

Speech of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said on the occasion of the 27th National Day

18/11/1997

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

We thank God, Prayer and Peace be upon His Prophet, His Family and Companions.

Dear Countrymen,

UNDER God's Auspices and His Blessing, we meet in this eternal city of Salalah to celebrate together the 27th Glorious Anniversary of the dawn of Oman's modern Renaissance, the splendour of which has suffused all Oman, illuminating once more the ancient glories of our Country.

This city was the first to embrace the rays of this true dawn that dispersed the darkness, and spread happiness, gave life and eliminated the traces of the years of stagnation which had held back the progress and stultified the resources of our country, so it was unable to keep pace with the passage of time and the advancement of other nations. Yes, from this land the blessed process took its first steps in nation-building and modernisation, full of determination and hope, inspired with the serious intent to work to achieve the ultimate goal of building a modern state, secure, affluent and prosperous.

With God's Blessing, this process is continuing on its planned path with firm, prudent steps and unshaken determination, thanks be to God.

Esteemed Countrymen,

During the past years of our modern Renaissance, thanks be to God, great gains have been won in all fields of life. As you know and see, these gains could not have been realised without sustained efforts, devoted work and ambition to secure a glorious future.

We acclaim all those who strive for the Renaissance of Oman. It is a true call to all who participate now, and in the future, in the building of this Renaissance, to go further to the wide horizons and higher goals that beckon us forward.

The road before us is long and difficult. No one can travel it except those who work hard and patiently, those who can face up to the challenges with a strong spirit of determination and right thinking. You are those people. Go ahead, with God's Blessing, for your own prosperity!

Dear Countrymen,

During the past era we have worked to build the modern state, which is comprehensive in its systems and in its organisations, adheres to its principles and policies, and is clear in its positions and attitudes. The promulgation of the Basic Law of our Country was the crowning of that era. As we said in our speech on the 26th Anniversary of our National Day, this Law provides the main base for the continuance of progress and development. It provides a true, clear picture of the principles that we shall follow in our domestic and foreign policies, which are designed to build our Omani people, and to develop their capabilities and their scientific and practical experience, because they are the corner-stone of all our goals, plans and achievements. Everyone should be conscious of this era. And everyone in a position of responsibility must work accordingly.

The principles which are directing the policies of the Country in all fields should be regarded as tools to enable us to reach one goal, which is our people's happiness, well-being, development, progress, and security within a Country that is powerful, ever progressing, and respected throughout the world.

We have devoted all our efforts to this end since the dawn of our Renaissance. Thanks be to God, many things we have hoped for have been realised in our foreign relations, economy and development, social welfare, education and culture, security and defence. We are continuing to pursue these goals with determination in order to achieve still better results, with the help of God.

Esteemed Countrymen,

The Basic Statute of the State has stated that the supremacy of the Statute shall be the basis of governance in the State. In compliance with that - although the legal system has witnessed considerable developments along with the comprehensive development of our country - we confirm our intention to continue to complete this progress.

This especially applies to organising the judiciary on a modern basis, including the courts and their tasks at all levels, and the legal procedures that are to be followed in order to ensure the right of the State to maintain

the security and stability of the Country. At the same time, also ensuring the general rights of the people, both individually and collectively. In this, we derive our help and strength from Almighty God who ordained that justice and righteousness should prevail over tyranny and aggression.

The development of this legislation and the provision of more flexibility to its implementation, and the solution of its attendant complexities will greatly help this legislation to play an effective role in the national economy and in encouraging those involved in it to carry on their business freely and without unnecessary bureaucratic complications.

Therefore it is the duty of all concerned government bodies to give the highest priority to this matter in order that there should be an efficient, competitive, private sector making a significant contribution to development.

In recognising the vital role of the private sector in stimulating the national economy since the beginning of our Renaissance, and in encouraging it to play a greater part in the modern process of Oman towards the horizon of progress and prosperity, we announce that next year is to be designated as the Year of the Private Sector. This will enable the private sector to show its capabilities and dynamism in expressing its national spirit and genuine desire to serve the Omani people and to elevate its Country to the level of a developed nation.

Dear Countrymen,

As we always adhere to our values and principles in formulating and implementing our domestic policies, we do not deviate from those which we have followed in our foreign relations. Our standpoints are derived from our sincere convictions that truly express our attitude, clear vision and realism in dealing with all regional and international problems.

If the world appears to be unable to free itself from disputes and problems because of conflicting interests, we firmly believe that the answer lies in the building of confidence between peoples, the consolidation of ties of friendship between countries, and joint efforts to achieve their mutual interests, respect for international legitimacy and adherence to treaties and laws. All this would result in constructive co-operation and in security, peace, and prosperity prevailing.

From this rostrum, we express our wishes to the world, its peoples and its countries to live together in harmony, and economic and political stability. We call upon its leaders to make greater efforts to encourage the

development of such contacts, to strengthen and consolidate these ties, to create a world of concord, so that all may enjoy justice and peace.

Dear Countrymen,

On this occasion it is our pleasure to congratulate you all. We especially salute and express our admiration of our Armed Forces and Security Services. We express our pride in their great devotion to their protection of the victories of our Renaissance and in their defence of the security, safety and stability of our Country. We re-affirm our intention to give them our care, to ensure that they are always a strong shield, bulwark and fortress.

O God, please make this Country secure and protect us from the perils and dangers of time. Grant us Your continued bounty. You are the Almighty who can do all things.

God bless you all.

