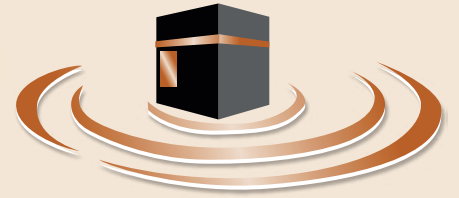


Al-Ahella



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**Largest budget
in the history
of the Kingdom**

Crown Prince launches "Neom"

Kingdom celebrates the third anniversary of allegiance to King Salman



تتشرف مؤسسة مطوفي حجاج دول جنوب آسيا بتقديم خالص الشكر والعرفان

إلى مقام خادم الحرمين الشريفين

الملك سلمان بن عبدالعزيز آل سعود

بمناسبة صدور الأوامر الملكية، التي تحمل معطيات الخير والبركة للمواطنين والمواطنات في هذا البلد المعطاء، والله نسأل أن يمد خادم الحرمين الشريفين وسمو ولي عهده الأمين - حفظهم الله - بعونه وتوفيقه، وأن يديم على هذه البلاد أمنها ورفاهيتها واستقرارها في هذا العهد الزاهر الميمون، عهد سلمان العزم والحزم.

رئيس ونائبا وأعضاء مجلس إدارة مؤسسة مطوفي حجاج دول جنوب آسيا ورؤساء مكاتب الخدمة الميدانية ومطوفو ومطوفات المؤسسة وكافة منسوبيها



Guided Leadership and a Benevolent Country

Allah has blessed this country with wise and dutiful leaders, who have been true to what they've promised Him, selflessly serving their community, people, and nation, giving all they can to realize the purpose.

This has been the norm since the times of our founder King Abdulaziz Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Saud, may Allah have mercy on him, and until today under the prosperous times of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin AbdulAziz - King of wisdom and determination - and his trusted Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, may God protect them.

During the last few days our beloved country has witnessed several blessed national events. One such event was on 30/3/1439H when the Shoura Council under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, approved the largest budget in the Kingdom's history with regard to government spending and strategic bands. This budget will support the stability and balance our country has always experienced, providing for our citizens while realizing the great aspirations and modern foundations that will guarantee for us a prosperous future, by God's will.

Another joyous occasion in all areas of the Kingdom was on 3/4/1439H marking the Third Anniversary of Allegiance to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz as King of this country, leader of this nation, and father to all. This is done in recognition of the special meanings and high spirits this occasion represents to the children of this benevolent country, accompanying their leaders on this journey from the time of King Abdulaziz Al-Saud - God have mercy on him - through the time of his sons and until this blessed, glorious time.

In line with this wise leadership and it's active, unparalleled role in providing comfort, safety, security to the guests of the Most Merciful, the Ministry of Hajj has announced the start of a program to welcome the heads of various Hajj delegations from various Islamic and Arabic

countries as well as Muslim minorities to discuss the organization and preparations for their pilgrims arriving to perform Hajj in 1439H.

The Prize for Innovation and Engineering Excellence

We at the Mutawwiffy Hujjaj South Asia Establishment renew our allegiance to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, HRH Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defense. On this auspicious occasion we have renewed as well our determination to translate the orders and instructions of our wise leadership into reality. We are also determined to translate the vision and aspirations of HE the Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Muhammad Saleh Bin Taher Benten, May God protect him, in serving the guests of the Most Merciful the best services possible according to the comprehensive technical plans and preparations. In this context we take guidance from the ministry's extensive experience, past achievements, and expertise in all area of service. This has enabled us to be awarded several prizes, the latest being the Prize for Innovation and Engineering Excellence in 2017H.

The prize has immensely inspired the Mutawwiffy Hujjaj South Asia Establishment and we began in 1439H to plan and prepare to serve the pilgrims upcoming Hajj. Serving pilgrims is an honor and pride for us and will enable us to achieve accomplishments by providing quality services to the pilgrims from the moment they land in this holy land till they depart for their home countries after performing the Hajj rites with ease and comfort, God willing.

