 'the People's Confidence in the Leadership' and the Index of 'the Lack of Spendthrift in Government Spending» and came in the 3rd place globally in the index of 'the Lack of Burden in the Government Procedures'.

The State also came in the 1st place globally in the index of 'road quality' and the 2nd in the index of 'the Quality of Airport Infrastructure and Air Transport'. Furthermore, UAE came in the 3rd place globally in the two indices of 'the Quality of the Seaports Infrastructure' and 'the Percentage of the Mobile Phones Subscription Per 100 Users'.

UAE also came global 4th place in the index of 'the infrastructure quality» and 5th in the index of 'the Number of Airline Seats Available for Each One Million Passengers Per Week'.

Finally, it worth noting that such performance reflects the huge investments made by the State in order to develop and improve the infrastructure.

Emira



UAE is

12#

in Tourism spending capital in
which it exceeds the regional and
global average

The UAE Economy

United Arab Emirates

The UAE economy has continued to record exceptional growth because of the consistent policy of government of seeking to diversify the sources of income away from the oil and gas sector. This, coupled with the country's highly-developed infrastructure, has permitted continued growth despite the challenges posed by the slowdown in the global economy, the unprecedented decline in world oil prices and the turbulence within the Middle East region..

The UAE Five Year Budget

The Cabinet, headed by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, approved a federal budget of AED 248 billion for the years 2017-2021.

● 2021

The Federal Budget

248
BILLION AED

2017 •

Arab Emirate

More than half of the total has been allocated to sectors directly related to citizens and the provision of services to them. For the calendar year 2017, the federal budget has been set at AED 48.7 billion, to which is added income from independent state institutions and financial investments.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid has stressed that the government will continue to strive to achieve happiness for the people and to provide them with prosperity, security and a decent life. The financial allocations made in the budget are, therefore, being carefully used to ensure prosperity and welfare for both citizens and other residents. It is the first time since the UAE was established in 1971 that a five-year budget has been announced, an important step that has been achieved despite the significant fall in global oil prices.

A three-year budget, covering 2014-2016, had already been agreed, allowing Ministries to work on the development of long-term programmes.

The UAE is the first Arab country to have set such a five-year budget, which will enable it to prepare detailed plans to achieve the desired goals. This includes the development of social services, increasing the level of smart government services and improving the level of public satisfaction with the Government's efforts to provide welfare, prosperity, happiness and security for members of the community.



The UAE in the post-oil era

Since the middle of 2014, developments in the global oil markets have prompted much discussion about the impact of the significant decline in oil prices on the economies of major oil-exporting countries, including the United Arab Emirates. It is recognised that a continuation of such low prices will have an adverse impact in these countries not only on general government finance but also on the implementation of economic development plans and the creation of employment opportunities for young people as well as on a wide variety of other economic and social aspects. The United Arab Emirates, however, is set on the path of becoming a model nation which has transformed its economy from dependence on the exploitation of natural resources to greater reliance on advanced industries and scientific research.

A large part of the credit for this transformation belongs to the country's people, who have devoted their skills to the task, developing creative and innovative solutions. This was acknowledged in a speech by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, in a speech to a conference on 'The Emirates in the post-oil era,' held in January 2016.



UAE: Two essential strategies to handle the fluctuations in oil prices

The need for the United Arab Emirates to deal with the potential negative impact of a decline in oil and gas revenues is driven by two factors – a fall in oil prices, such as has recently occurred, and, in the long term, a depletion of reserves. Two key strategies have been identified, those of the diversification of the economy, to lessen dependence on oil and gas revenues, and of the rationalizing and streamlining of financial expenditure. The Government has devoted considerable attention to the improvement of education so as to ensure that those who join the labour force are adequately qualified and equipped to play their role in the achievement of economic progress based on diversification, modernity and technical development.

More generally, the United Arab Emirates has adopted a number of specific strategies designed to promote economic diversification, to reduce the role of the oil and gas sector in the national economy, and to expand the contribution of other non-oil sectors. Amongst these are travel and tourism, financial services, non-oil foreign trade, information technology and a variety of other industries, such as the manufacturing of aircraft parts. To complement this, the local business environment has been developed in such a way as to attract investment, by local businessmen as well as by investors from the rest of the Gulf and further afield. Procedures have been streamlined and simplified, making particular use of the growing applicability of smart government techniques, while the country's modern infrastructure, such as its roads, ports, airports and free zones

- Economic diversification
- Increasing the general finance competency



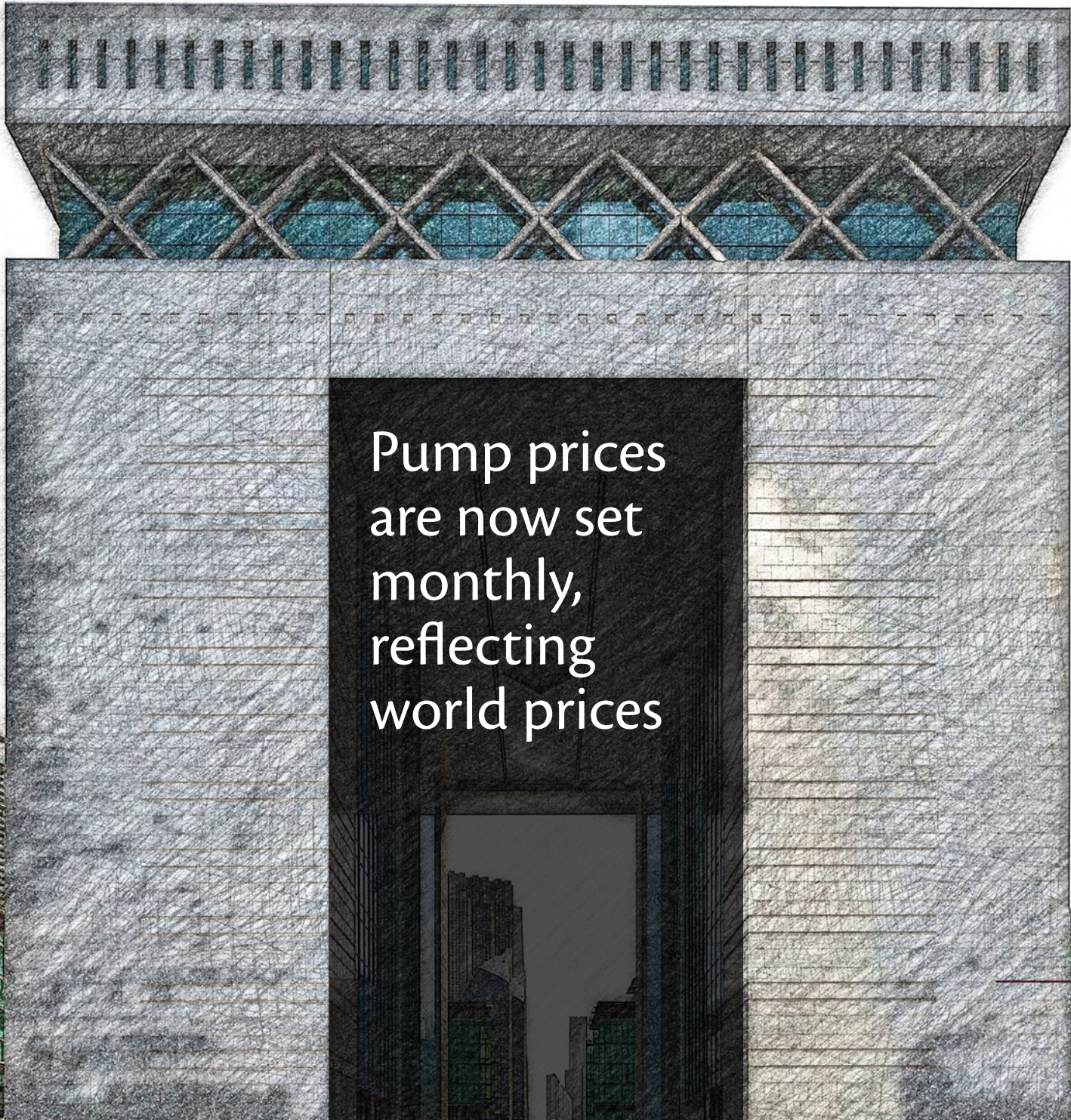
Another part of the UAE's economic diversification programme has been in existence since the very earliest years, the setting aside of surplus oil revenues so that they could be invested. This helps both to offset the impact of declines in the oil price and also to ensure that these revenues can be used for the benefit of future generations. The UAE's sovereign wealth funds, now amongst the largest in the world, have a particular role to play in diversifying sources of income, thereby contributing to the preservation of the UAE's wealth and its level of development for the future.

