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Along the Way

A Leader Par Excellence

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, with his farsightedness, sets a unique example of a pioneer leader, who takes the pain of achieving ambitions and aspirations of his nation and citizens as well as all those living in the United Arab Emirates. It is the kind of leadership that has unique abilities of envisaging and shaping the future and investing it properly.

Since taking the reins of power in the emirate of Dubai on the 4th of January 2006, the work tempo has accelerated, numerous initiatives came to light, and the Emirate made mega achievements in a relatively short time span. Thanks to these achievements, Dubai was ranked 35th among the best cosmopolitan cities in terms of infrastructure; a clear testament to the ongoing comprehensive development process; firmly built on an integrated strategy of growth and development.

We have learned from HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum that: ‘Ambition is limitless’ the word “impossible” is not found in his dictionary, and goals & aspirations are best achieved through the teamwork. HH has a clear-cut determination and plans to achieve the vision of Dubai Emirate to turn it into a financial and business hub at the regional and global levels, rise up to all challenges in order for Dubai to have a prominent global standing and repute, set a unique & genuine model of excellence and make enormous achievements through effectively capitalizing on the existing potentialities.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum believes that challenges over the next two decades will revolve on who will go farther in raising the bar on performance, keeping pace with the rapid developments in various fields, applying advanced concepts of modern management focused on customers service & satisfaction, developing resources, simplifying procedures, fostering the spirit of creativity, unleashing talents & capabilities, serving the business community, creating excellent investment atmosphere, supporting the private sector, and encouraging free enterprises.

Finally, we offer our sincere congratulations and good wishes to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and pray to God Almighty to protect him as an asset of our beloved homeland, hoping that the 6th anniversary of assuming office by HH as Ruler of Dubai will be marked by realizing our ambitions and aspirations, and raising the profile of the Emirate among metropolitan cities the world over.

Mattar Al Tayer
Chairman of the Board and Executive Director
Roads & Transport Authority
On January 4th, 2006, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum became the Ruler of Dubai following the death of Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

On January 5th, the members of the Supreme Council elected HH Sheikh Mohammed as the UAE Vice President, and they sanctioned the proposal of the UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan tasking His Highness Sheikh Mohammed as the UAE Prime Minister, and setting up a new cabinet.

On 11 February 2006 HH Sheikh Mohammed and the members of his Cabinet took their oaths in front of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Al Bateen Palace in Abu Dhabi.

Since Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has become the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, groundbreaking initiatives have been rolled out at an astonishing pace with multiple initiatives on the go.

The year 2007 witnessed unique achievements for HH Sheikh Mohammed both locally and regionally. On February 3rd, HH announced the Dubai Strategic Plan, which aims to bolster Dubai’s leading position in the region and boost its role as an international economic and financial hub. The strategy is viewed as a road map for development in the coming years.

On April 17th, 2007, HH Sheikh Mohammed unveiled the UAE Government Strategy Plan with the aim of achieving sustainable development throughout the country, investing federal resources more efficiently and ensuring due diligence, accountability and transparency across various entities.

Regionally, the most outstanding achievement was the launch of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, on May 19th, 2007, with an endowment of $10 billion. The foundation’s aim is to promote human development by investing in education and the development of knowledge in the region by cultivating future leaders in both the private and public sectors, promoting scientific research, spreading knowledge, encouraging business leadership, empowering youth, renewing the concept of culture, preserving heritage and promoting platforms of understanding among various cultures.

In keeping with the continuous endeavours of HH to ensure a better future for humanity, HH Sheikh Mohammed launched on September 20th, 2007 the Dubai Cares campaign. The campaign is considered one of the biggest international humanitarian movements to focus on fighting poverty, spreading knowledge and providing education for children in the world’s poorest countries.

On September 3rd, 2008, HH Sheikh Mohammed unveiled the Noor Dubai initiative aiming in the initial phase to deliver preventative eye care to over one million people suffering blindness and optical disability around the globe through providing them with the means of prevention against diseases causing blindness. This initiative is considered a further addition to the lofty reputation of the UAE; which lends a helping
hand to needy brothers, and victims of natural disas-
ters all over the world.
Out of the conviction of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum of the importance of encouraging innovation in various fields, the Dubai in particular and the UAE in general has seen the launch of an array of awards which have created an atmosphere of zeal and fair competition in various fields whether in their indi-
vidual and team capacity or through public and private organizations.
For instance, such prizes included: the Arab Journal-
ism Awards, the Dubai Government Excellence Pro-
gramme, the Dubai Holy Qur’an Award and the Young Business Leaders Awards.
The past few years have witnessed significant progress in economic and social development: e-government was introduced; Dubai Metro was inaugurated and a significant number of investment companies were es-
established. These companies have formed global part-
nerships in the fields of industry, commerce, tourism and ports and real estate management. A host of other cultural projects were also launched, including the Prophet Muhammad’s Museum (MPBUH), the Univer-
sal Museums project and the Mohammed bin Rashid Gardens.
HH Sheikh Mohammed set out his comprehensive world view in his book ‘My Vision’, which describes the philosophy and political and economic vision of HH. In the book, HH offers a detailed account of how the UAE and Dubai have been guided to their present-
day status as international centres, renowned for their high quality services, luxury tourism, knowledge economy, and creative human skills in addition to the drive towards sustainable human and structural development sought by the UAE. Through generosity and dedication to the nation, HH Sheikh Mohammed has achieved notable success while shouldering the great responsibility of leading Dubai and the Federal Government.