The Mutawwiffy Hujjaj South Asia Establishment has completed preparations to welcome the Hajj delegations and benefit from their insight right from receiving the pilgrims until their return to their home countries, God willing.

I pray Allah to continue to bless us in all ways, to protect our holy country and our wise leadership from every evil; He alone is capable of this. All praise is due to God, Lord of the worlds.



Dr. Ra'fat Ismail Badr

Chairman of The Board of Directors
South Asia Pilgrims
Mutawiffis Establishment



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Kingdom celebrates the third anniversary of allegiance to King Salman Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques laid down firm rules for development and success

A number of princes, ministers, senior officials and members of the senior scholars' council confirmed that the third anniversary of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz's accession to power and the oath of allegiance given to him as leader of this country is a precious memory in the hearts of every one in our country. They said that these noble memories and firm values have continued from the time of Kingdom's founder King Abdul Aziz Bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud, may God bless him and grant him peace, through the promises of his sons who succeeded him - may God have mercy on them – continuing until today with the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz.

Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Governor of Makkah Region, describing King Salman said: "He applies the law of Allah and is committed to the Islamic faith as a constitution, justice and moderation as a methodology. He rejects extremism and terrorism, and takes pride in

...serving all those who visit the Two Holy Mosques.”

Prince Faisal Bin Bandar, Governor of Riyadh Region, said: “The memory of the third pledge of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is upon us. We live in an oasis of security and comfort. We are racing to success, increasing our achievements, hopes, ambitions, and challenging time with firm faith and wise leadership. We have a vision to establish a bright future, God willing, led by King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, who first relies in Allah, believes in faith, justice and firmness. He has given much and even more.”

Concept of development

Prince Faisal Bin Salman, Governor of Madinah, said that during the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the country has provided high quality services to its citizens and residents, expanded the concept of development to achieve a number of programs that address their essential needs and requirements. “We are on a path of development, modernization, and continuous improvement in a manner that does not contradict with our Islamic and Arab values.”



Bahrain Dy PM congratulates Prince Mohammad Bin Salman

In the meantime, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense received congratulations

from His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Allegiance.

Prince Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Bin Ayyaf, Minister of National Guard, said that since the first day the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques took office, it became clear that he was determined to lead this country towards honor and excellence, continuing to build a modern state.

Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Saud Bin Nayef, Minister of Interior, said that despite the economic challenges and political changes regionally and internationally, King Salman has, with wisdom, led this country to prosperity with an ambitious strategic vision aimed at achieving comprehensive developmental achieve-



ments that take into consideration the requirements of this era and meet the needs and aspirations of all citizens.

Clear insight

Meanwhile, the Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Mohammad Saleh Bin Taher Benteen, stressed that the Kingdom's people on this occasion are invoking the vision of King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz according to his policy of firmness, reforms and development which led to the unveiling of the largest budget for the fiscal year 2018 in the history of the Kingdom in terms of government spending. He unveiled this budget to rebuild the state on modern lines and promote comprehensive, sustainable developments. This will launch a new phase based on ac-

countability, transparency and disclosure under the leadership of HRH Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense.

He added: "The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, in his speeches, highlighted the great priority to serve the pilgrims."

His Excellency Dr. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammad Bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, Chairman of the Majlis Al-Shoura, congratulated King Salman and the people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the third anniversary of Allegiance to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. "In the era of King Salman we've witnessed great achievements in a very short time. Wise decisions for

the present that take into account our future and beyond – by God's help – lead Saudi Arabia to the path of development and reforms," he said.

Dr. Fahad Al-Majid, Secretary General of the Council of Senior Scholars, described the anniversary of allegiance to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques as an occasion of national significance that the people of this country should remember and affirm. He stressed that during his three years of rule, King Salman has laid the foundations of security and developments which will contribute to strengthening the Kingdom's lead in Islamic affairs and influence its position globally.