At home, there has been a focus on the development of alternative sources of energy, to ensure the availability of supplies for the growing economy, to contribute to the protection of the environment and to reduce dependence on conventional sources such as oil and gas. Nuclear power stations are being built to the highest international safety standards, in line with a commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Considerable investment has also been made in renewable and clear energy technologies, in projects such as Masdar City and the Shams 1 solar energy plant, one of the largest of its kind in the world.

Federal and local government authorities have embarked on programmes to improve efficiency both in the collection of revenues and in the disbursement of expenditure, while moving to tackle inefficient and costly subsidies. One area in which this has been applied is in the pricing of fuel. Pump prices are now set monthly, reflecting world prices. One useful side effect may be the promotion of the recognition of the importance of energy conservation, with a reduction of traffic congestion and the adverse impact on the environment.

Other initiatives affecting transport have included the introduction of fees for parking, to be used for the improvement of services, and the improvement of public transport, whether by buses or through Dubai's metro system.

rab Emirate



Pump prices
are now set
monthly,
reflecting
world prices

An Insight into the Future

The UAE plans to continue its programme of economic diversification away from a dependence on the oil and gas sector. Further steps will be taken to enhance the attractiveness of the UAE as a destination for Foreign Direct Investment, FDI, through the continual upgrading of technology in the telecommunications sector and in further development of the infrastructure, such as roads, ports, airports and railways.

Another area where further growth is planned is in the financial services sector where both the Dubai International Finance Centre and the Abu Dhabi Global Market are leaders in the offering of specialised financial instruments, including in the fast-growing field of Islamic finance.

Outside these financial free zones, the UAE's internal securities market is also being developed, as more companies choose to list there and as local investors gain greater knowledge and experience. Other support for the private sector is being provided through assistance for Small and Medium Enterprises, SMEs. These are expected to become a major source of employment opportunities for young Emiratis, in particular for inventors and innovators. This will contribute to the development of an economy and a labour market that can benefit from the modern trend of systems of education that are more focussed on the use of modern technology and on professional training.

The UAE is also working with other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council to promote a common Gulf market and to work towards free movement of citizens, capital and goods. More broadly, at a GCC level, it seeks to develop co-operation and co-ordination out of which coherent strategies can be developed for the post-oil era.

Arab Emirate



The role of the private sector in the development process

The Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry, FCCI, is playing a leading role in the development of the country's private sector and its contribution to the national economy, building on its existing strength.

The private sector is now a genuine partner of the state in the economic and social spheres, in particular in the construction sector. It also plays a leading role in many other economic activities, including education, health and social services. This is reflected in the growth of the contribution made by the private sector to the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, which grew by 5% in 2015 to reach over 60% of the total. The year 2015, the last for which full figures are available, saw considerable challenges for the Federation of Chambers in terms of the improvement of its activities and those of its members because of economic developments elsewhere in the region and globally. Preliminary figures from early 2016, however, indicate that the UAE is still the first destination for foreign investors in the region.

The private sector also plays an important role in UAE exports to the Middle East and North Africa, according to more than 10 sub-indicators in the 'Doing Business Report' issued by the World Bank. Over 25% of the largest 500 companies in the world have now selected the UAE as the location for their regional headquarters. The private sector also makes a major contribution to the economy through its provision of employment opportunities, the promotion exports, manufacturing and in other ways.



Arab Emirate

The contribution made by the private sector to the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, was more than 60% in 2015



Foreign non-oil trade

Preliminary statistical data from the Federal Customs Authority for the first half of 2016 showed an increase of AED 17.7 billion in the total of the non-oil direct foreign trade of the UAE compared to the same period in 2015, rising from AED 537.7 billion to AED 553.4 billion, an increase of 3%.

Imports rose by 3% to AED 349.9 billion while the value of exports increased by 9% to AED 88.8 Billion. Re-exports amounted to AED 114.7 billion.

In terms of the directions of direct non-oil trade, Asia, Australia and the Pacific Islands together were the most important in the first half of 2016, with a share of AED 211.3 billion, or 39% of total non – oil trade, followed by Europe with a total value of AED 139.9 billion, equivalent to 26%. The Middle East and North Africa accounted for non-oil trade worth AED 92.9 billion, or 17%, followed by the Americas and the Caribbean with a total value of AED 55.1 billion, or 10%. West and Central Africa accounted for AED 21.3 billion, equivalent to 4%, while non-oil trade with East and South Africa was worth AED 16.8 billion, equivalent to 3%.

In terms of the value of the UAE's non-oil imports for the first half of 2016, the native gold and processed gold accounted for imports worth AED 55.6 billion, followed by the import of non-composite diamonds with a value of AED 24 billion and vehicles with a value of AED 21.8 billion. Imports of mobile phones and telecommunication devices were worth AED 17.3 billion while ornaments and jewellery made from precious metals were valued at AED 13.7 billion.

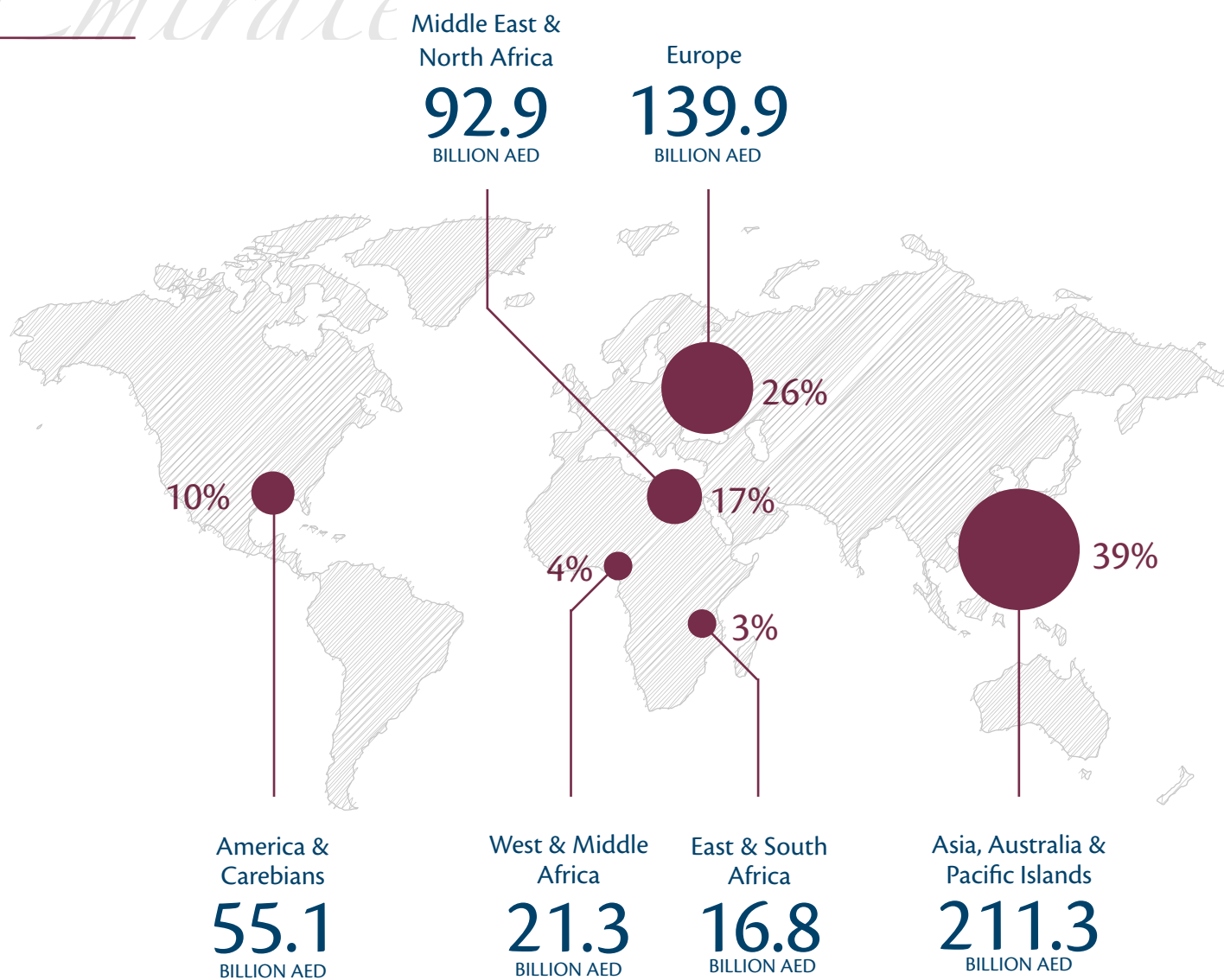
Although the World Trade Organisation predicted that global economic growth during 2016 would be the lowest since the financial crisis of 2008-2009, the UAE surpassed expectations.

