

Speech of His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed bin

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National Day

Sultanate of Oman is witnessing under leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, May Allah bless and protect him, a strong renaissance. Oman has achieved during the six and last thirty years great progress which each Omani shall be proud of. We thank Allah for granting our commander with wisdom, high zeal, foresight, and strong ambition. If the achievements were measured by human, intellectual and big moral dimensions; more than being measured by financial dimensions, Oman; thank to Allah Almighty; since several decades is the subject of praise in all of these aspects. This is due to two tendencies: breadth and comprehensiveness on one hand and development on the other hand. The first tendency means combining historical experience, and modern vision and practice. However, the second tendency means deep development of human resources cultural and physical structures. Accordingly, these two principles summarize the continuous achievement of history, present and future, which means that what is witnessed in the country is a collection between tradition and modernity, including openness to others with maintaining the constant principles

together with using rationality and morality. This is a genuine commitment to the spirit of Islam, with its centrist, moderate and realistic methodology. They are all principles which His Majesty, May Allah bless him is keen to emphasize in various occasions. This is clarified in Statute Law that stipulated that ruling in Sultanate of Oman is based on the foundations of justice, consultation and equality. This is what States seek and swell with pride. Laying this law was not mere slogans, but it was a binding law which the experience later witnesses its true orientation and practice.

Regarding religious aspect, we have to mention law that guaranteed "freedom to perform religious rites according to the observed and maintained traditions without prejudice to public order or morals". Many international bodies; which are famous for following up matters of religious freedoms, have witnessed Sultanate of Oman's commitment to this principle; and praised its application in outstanding reports in today's world. This means giving the correct and appropriate image for both Islam and Omani experiment.

Intellectual and religious culture arenas in Oman have witnessed major achievements. Oman became a destination for thinkers, wise men and theorists, who come to from all places to get to know closely Omani distinctive experience in areas of communication with others, and dialogue of cultures, moderation, tolerance, and excluding from extravagance and extremism. All these things are important in today's

global reality, and Oman could not reach it without serious and broad-minded awareness, remarkable understanding of development and humanitarian necessities, and contemporary reality of the world, and its major orientations.

Religious speech in Oman; thank to Allah; enlightened by Commander Guidance. Thus, it is a mature speech that appreciates issues, knows potentials, takes into account the gradation, is open to modernity with adhering to basic principles according to originality, and knows religion's comprehensiveness and public purposes. Thus, this awareness links past with present, calls to address matters according to Allah through wisdom and good advice. Religious speech appreciates human life and puts human dignity in decent place, respects technical achievements as being means blessed by Allah to mankind for a better life, and deals with everyone in a spirit of human brotherhood. Religious speech accepts objective criticism, and seeks to examine facts and utilize all goodwill of various experiments, with feeling pride of our basic principles and origins.

Sultanate of Oman after thirty-six-year-old is an epic that is difficult to be summarized briefly. However, we are confident that Allah will never waste to reward of the benevolent people.

On this occasion, I am honored to greet His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, –Allah bless him, with my sincerest congratulations and blessings. I pray to Allah to prolong life of His Majesty and bless him for Oman and

its people. I pray to Allah to bless him with his determination and awareness and to maintain safety and security, graces and honor of Oman. Allah always listens and responds.