An exceptional revival



On the other hand, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of the Republic of Djibouti to the Kingdom, Ziauddin Saeed Bamhermeh said that the third anniversary of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques represents a blessed occasion. King Salman taking over the reins of rule in the Kingdom which houses

the Qiblah of Muslims and heads the Arab world, has been distinguished through his wise leadership following the methodology of the Qur'an and the Sunna.

The Kingdom is witnessing a remarkable revival in various areas, including economic, politics, society, culture, art and sports, in line with

the Kingdom's Vision 2030 being implemented by Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, who carries the banner of innovation and the spirit of our youth. The youths of the Kingdom, who are at the forefront of these events are active participants in building both their present and future.

KSA unveils SR978 billion budget

Largest budget in the history of the Kingdom



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud approved the new state budget for fiscal year 1439/1440 (2018) in a special session of the Council of Ministers, at Al-Yamama Palace in Riyadh on Rabi Al-Thani 01, 1439, corresponding to December 19, 2017.

The budget projects a spending of SR978 billion

Addressing the Cabinet's budget session the King said: "With God's help and approval, we announce the budget for the fiscal year 1439/1440 AH as the largest spending budget in the history of the Kingdom despite low oil prices compared to previous years. We will continue the development process towards achieving the Kingdom's Vision 2030 to diversify the economic base and the Kingdom's sources of income, as well as its ability to adapt to developments and overcome challenges. Twelve programs were launched to achieve the objectives of this vision, in order to diversify the economic base and enable the private sector to play



a larger role in economic development while maintaining efficient spending in order to achieve appropriate economic growth rates, ease the burden on our citizens, and address any possible negative effects in supporting the private sector.”

Reducing reliance on oil

“We commend the reduction in the budget deficit for the current fiscal year by more than 25 percent compared to the previous fiscal year, despite the increase in spending, with the aim of reducing the deficit next year to less than 8 percent of GDP,” he said. The size and expansion of the budget for government programs has also succeeded in reducing dependence on oil to about 50 percent

For the first time, the development funds and the Public Investment Fund (PIF) are involved in capital and investment spending, which is more than the capital expenditure of the budget in previous years, in addition to the continuation of government capital expenditures and their increase by 13 percent .

As a result, the government decided to invest in these sectors, expand de-



velopment, and adjust the fiscal balance program to be realized in the year 2023 while maintaining fiscal policies, including the level of debt to GDP to remain below 30 percent and the level of deficit will gradually decrease.

Indication of success says Crown Prince

HRH Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Chairman of the Council for Economic



Affairs and Development, affirmed that improving the standard of living of citizens is at the heart of the Kingdom's efforts to diversify the economy, achieve financial stability, support the private

sector, and contribute to generating more jobs for citizens.

“The announcement of the largest government spending program in the history of the Kingdom is a strong indication of the

success of our efforts to improve public finance management, despite the significant drop in oil prices over previous years,” he said.

The Crown Prince stressed that the 2018 expansionary budget included a comprehensive set of new development initiatives aimed at achieving financial and economic stability, highlighting Vision 2030's efforts to stimulate the main economic sectors, and thus generate employment opportunities, improve the basic services to citizens and develop infrastructure projects.



IMCTC vows to fight terrorism

“More than forty Islamic countries agree that they will work together and coordinate vigorously to support each other’s efforts to combat terrorism,” Crown Prince Mohammad

At the end of their meeting in Riyadh on November 26, 2017 to combat terrorism under the chairmanship of Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, the defense ministers of 41 countries of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), expressed the determination of their countries to coordinate efforts and unite to prevent and stand against the dangers of terrorism. Under the slogan “Allied Against Terrorism” and with the participation of the defense ministers of the countries of the Islamic Military Coalition to combat terrorism, international delegations and official missions from supporting and friendly countries, the meeting highlighted the importance of joint efforts, organized collective action, and comprehensive strategic planning to deal with the threat of terrorism and limit those who seek to fuel conflicts, promote sectarianism, and spread chaos, strife and unrest within their countries.