Total foreign
non-oil trade
553.4
BILLION AED
in the first half
of 2016



Total imports
349.9
BILLION AED
in the first half
of 2016

Total Exports
88.8
BILLION AED
in the first half
of 2016

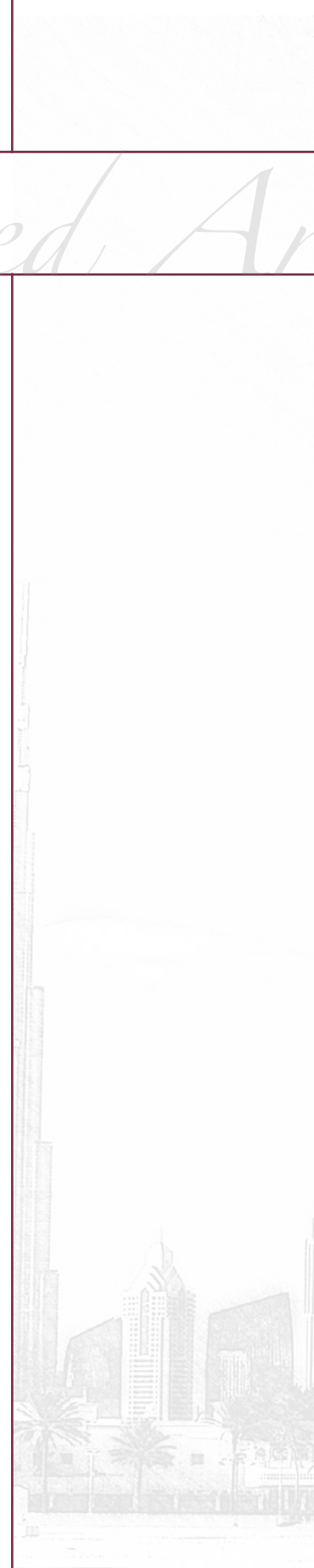


The map of UAE trade partners in the direct foreign trade - 2016

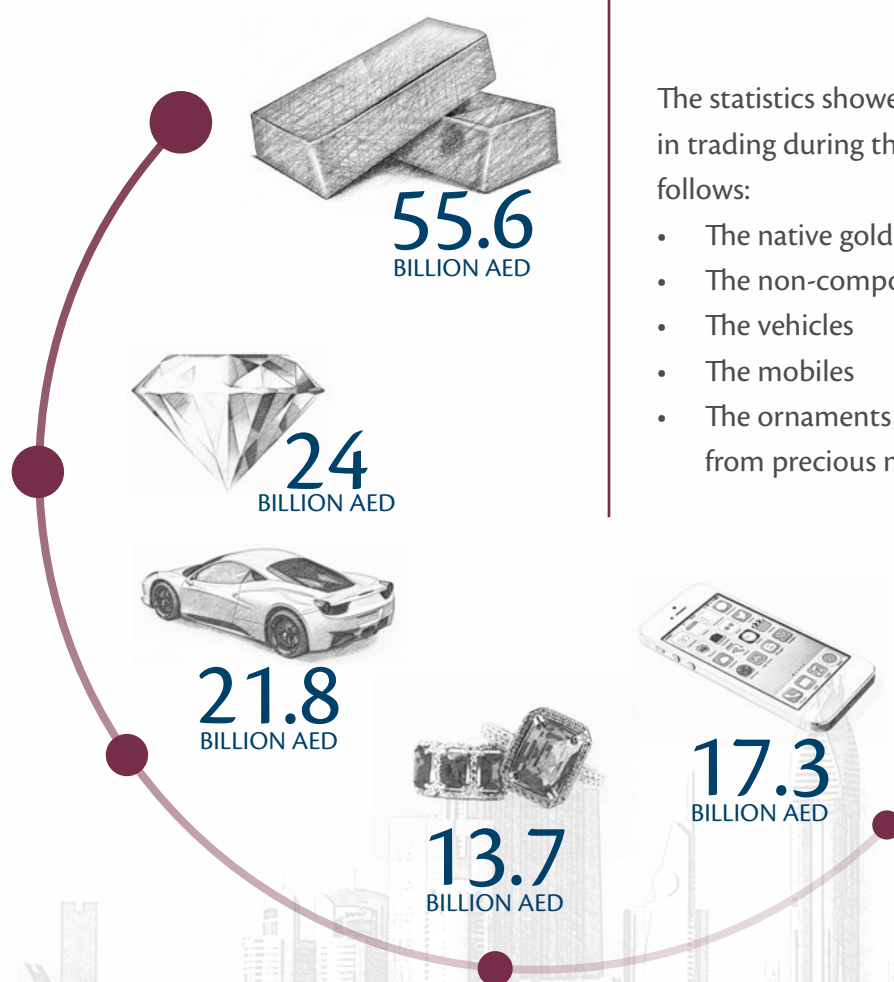
In the 2016-2017 Global Competitiveness Report issued by the World Economic Forum, the United Arab Emirates occupies 16th place, the top Middle East country and ahead of many developed economies such as France, Belgium and Australia. This year, the report monitored the economy of 138 countries that are rated over 114 performance indicators within 12 key hubs, including institutions, infrastructure, education, health, innovation and the efficiency of the labour market. The UAE succeeded in rising in the listings compared to the previous year, thanks to its achievements in a number of categories.

It was ranked third globally in terms of Goods Market Efficiency, an indication of the success of the policy of economic diversification, and fourth globally in terms of infrastructure, an important feature of its attractiveness as a destination for Foreign Direct Investment, FDI.

Another area in which the UAE is making its part globally is as a pioneer in the development of the Islamic economy, where it can now lay claim to the title of 'capital of the Islamic economy.' It was one of the first countries to join in the establishment of an international network for halal (permitted products in Islam). This market is expected to grow to a value of around US \$ 2.6 trillion by 2020, becoming the largest industry worldwide by 2030.



