

Speech of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said on the occasion of the 23rd National Day

18/11/1993

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Thanks be to Almighty God, the All-Powerful, and peace be upon His Prophet and His true followers.

Dear Countrymen,

IT is a cause for rejoicing and happiness for us to gather here today to celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of our National Day. When we recall the memories of the past years, since the dawn of Oman's modern Renaissance, we find that, with God's blessing and support, we have come a long way on the road of progress and civilisation. We thank God for His support and guidance, for the help and care He has given us, and to Him we pray to continue the generosity He has bestowed on us.

My honourable Countrymen,

The building of the Omani nation, the shaping of their character through education and culture, with training and with qualifications, is in the forefront of our noble cause, for which we shall always strive. Thus we can achieve a worthy standard of living for all. Everything that has been done so far has carried us forward along this road, on which we must continue. We can only aspire to this role through co-operation and single-mindedness in building the glory of this country and raising its flag high.

This Year of Youth, and its predecessor (in 1983), provide a clarion call to all responsible members of government and the private sector to pay more attention to the needs of our Omani people. Our people are the makers of progress and the reason for our development.

This attention must be especially given to the hope of our Nation, the Youth. Our care for our people will never change from one year to the next. Our aim this year is to clearly remind all concerned that our Youth will always be at the centre of our thoughts. We must be able to cater for their needs in the fields of culture, science, technology and sport. Their progress in these fields, and in agriculture, industry, and commerce, will

elevate the life of our society and the growth of our national economy.

When we call upon you all to take care of our Youth's aspirations and ambitions, we also call with the same insistence upon our Youth to be aware of their responsibility for building our country. They must roll up their sleeves with the utmost energy to contribute positively towards our comprehensive development. They must be armed with patience and hope, determination and industry, and a spirit of sacrifice and unselfishness. Happiness and prosperity can only be achieved through hard work and the sweat of their brow, thus removing all obstacles to our march.

To provide and develop training programmes and educational curricula, to establish different educational institutions, especially in the technical and vocational fields, and to expand recreational facilities, will always be our noble goal. It is everyone's national and historic responsibility, to be carried out diligently and in a spirit of devotion. Almighty God has praised, in the Holy Koran, His faithful worshippers by saying "they are unselfish and give to others in spite of their own needs".

Consistent with this, we issued our orders that an Institute of Art is to be built to the highest standards in our country, so as to provide increased opportunities for our young people.

My dear Countrymen,

In the past two decades, we worked with determination to plan and promote our Omani economy, and to diversify the sources of our national income in order to gradually lessen our dependence on oil as the main source of income. We have achieved, with God's help, good and positive results. But it must be remembered that development in some fields takes prolonged, hard effort and many years. The firm steps we have taken in the past - and are still taking - will carry us through.

Oman, like any other state in the world, is affected by what happens on the international scene, but measures have been taken to avoid the effect on our national economy of international market changes. Thus, we have been enabled to continue with our fundamental plans for our people.

My honourable Countrymen,

The Sultanate has embarked upon a studied course in its foreign policy, which has borne fruit. This country has achieved its respected status in the world. We work together with our brothers of the Gulf Co-

operation Council to guarantee stability and security in our region. We tirelessly work to contribute to the building of peace, to alleviate the sufferings of nations who fall victim to war, injustice and oppression. This is the reason why we call for the solution of regional problems by peaceful means which restore rights to those to whom they belong.

It is a reason for hope to witness one of the most complicated issues of this century on its way towards solution - the Palestinian-Israeli dispute. We welcome the agreement that has been reached. We look forward to its bringing about a comprehensive and just peace between the Arabs and the Israelis - a peace which secures the rights and interests of all. We call for efforts to be made to bring back security and stability to places of conflict in the world, under the principles of international law and respect for human rights.

My dear Countrymen,

The desire to build a modern state which adopts the methods of science and technology did not force this historic country to neglect its glorious heritage. It has consistently combined this heritage with its modernisation. To this end, it has established its extensive modern infrastructure while, at the same time, it has carefully preserved the precious evidence of its past.

To emphasise this dedicated policy, we declare next year to be the Year of Oman's Heritage.

Thus, through the care with which the dual policy is being pursued, we shall celebrate the 24th Anniversary of our National Day in the historic city of Nizwa, which has played such a notable role in our heritage,

We conclude by extending special greetings to all units of our Armed Forces and Security Organisations for their pioneering achievements in our comprehensive development, and our appreciation of their vital contribution to the protection of our country.

We pray to God to guide our steps, to cover our country with His Blessing, and to grant it security, stability and prosperity. We thank Him for His Guidance. God bless you. Peace be upon you.



Speech by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said on the occasion of the commencement of the National Census

30/11/1993

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

*Praise be to God whose favours are unlimited and can never be counted.
Prayers and peace be upon the Messenger who has been sent as a
mercy to all.*

Dear Countrymen,

THE progress and prosperity of nations and peoples cannot be measured in years or the accumulation of material wealth. The yardstick we need to apply is enlightened willpower, combined with sincere good intentions and confidence, because it is through these qualities that one can achieve dignity and true prosperity .
Honourable Countrymen,

The comprehensive development that is taking place throughout the length and breadth of our land has been achieved through hard work and honest endeavour and its success has been due to the sound planning and support afforded by the Government.

There is no doubt that planning, and the implementation of such plans, requires full knowledge and a clear vision of today's realities. This will enable us to continue on the path that leads to comprehensive development.

Such a position will enable us to be fully aware of all the circumstances of our country and to achieve all our goals and the proper implementation of our plans.

Through the will and support of Almighty God we are about to start the actual count of the general population and buildings census. We urge all those who reside in this blessed land to give the exact information requested by the census enumerators and to answer all the questions, which we hope will not be irksome to them. I urge everyone to co-operate and to offer them all the assistance they need to make their mission a

success. This in return, will have a positive effect on future development projects.

We appeal to Almighty God to bestow success on all.

May peace and God's blessing be upon you.