In announcing the final communiqué of the meeting, the IMCTC Secretary-General, Gen. Abdul Ali Bin Othman Al-Saleh, said that the countries of the alliance affirmed that terrorism has become a constant and growing challenge and threat to regional and international peace, security and stability. It transcends borders and violates all values, having become especially deadly in our Islamic world, which



suffers from the acts of terrorism that cause loss of life and property, stunting the dreams of a wide range of societies living in peace and tranquility.

Final communiqué

The members of the first meeting of the IMCTC in their final statement expressed their deep appreciation for the efforts of Saudi Arabia in forming this alliance and thanked the Kingdom for hosting this meeting. They also thanked Crown Prince Mohammad who presided over the meeting and the positive results it achieved.

The final communiqué stressed that terrorism has become a constant and growing challenge and threat to regional and international peace, security and stability. It transcends borders and violates all values, having become especially deadly in our Islamic world, which suf-

fers from the crimes of terrorism and the great loss of life and property, stunting the dreams of a wide range of societies living in peace and tranquility.

They also stressed the importance of joint efforts, organized collective action, and comprehensive strategic planning was highlighted in their efforts to deal with the threat of terrorism and limit those who seek to fuel conflicts, promote sectarianism, and spread chaos, strife and unrest within their countries.

Intellectual terrorism

Recognizing the importance of initiating the fight against terrorism in its various fields, the IMCTC Ministers of Defense agreed on the following:

First: Combating terrorism in the intellectual realm; using all means to confront extremism and

terrorism with all its concepts and intellectual perceptions, uncovering its truth, exposing its illusions and allegations, the methods of falsification and deception used in employing texts and events as well addressing terrorism through academic means, highlighting the correct Islamic concepts is a chief priority.

Second: Combating terrorism in the field of media by stressing the importance of employing all forms of media to combat extremist ideology and terrorist propaganda from any source, as well as the necessity of investing new media in educating members of societies to prevent the terrorist infiltration.

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Second: Combating terrorism in the field of media by stressing the importance of employing all forms of media to combat extremist ideology and terrorist propaganda from any source, as well as the necessity of investing new media in educating members of societies to prevent the terrorist infiltration.

Third: Combating the financing of terrorism and drying out its sources of funding. This is done by drying up sources of terrorist financing, cutting off any financial sources for its operations and activities, and increasing coordination, technical and security cooperation in the exchange of data and information transfer, as well as knowledge and expertise in combating terrorism financing. Gauging the effectiveness of these measures is key in restricting the financing of terrorism and increasing awareness of the various methods and trends of financing its operations. This will help in finding the best, most successful, and fastest solutions to eliminate its funding.

Fourth: Combating terrorism militarily. This is by emphasizing the im-



portance of the coalition countries securing the necessary military capabilities needed to ensure that terrorist organizations are weakened, dismantled, eliminated and not given the opportunity to reorganize their ranks. The participation of the coalition states that, according to the means available to each country and according to its desire, they will participate in any military operation under the umbrella of the Islamic military alliance to combat terrorism.

Fifth: The Alliance's work mechanism. The ministers commended the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and agreed on the following:

- Securing the headquarters of IMCTC in Riyadh, provided that Saudi Arabia will secure its requirements and complete all

necessary legal and regulatory requirements to enable it to carry out the tasks entrusted to it.

- The Chairman of the IMCTC Ministers of Defense Council will appoint the Secretary General (President of the Center) and the Military Commander of the Coalition. The Chairman will approve the Center's procedural rules, annual budget and regulations. He will make arrangements for the Coalition member countries to nominate their delegates to the Center. The Chairman will also enable the Coalition to initiate partnerships with international organizations, highlighting its role in the fight against terrorism internationally. He will take relevant decisions he sees fit for achieving the Coalition's objectives.



- The Council of Ministers of Defense of the States of the Islamic Coalition will meet annually under the chairmanship of Crown Prince Mohammad or when necessary to follow up on the strategies, policies, plans and programs to achieve the IMCTC's objectives and review the reports submitted by the IMCTC Counter Terrorism Center, in addition to following up the efforts made in various fields to combat terrorism.

bat terrorism.