UAE Emirate



The statistics showed that the best goods in trading during the first half of 2016 are as follows:

- The native gold and processed gold
- The non-composite diamonds
- The vehicles
- The mobiles
- The ornaments and jewellery made from precious metals

Work and Labour

United Arab Emirates

During 2016, one major feature of the UAE labour market was the emergence of a new emphasis on the need to provide both male and female UAE citizens with attractive and stable jobs in the private sector and to enhance the productivity and transparency of the employment relationship.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization has adopted a set of policies related to its management of the labour market in line with the requirements of the National Agenda and the goal of achieving the UAE Vision 2021, in accordance with the pillars and vision of «the future leaders and thinkers.»

In mid-2016, the Minister, Saqr Ghobash, issued two resolutions related to the development of high quality employment opportunities for both male and female citizens in the private sector. These are due to be implemented in early 2017.

Another Ministerial resolution covered Small and Medium Enterprises, SMEs, which have received licences from the relevant official institutions to support youth projects. The resolution exempts them from the need to submit bank guarantees and allows for them to be offered discounted fees for services provided to them by the Ministry, in accordance with specific rules. This resolution is expected to encourage Emirati men and women to take steps as entrepreneurs to launch projects that add value to the economy and, eventually, to emerge as leaders in key sectors.

At the beginning of 2016, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization implemented a new policy package of three resolutions regarding the forms of contracts approved by the Ministry, matters relating to the termination of employment contracts and to the issuing of new labour permits, so that employees could move from one employer to another once their contract with the initial employer comes to an end.

These resolutions are designed to promote an equitable and balanced relationship, contractually based, between employers and employees and have been welcomed by the relevant international organisations dealing with labour issues.



Arab Emirate



United Arab Emirates

The intention is to preserve the rights of both sides while, at the same time, making it easier for employees to change jobs and for employers to satisfy their demand for labour, whether from inside or outside the country. The step will also help in facilitating the ability of both sides to continue to contribute to the economy while making it easier to attract new entrants to the labour market.

In October 2016, the Ministry tightened up its regulations regarding the protection of salaries and wages for employees, noting that the rights of employees are to be safeguarded. The Ministry has noted that where disputes between employers and employees arise, conciliation is the optimal approach. Moreover, the formers are protected by advanced legislations and the optimal practical process in light of ensuring the right to litigate for the two parties in the labour disputes.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization has developed an online system that allows enterprises to evaluate themselves in terms of their work and their need for workers, which will help Ministry inspectors during visits to the company concerned, as well as a Smart device to educate workers about their rights and duties. The device can be accessed via the Internet.

Two new innovative projects are being developed. One is the 'future inspection vehicles that depends in its operational mechanism on an integrated system of interconnected intelligent systems while the second is a remote-controlled 'smart reconnaissance aircraft' to help the Ministry's inspectors in their inspection campaigns.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization represents UAE in the international organisations, forums and regional events related to labour issues. For the period 2014-2017, UAE has been a member of the Council of the International Labour Organisation, representing Asia and Pacific region. UAE is occupying the position of the Vice Chairman of the ILO's International Training Centre Board.



Abu Dhabi Emirate



The Ministry has developed a Smart device to educate workers about their rights and duties. The device can be accessed via the Internet

The second is a remote-controlled 'smart reconnaissance aircraft' to help the Ministry's inspectors in their inspection campaigns

EXPO2020

United Arab Emirates

The prestigious World Expo EXPO2020, will be held in the Emirate of Dubai. A huge international event which is expected to help in strengthening the economy, tourism and hospitality sectors in the city, and to consolidate the status of UAE in general, and Dubai in particular, as a global hub equipped to take advantage of all opportunities.

The UAE has the sufficient logistics capacity to host this international event, while two-thirds of the world's population can reach Dubai by plane within less than eight hours. The EXPO site itself, covering 438 hectares, is within easy reach of three international airports, interconnected by a dedicated transport network.

By 2020, Dubai is expected to have over 80,000 hotel rooms that are well equipped to provide the guests with the best services during the period of the exhibition.

It is anticipated that around 25 million visitors will come to EXPO2020, with over 180 countries expected to take part from October 20, 2020 until April 10, 2021. Overall, this is expected to provide a major boost for travel and tourism over the next few years, introducing many millions of first-time visitors to the UAE's tourist potential. The event is expected to yield considerable economic benefits, with an estimated 277,000 jobs being created, 50,000 of which will be permanent. It will be the first time in the history of EXPO that over 70% of the visitors are expected to come from outside the host country.

EXPO2020 will focus on three aspects of opportunities, the development of human capital to motivate progress, the need to provide sources of capital to support growth and partnerships as an essential motive for innovation and employment.



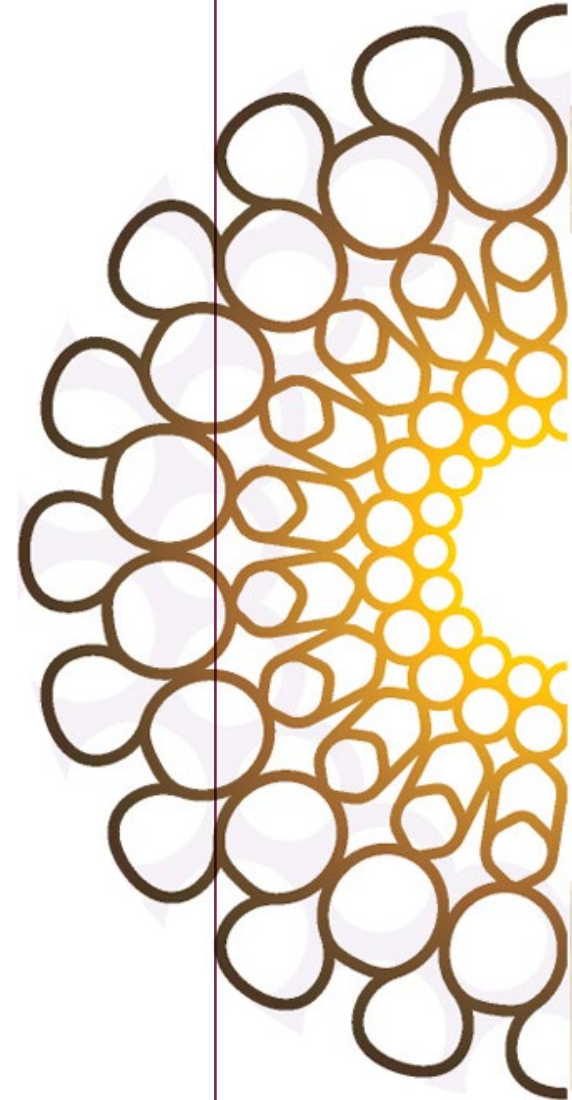
The design of Expo2020

It is anticipated that around 25 million visitors will come to EXPO2020 from October 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021



It will also explore a number of topics related to transport, such as empowering individuals through the means of transportation, facilitating the distribution of and access to goods and resources and developing virtual means of communication through information technology. Accordingly, it will test the role of ecosystems and of human communities to ensure a flexible and comfortable style of living and will examine the need to rationalise the consumption of natural resources to preserve them for future generations in accordance with the concept of sustainability.

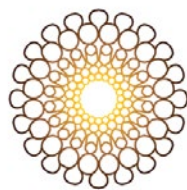
Expo 2020 logo



Arab Emirate

In 2002, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum found an archaeological site called Saruq al-Hadeed in the desert areas of Dubai. It is evident that this site was a place where objects and people met after travelling long distances. During each season of excavations at the site, hundreds of objects have been found that were brought from far distant places, many from present-day India and Afghanistan, as well as seals belonging to the Egyptian pharaoh Thutmose III and cedar wood from Lebanon. Among these discoveries was a series of gold rings that are exquisite and inspirational.

These have been used as the inspiration for the EXPO2020 logo, linking the ancient past of the UAE with its present and representing its historical role as a gateway through which civilisations have passed.



إكسبو 2020 EXPO 2020
دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



UAE Innovates

United Arab Emirates

Under the guidance of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Cabinet agreed in November 2014 that 2015 should be designated as the 'Year of Innovation'.

