

Speech of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said before The Council of Oman

25th September 2001

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God who ordained Shura (Consultation) to the Faithful and may blessings and peace be upon the noblest of His Prophets and messengers and upon His family, and His Righteous and faithful companions.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman

Dear Citizens

In the name of God. As we meet to fulfill our noble goals With God's blessing, and continue our march forward Along the path of development, progress and success. We humbly beseech the Almighty God to grant us His assistance, protection and support and enable us to drive the Blessed Renaissance on towards new and broader horizons further stability , growth and abundance in every part of Oman. He is the hearer, the knower.

This blessed meeting of ours – which, with God's permission, is an annual event – provides clear proof of a commitment to the path of Shura (consultation) and reflects the fact that Shura is firmly rooted in the life of the Omani community, who are well aware of the important role it has to play in building that future which we all seek to achieve. A common understanding and enlightened thought provide the two corner-stones for Oman's future progress and welfare of the Omani people.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman

Dear Citizens,

Nations are being built solely by the hands of the citizens: progress and prosperity can only be achieved through learning, experience, training and qualifications. No doubt, the real wealth of any nation is made up of its human resources. They are the power that achieves development in all walks of life. They are indeed the power behind ever-changing ambitions. This is indeed the way towards glory, dignity and success.

Our call, since the dawn of the Renaissance is to develop our human resources and remove all barriers that impede the development of them. This will contribute effectively and positively in the development of the community and in the development of its learning, practical abilities, technical skills and experience, and will result in better employment opportunities especially in the private sector. We repeat our call to the private sector to take the lead in this respect and to work hard with a high national spirit towards increasing the level of Omanisation in both the large and small enterprises and companies in the private sector.

We call upon this important sector to open its doors to Omanis whether they are qualified or unqualified, trained or untrained. The private sector should employ each in appropriate jobs. We have no doubt that they will respond to this national call and will do their best to ensure an honourable life and suitable work opportunities for Omani job-seekers. There is wide scope for work as some jobs need qualifications and special skills, whilst other jobs need neither qualifications nor special skills, but perhaps a little experience and a short period of training.

Over the last 30 years the state has employed most of the national workforce but it is no longer able to absorb the large numbers seeking jobs. So the burden today lies on the shoulders of the private sector to take on this responsibility. The private sector has a large foreign workforce, and this gives Omani nationals opportunities to work hard and replace foreigners. With a little sacrifice on the part of employers a number of Omani families will be happy when their sons and daughters find jobs that enable those families to carry on with their lives and thereby meet their daily cost of living.

We see that it is the duty of our Government and the honourable members of the Council of Oman to spread awareness among the population in the Regions of the value of work, and the necessity to respect it. The focus should be that work is no longer a personal hobby but it is indeed part and parcel of worship, and therefore it should be performed with sincerity, perfection and honour.

Dear Citizens,

During the earlier phases of our Renaissance our internal policy in the various social, cultural and economic fields has become clear.

On foreign policy, the basic principle is to stand for rights and justice, the strengthening of brotherhood and friendship, and participation in ensuring security and peace at an international level.

We are confident that peace and the maintenance of peace in the world are essential for the benefit of all mankind. Peace can be maintained between all nations of the world only when it is based on a solid basis of justice, cooperation, and understanding.

We are convinced that all forms and types of terrorism, and from whatever source, is an aggression against peace which all mankind cherishes. We are working with all nations to solidify international stability and security, and upon this conviction we condemn and reject terrorism – as we have always done throughout our Blessed Renaissance. We call upon all to counteract terrorism and remedy its causes.

At the end of this speech, I would like to refer to the forthcoming 22nd Gulf Co-operation Council States Summit in Muscat. We welcome our brothers, the leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council States to their country - Oman.

We submit ourselves humbly to Almighty God and pray that He will support and guide us and make the results of the next Summit a success, and to bless all the people of the Region.

Our Lord, grant us more, not less, give us and do not forbid us, let Oman be prosperous and plentiful.

Our Lord, thou has bestowed your favours upon us, let us be most grateful and thankful to thy Lord. Bestow on us righteousness, wisdom and success.

And may peace be upon you and the mercy of God and His blessings.