The Equestrian

“My love for horses is not something new to me; it runs in my blood and forms part of my destiny and history. Horse riding is more than merely sitting on a horse’s back. It is nobility and chivalry.” – Mohammed bin Rashid

Horses have played an important role in the history of the Arab world and in their movement, particularly in combat, where their speed, agility and stamina were often the decisive factor. Although the camel was a more integral part of Bedouin life, the horse was traditionally more highly prized, being a symbol of wealth and nobility. HH Sheikh Mohammed was fond of horses and showed so much care for horses at an early age. HH Sheikh Mohammed learned to ride as a child. He and his brothers were taught and trained by their father the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum. HH Sheikh Mohammed was a promising athlete, an accomplished player of tennis and football, but equestrianism was, and remains, his true sporting passion. HH Sheikh Mohammed first visited a racecourse in 1967, in England. He and his brother, HH Sheikh Hamdan, watched Royal Palace win the 2000 Guineas. 10 years later, in Brighton, Hatta gave HH Sheikh Mohammed the first of many victories as an owner. Despite great success, it was not until HH Sheikh Mohammed established Godolphin racing stables, in 1994; which made great successes from inception, thanks to the
experience & knowledge of HH, and the establishment of the Godolphin Racing Stables was a typical format for realizing the aspirations and objectives of HH. HH intended to give Dubai a bigger role in the welfare of horses and decided to shift his horses to Dubai during the winter, and the decision initially sounded odd to many racing specialists, but they soon came to realize that the decision underlined a great knowledge and experience that enabled HH later to train and select the best horses.

The success and growth of Godolphin coincided with, and undoubtedly assisted, the rise of Dubai's international profile. At the time it was established, owners tended to race their horses only on their own continent. HH Sheikh Mohammed wanted to race his horses all over the world and to encourage others to do the same. The world's richest horse race, the Dubai World Cup, was established in 1996 with this aim in mind. That first World Cup was won by an American horse, Cigar, and the race continues to attract entries from around the globe.

HH Sheikh Mohammed has earned international recognition as a horse owner, as evidenced by the Special Eclipse Award he received in 2001. What is not so widely known is that HH is also an exceptionally gifted rider. However, his chosen field - endurance racing - has yet to gain the international popularity of traditional horse racing. Endurance racing is the equestrian equivalent of a marathon. Most endurance races are well over 120 kilometres in distance and take several hours to complete. The riders need to establish a strong bond with their horses and be able to read their condition quickly and accurately, as there are stringent veterinary checks at regular points in the race and if the horse shows signs of deterioration the rider is asked to retire...
from the race. Arabian horses have proved exceptionally well suited to these rides, because of their legendary stamina. Riders from the UAE have also excelled in this sport, with HH Sheikh Mohammed as captain of the national team which ranks among the top in the world, despite the UAE participation in world endurance riding is relatively recent. Indeed, HH Sheikh Mohammed’s sons, HH Sheikh Hamdan and HH Sheikh Rashid, they topped the world rankings in 1999 and 2000 respectively and HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed won the World Endurance Championship in 2002, becoming the youngest rider ever to do so, and the first Asian world champion. 2003 saw HH Sheikh Majid bin Mohammed start competing in senior races on a more regular basis, and he was part of the UAE team for the European Championship.

The sons of HH Sheikh Mohammed are quick to credit their father’s role in their success. He is widely acknowledged to be a master tactician, recognising exactly the time to demand maximum effort from the horses, and when to hold them back. HH led the UAE to victory in the 1999 European Championship in Spain/Portugal and was captain when they retained the title in Italy, in 2001. In the 2003 European Championship in Ireland, HH was captain once again, and won the race. HH is also a leading figure in the campaign to have endurance racing included in the Olympics.

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**Major endurance racing victories of HH Sheikh Mohammed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al Ahram Al Araby Endurance Ride</td>
<td>May 19, 2000</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emirates Giants Endurance Ride</td>
<td>January 18, 2001</td>
<td>UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Ahram Al Araby Endurance Ride</td>
<td>April 21, 2001</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villacastin Endurance Ride</td>
<td>July 30, 2001</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Endurance Ride</td>
<td>June 1, 2002</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Endurance Marathon</td>
<td>August 17, 2002</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwegian Open Championship</td>
<td>August 24, 2002</td>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dubai Endurance City Masters Ride</td>
<td>January 25, 2003</td>
<td>UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEI Bodyweight Ride</td>
<td>February 13, 2003</td>
<td>UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheikh Zayed Challenge, Round II</td>
<td>February 15, 2003</td>
<td>UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Championships</td>
<td>August 24, 2003</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Open Endurance Championship</td>
<td>September 19, 2003</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian International Endurance Race</td>
<td>May 31, 2008</td>
<td>Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEI CEI Endurance Championship Race</td>
<td>June 28, 2008</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endurance Championship race</td>
<td>August 22, 2008</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Hussein International Endurance Ride</td>
<td>November 14, 2008</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stars Endurance race</td>
<td>August 3, 2009</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Round of the Giants Endurance Challenge Ride</td>
<td>January 9, 2010</td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euston Park Endurance Championship</td>
<td>July 13, 2010</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stars Challenge race</td>
<td>July 26, 2010</td>
<td>England</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEI World Equestrian Games Endurance Championship</td>
<td>September 27, 2010</td>
<td>USA</td>
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