In a statement, the President said that: 'The announcement of 2015 as the Year of Innovation will support the efforts of the federal government, the genuine national capabilities in this field and the intensive and excellent research efforts being made and will enhance the efforts being exerted to produce citizens who will lead our future in this sector of innovation towards more progress.'

In November 2015, Sheikh Khalifa endorsed the UAE's policy the field of science, technology and innovation. This includes 100 initiatives in the sectors of education, health, energy, transportation, space and water. Investment in such sectors is expected to amount to more than AED 300 billion.

A number of initiatives have already arisen out of this policy, helping to promote a passion for innovation in the UAE. These include the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation, which will stimulate and enrich the culture of innovation, and UAE Innovation Week which is one of the largest initiatives of its kind in the world.

Several campaigns and activities targeting different sectors in the country have been organised to promote engagement, such as the project entitled 'A journey of discovery', supervised by Abu Dhabi Education Council.

Global Innovation Indicator 2015

In the Global Innovation Indicator 2015, the UAE was ranked second in the Middle East region and 47th globally. The indicator measures the performance of 141 countries and economies around the world and is issued by the United Nations Intellectual Property Organisation in collaboration with Cornell University and the European Institute of Business Administration. The classification is based on 79 indicators and sub-standards, including the efficiency of universities, the number of patents and the level of research activity in each individual country.



Abu Dhabi Emirate

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‘The announcement of 2015 as the Year of Innovation will support the efforts of the federal government, the genuine national capabilities in this field and the intensive and excellent research efforts being made and will enhance the efforts being exerted to produce citizens who will lead our future in this sector of innovation towards more progress.’

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The United Arab Emirates ... A Nation of readers

Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates realise and recognise the importance of reading, by people of all ages, in the creation of a knowledge-based economy that can make the best use of science and innovation in promoting development. This, however, will require a change in the societal norms, directing the new generation towards a love of reading and knowledge, which will, in turn, lead to the production of scientists and other researchers.

Those countries that have achieved significant rates of growth have generally considered reading to be a national priority.



December 2015

the announcement of 'the Year of Reading'

Under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa, the Cabinet agreed on 5th December 2015 that the year 2016 would be designated as the Year of Reading. It issued instructions to initiate and follow up on the preparation of an integrated national framework to create a generation of readers. It also ordered the formation of a Supreme National Commission for Reading to coordinate all the efforts and to implement the strategic initiatives to achieve the goal.



The National Strategic Plan for Reading seeks to lay down the basic foundations of the way to promote reading, reinforcing this as a daily practice through the following:

- Foundation: lay down the foundations for reading skills from early childhood.
- Reinforcement: Ensure opportunities for reading for children and youth throughout the educational system.
- Creating opportunities: to provide channels and facilities for lifelong learning.

January 2016

‘The One Hundred Elite’

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, invited the people of the UAE to share their ideas, opinions and suggestions through a national brainstorming exercise. Public engagement through various social networking platforms resulted in approximately 4000 new ideas.

The brainstorming was followed by a meeting of the most important 100 national figures involved with the Year of Reading, these being dubbed ‘The 100 Elite’. The meeting was called to evaluate the ideas submitted by the community and select the most important initiatives that will consolidate a permanent culture of reading within the UAE community.

The 100 Elite discussed more than 100 ideas and initiative in six sectors, namely: education, the public and private sector, publishing, content, media, and non-Arabic speaking readers. These formed the basis for building a long-term strategy.

April 2016

National Strategic Plan for Reading

The National Strategic Plan for Reading is aimed at families, students and the staff of educational institutions. The plan was prepared after reviewing 100 international scientific studies on reading, seven government strategies and twelve global successful practices. A number of leading local practices in promoting reading were also identified after 50 interviews with both federal and local government bodies as well as with individuals from private institutions. Six questionnaires addressed to nearly 12,500 people assessed the current status of the practice of reading in the UAE today

UAE Charity

United Arab Emirates

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, May Allah Protect Him, President of United Arab Emirates, announced that the year 2017 in UAE will be « The Year of giving » and the work in it shall be focused on three main axes: The first axis shall be the consolidation of social responsibility in the private sector in order to play their role in serving the country and contributing in its development process; the second axis is the consolidation of the spirit of volunteerism and specialized volunteer programs in the spirits of all the society categories which shall enable them to provide real services to UAE community and take advantage of their efficiencies and capabilities in all the domains and Finally, the third axis which is the consolidation of serving the country in the minds of the new generations since it is considered as one of the most important Emirati personal attributes that shall make the country service as the permanent companion of the country love which was empowered and enriched over decades in the hearts of UAE citizens and the residents on its territory.

The « Year of Giving » reflects the approach adopted by UAE since its inception which is featured in philanthropy and providing all aspects of giving for all. Furthermore, it represents a message of love, tolerance and development sent by the UAE's leaders and its generous people to the region and the world. The legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, May Allah Have Mercy on His Soul, who has founded the values of giving and good deeds as one of the main principles from which the UAE message was launched with its white hands stretched out to provide help all over the world.

The wise leadership of UAE recognizes that the noblest forms of giving is characterized in the country service; the continuous work for its glory and development; upholding its word and making sacrifices for it without waiting for a return, as the true citizenship is not in taking all the time, but rather by generously giving and sacrificing for the sake of the country.

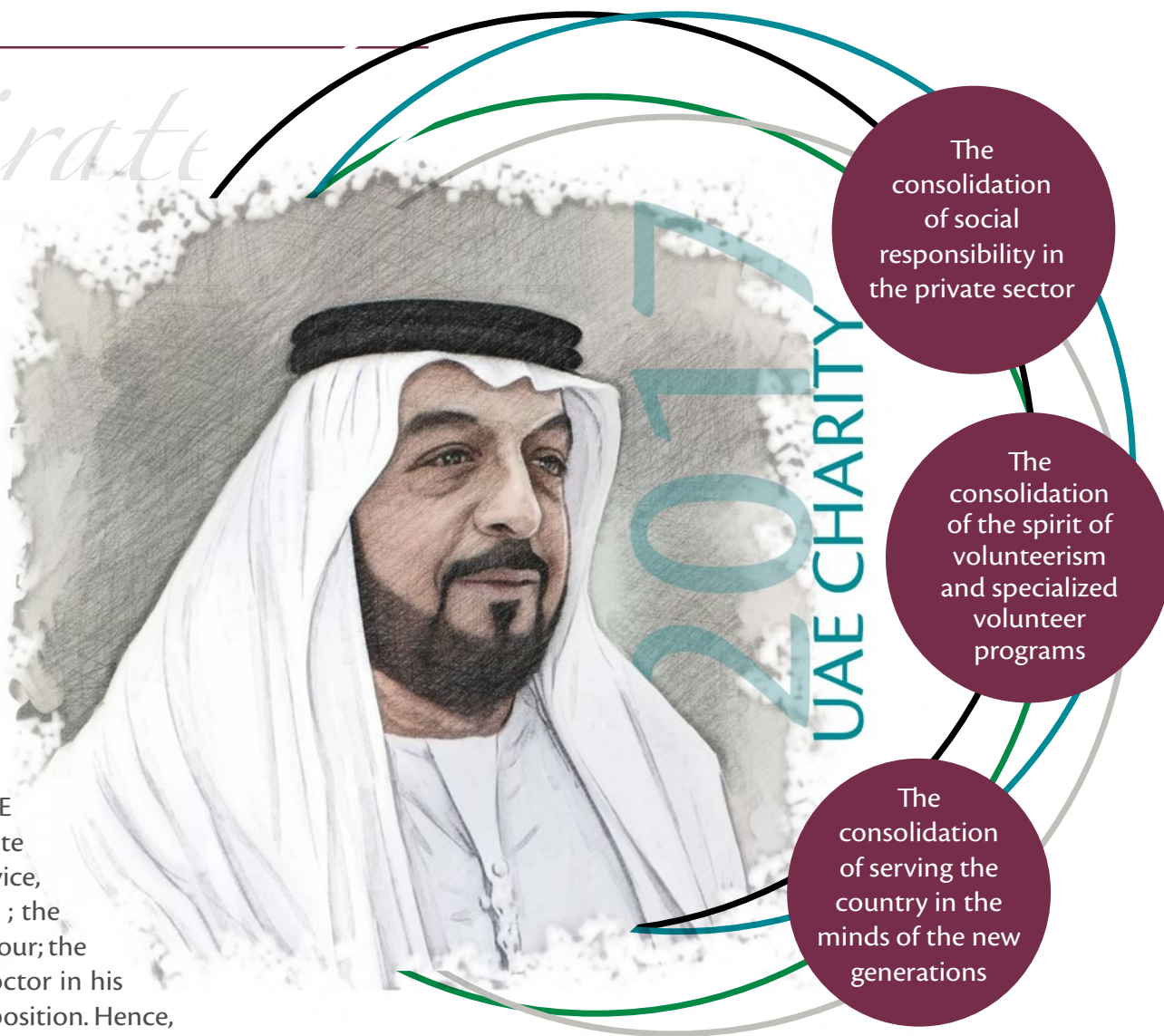
The programs and initiatives of « The Year of Giving » are mainly targeting the private sector as a key partner in the development process, throughout the consolidation of the concept of social responsibility in all the institutions. Moreover, the year

2017 shall be the year of partnership with the private sector to offer something exceptional to the community and effectively contribute in the development process of United Arab Emirates.

The «Year of Giving» promotes the culture of volunteerism as one of the indicators of community civilization and modernity, since all the members of UAE community can contribute in the community service, «the student at his school ; the neighbour with the neighbour; the father in his family; the doctor in his career; the engineer in his position. Hence, each person can offer something exceptional to the society».

Furthermore, the government agencies can take advantage of the thousands of volunteer hours provided by specialists who seek to serve their country and community.

The celebration of giving and goodness, its dissemination and promotion and the expansion of its scope and the participation opportunity in whether in quantity or quality comes as an enhancement to the prominent position of United Arab Emirates on the map of humanitarian work as one of the most generous donating countries.



The Happiest Nation

United Arab Emirates

The UAE is the top Arab country in the latest World Happiness Report, being ranked 28th globally. The rankings depend on several factors that determine a country's level of happiness, including political freedom, strong social networks, the absence of corruption, the mental and physical health of residents and stability in terms of employment and the family.

The UAE leadership seeks to make the citizen the key focus in its policies and plans. It works continuously to promote happiness and to achieve stability and prosperity through plans and strategies that have the citizen as their focus.

The goals of the National Programme of Happiness and Positivity include harmonising the state's plans, programmes, policies and legislation in order to promote happiness and a positive approach in the community. Government and private sector agencies are expected to launch projects to achieve these objectives while government bodies are developing indicators to measure happiness amongst their employees.

The National Programme is also developing guidelines to measure the happiness of customers and consumers, as well as indicators to measure institutional performance. Government service centres have been renamed Customer Happiness Centres, with employees being appointed to measure the happiness of customers.

Arab Emirate



The UAE is the top Arab
country in the latest World
Happiness Report

#1

UAE ranked
#28
Globally

Tolerance

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates represents a unique model of tolerance and coexistence which guarantees that all the nationalities living on its territory, from many different cultures and religions, can live safely and securely under the umbrella of the wise policy pursued by the country's leadership, headed by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The UAE leadership is committed to and supports the values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and equality among all members of the community. In 2016, the UAE was ranked first in the region and third globally, up five places from the previous year, in an annual Tolerance Index devised by the International Institute for Management Development in Switzerland. It outranked a number of countries generally cited as examples of tolerance, including Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore and Sweden.

The UAE Government has taken special steps to ensure that the spirit of tolerance thrives in the country. In the February 2016 Cabinet reshuffle, the UAE became the first country in the world to have a Ministry of Tolerance, headed by Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid al-Qasimi as Minister of State.

The main focus of the Ministry is on the devising and implementing of a comprehensive framework that determines the individual's rights and duties and defines his or her relationship with society and the relationship of society with the state. As part of this, a National Programme for Tolerance has been launched. Its pillars include Islam, the heritage and archaeology of the country, shared ethics and common values and the precepts laid down by the UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed.

Arab Emirate

Sheikha
Lubna bint Khalid al-Qasimi
Minister of State to consolidate
tolerance as an essential value
in UAE society

The first Minister of Tolerance
in the world



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has launched a global initiative for tolerance which includes the honouring of individuals who are symbols of global tolerance in the fields of humanitarian thinking, literary creativity and aesthetic arts. This initiative also includes the Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Tolerance to promote tolerance among Arab youth. An International Institute of Tolerance, the first of its kind in the Arab world, has also been established to provide advice and expertise on policies designed to promote tolerance. The Institute will publish studies and reports on tolerance and will work with the concerned cultural institutions in the Arab world to spread these principles to future generations.

The importance of the values of tolerance within UAE society was highlighted on two occasions during 2016. In a message issued on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid noted: "What makes us proud of our nation is not the height of our buildings, the breadth of our streets, or the magnitude of our shopping malls, but rather the openness and tolerance of our nation. Our pride stems from the fact that we are a country where everyone thrives equally, regardless of their differences, with true love and acceptance; a country where people live and work harmoniously, raising their children to enjoy a future free of the fear of extremism, intolerance or discrimination based on their race, colour, religion, sect or ethnicity."

The second occasion was an official visit by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, to the Vatican, where he met with the leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, inviting him to visit the Emirates. Their discussions focussed on mutual cooperation to promote the values of tolerance, dialogue and coexistence, part of all religions, in order to help achieve security, peace and stability in the region and the world.

Arab Emirates

A young boy in a white thobe and ghutra is sitting in a field of white flowers. He is looking down at the flowers with a gentle expression. The background is a soft-focus landscape of more flowers and greenery under a bright sky. The overall tone is peaceful and natural.

“What makes us proud of our nation is not the height of our buildings, the breadth of our streets, or the magnitude of our shopping malls, but rather the openness and tolerance of our nation. Our pride stems from the fact that we are a country where everyone thrives equally, regardless of their differences, with true love and acceptance; a country where people live and work harmoniously, raising their children to enjoy a future free of the fear of extremism, intolerance or discrimination based on their race, colour, religion, sect or ethnicity.”

His Highness Sheikh
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

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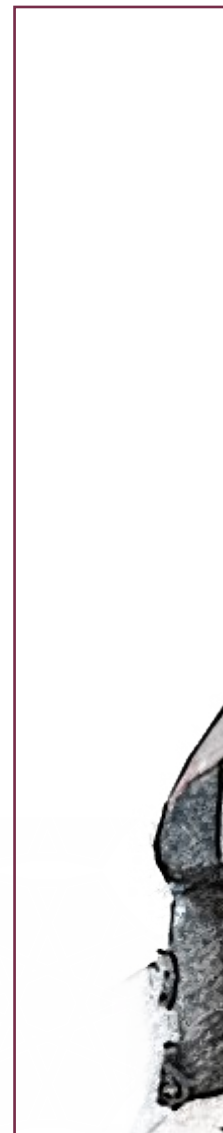
UAE Women

United Arab Emirates

Since the foundation of the United Arab Emirates, Emirati women were a key concern of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who believed in their capabilities and the importance of their role. He considered women to be the essential partners of men in building the country. Today, that policy is continued under the leadership of his successor, President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, who supports women in their aspiration to achieve the highest positions in all fields.

UAE has issued several laws to provide legal protection for women and to stipulate punishments for any offences against their dignity, including laws against human trafficking.

Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, the 'Mother of the Nation', President of the General Women's Union, the Chairman of the Family Development Foundation and the President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, launched the national strategy for the years 2015-2021 to reinforce the leadership role of women in the UAE. The strategy is focussed on promoting the position of women in all fields and on providing them with the necessary support to allow them to overcome all obstacles. The 2015-2021 strategy includes priorities and specific, tangible goals.

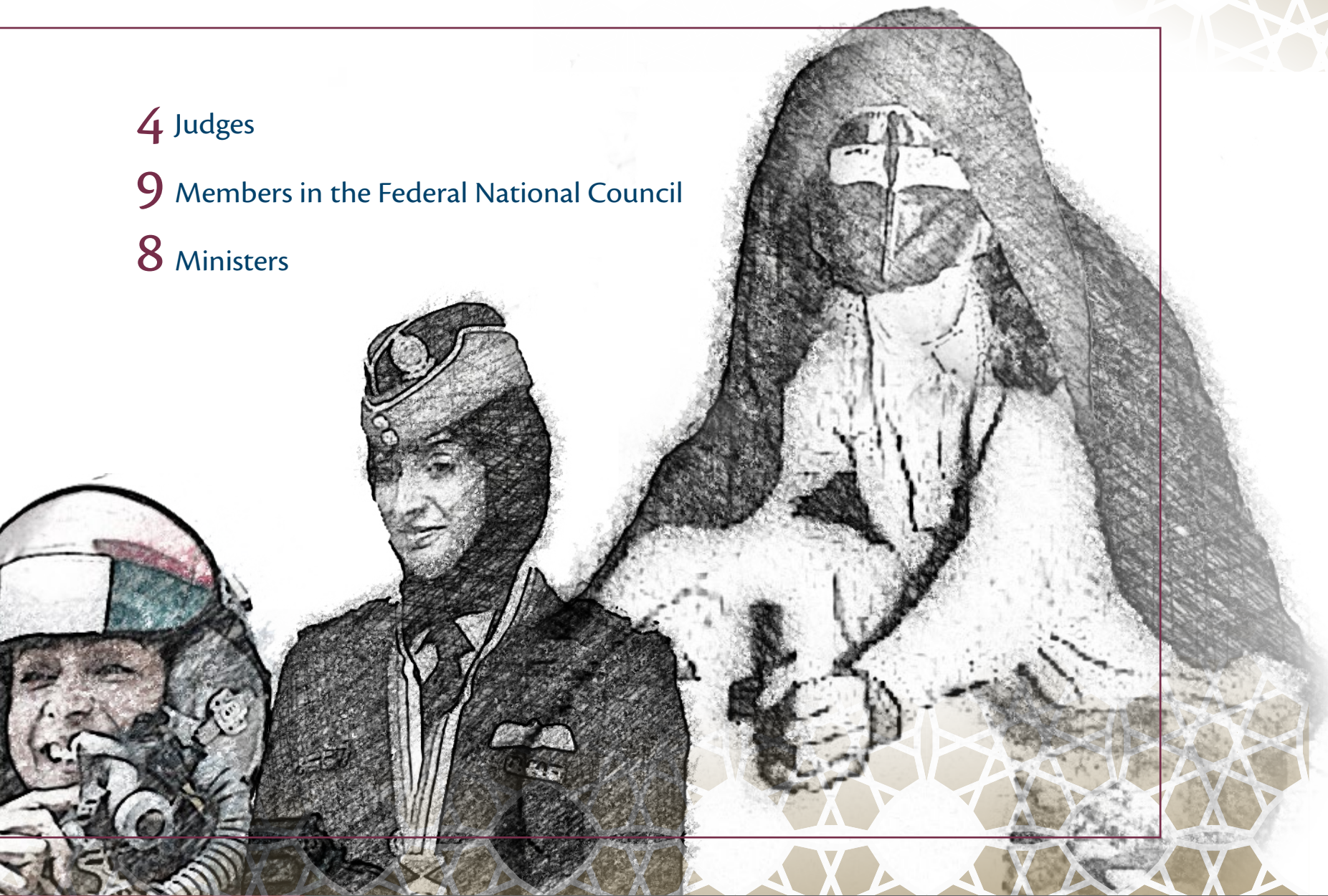


Arab Emirate

4 Judges

9 Members in the Federal National Council

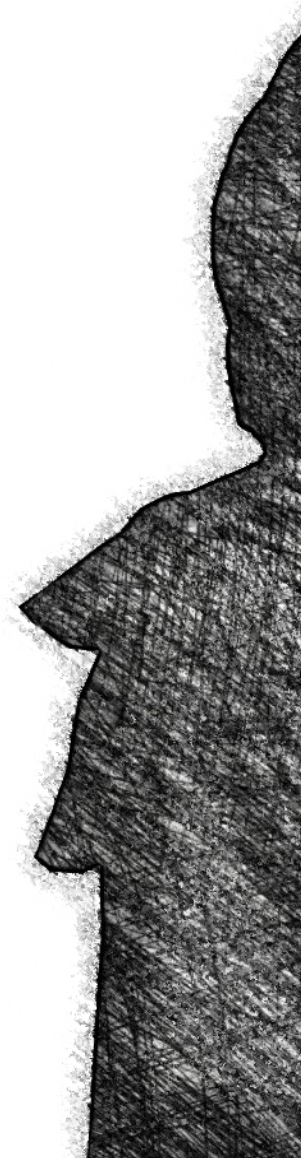
8 Ministers



One indication of the success of the Government's policy of empowering the nation's women is the role they play at the highest levels of Government. There are eight women ministers in the Cabinet, three holding the portfolios of Youth, Tolerance and Happiness, nine women members of the Federal National Council, 23% of the total, including the Speaker, and four judges. Women now occupy over two-thirds of all public sector jobs,

There are currently female ambassadors in Spain, Portugal, Brazil and at the United Nations in New York, as well as the Consul General in Milan. 29 other women serve as diplomats overseas while others are serving as director or acting director of various departments within the Foreign Ministry.

Women are also playing an increasing role in business, particularly since the creation of the UAE's Businesswomen's Council. Around 22,000 are members of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, owning and managing businesses which worth over AED 42 billion, while women account for 37.5% of those working in the banking sector. 62% of Emirati doctors are women.





Arab Emira

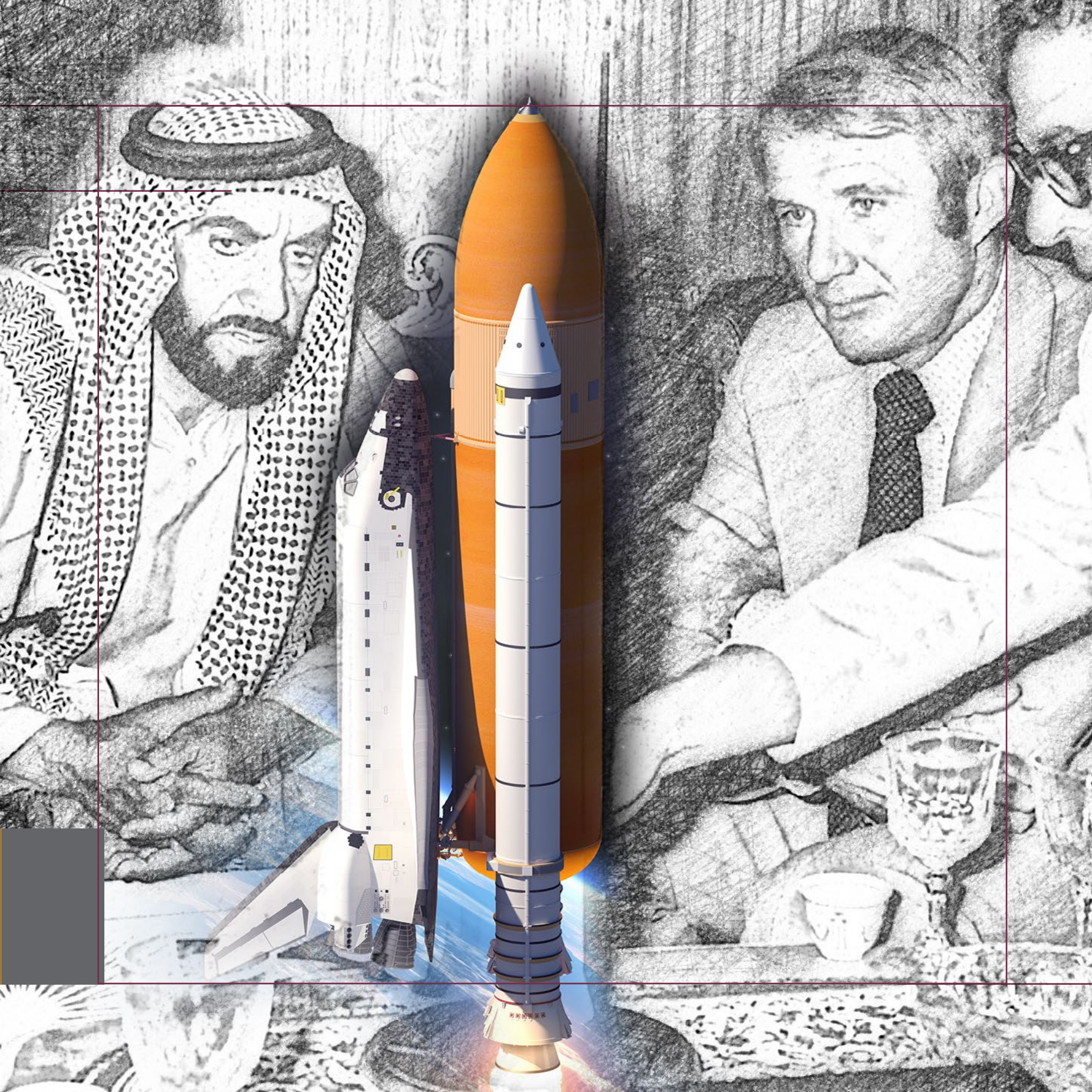
UAE ... A Race Towards Space

The UAE has officially entered the international race to explore Space, following the announcement by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa of the establishment of the UAE Space Agency. Work is now under way on a project to send the first Arab and Muslim spaceship to Mars by 2021.

This historic announcement of the UAE's entry into the exploration of space reflects a major step forward in terms of the development of the country's technology sector, which is set to become an important part of the national economy. In the future, the UAE will have its own highly-qualified experts in space technology, capable of contributing to our knowledge of the rest of the universe.

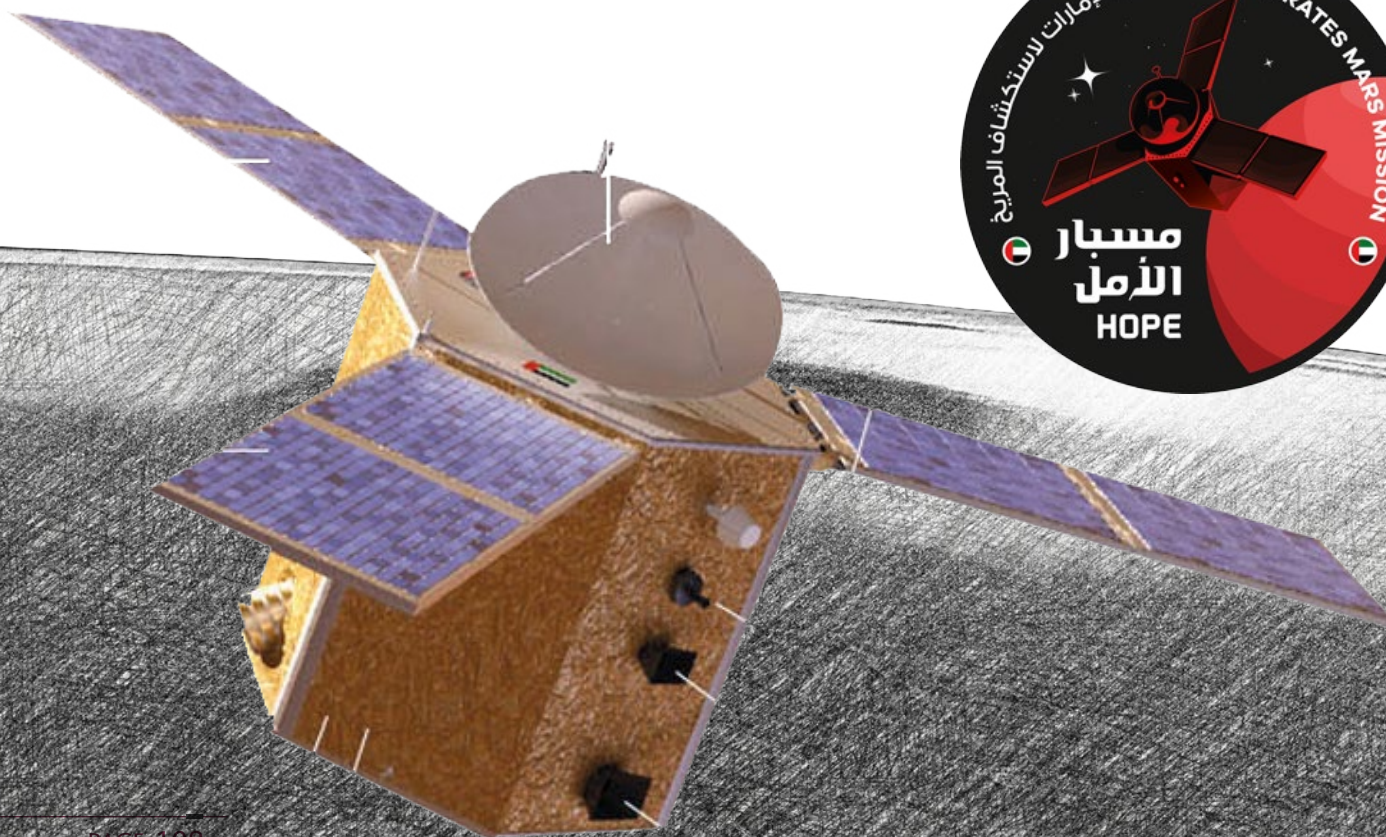
The UAE believes that space technology has a fundamental role to play in the country's economy and security. The space sector will be a future pillar of the country's industry that contributes to research and development, creating new opportunities for highly-skilled employment. The UAE think-tank FARAS (Future for Research & Advanced Studies) has noted that the country is one of the first in the Arab world to launch satellites for commercial purposes. A total of AED 20 billion (about US \$ 5.5 Billion) has thus far been allocated for investments in space technology.

Al Yah Satellite Communications Company (Yahsat) is a private joint stock company that is fully owned by Mubadala, the investment arm of the Government of Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. "YahSat" launched its first satellite, Y1A, in 2011 with the second, Y1B, following in 2012. A third, Al Yah 3, is due to be launched by the first half of 2017.



Mission to Mars - Hope

Mission to Mars - Hope, the Emirati spaceship that will undertake the journey to Mars is scheduled to reach the red planet in 2021, to coincide with the fiftieth Anniversary of the establishment of the United Arab Emirates. The journey is expected to last nine months during which the spaceship will travel more than 60,000,000 kilometres. The UAE is currently one of only nine countries in the world that have space programmes to explore Mars.



Arab Emirate

Khalifa Sat ... The First Arab Satellite

Another project in the UAE's expanding space programme, announced by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, is the construction of the Khalifa Sat satellite. It is planned that it will be designed, manufactured and completed in the UAE, wholly by Emirati citizens. When completed, it will be the first satellite built anywhere in the Arab world and will launch a new era for the Arab world, allowing it to enter the space industry and compete in space science and technology.