- Reaffirmation of the multiple efforts needed to support this joint effort in any operation, program, or initiative under the auspices of IMCTC according to the Coalition's rules and regulations.

Opening of the meeting

HRH Crown Prince Mohammad opened the meeting at Al-Faisaliah Hotel in Riyadh, where he welcomed the IMCTC Minister of Defense .

The meeting began with recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.

In his inaugural speech HRH Crown Prince Mohammad said:

“Peace, mercy and blessings of God:

First, on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, I welcome my brothers and colleagues and Their Excellencies the Ministers of Defense of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition. There is no doubt that our meeting today is a very important one because in past years terrorism has been affecting our countries. Today there are more than forty Islamic countries sending very strong signals that they will work together and coordinate vigorously to support each other's efforts to combat terrorism, whether militarily, financially, in the realm of intelligence operations, as well as on the political side. This effort will succeed today and every state will provide what it can provide in each area according to its capabilities and potential.”



Crown Prince launches “Neom”

The first private zone extending between three countries

In light of Vision 2030’s ambitions to transform the Kingdom into a global model leader in various facets of life under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, HRH Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Investment Fund (PIF) announced in October the launch of a \$500 billion mega city called “Neom” project on the Kingdom’s Red Sea Coast.

The business zone “Neom”, spanning 26,500 square kilometers, will focus on nine specialized investment sectors targeting the future of human civilization: energy and water, transport, biotechnology, food, technical and digital sciences, advanced manufacturing, media and media production, entertainment, and the future of living, which is the cornerstone of other sectors. This project focuses on these sectors so as to stimulate economic growth and diversification,

enable manufacturing processes, innovate and drive local industry to a global level.

All this will create jobs and contribute to the Kingdom’s GDP growth. The Neom project will attract private investment and private/public partnerships. It will also be supported by more than one billion dollars in the coming years by the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund as well as local and international investors.

Special features

This project is characterized by several special features, notably its strategic location which allows it to act as a meeting point of the best in the Arab region, Asia, Africa, Europe and America. Located in the northwest of the Kingdom, it will overlook the north and west of the Red Sea coastline as well as the Gulf of Aqaba stretching over 468 km. On the east it will be lined up by mountains reaching heights of 500.2 meters. Additionally, the regions cool breeze will contribute to moderate temperatures. The solar and wind farm project areas will allow for complete dependence on alternative energy.



With capital reaching \$ 500 billion, it seeks to attract private investment, private/public partnerships and investments

Economic artery

One of the foundations of the Neom project is its view of the Red Sea coast, which is a main economic artery and has 10 percent of the world trade passing through it. The site is a hub, connecting the three continents: Asia, Europe and Africa. 70 percent of the world's population can reach the site within a maximum of eight hours. This will enable the world's best knowledge, technology, research, education, living and work to converge in one place.

The site will also be the main entrance to the King Salman Bridge, which will link Asia and Africa, enhancing its position and economic importance.

The Neom project will include land within the Egyptian and Jordanian borders, which will be the first private zone extending between three countries.

Financing sources

Finance and the financial capacity of the project is one of its main components, depending on the Saudi economy in particular. The Public Investment Fund (PIF), which has recently become a major global fund with huge investment potential, has access to a large network of investors and major companies around the world. It will enable them to make the project a success.

The Neom project will serve as a focal point for economic

trends, attracting international capital and investments, and thus realize long-term returns for the Fund, contributing to strengthening Saudi Arabia's economy and generating high returns for investors. The project will also limit the leakage of funds abroad as it aims to be one of the most important economic and scientific capitals in the world.

Attracting global investors

Attracting global investors is one of the key components for the success of this project, acting as a catalyst for growth and prosperity in their business activities. The dexterity and flexibility afforded to investors to formulate regulations and rules in the region will promote technical and community innovation in accordance with international best practice, as regulations in the project area are independent of the Kingdom's regulations except those governing sovereign ones.

Dr. Kleinfeld appointed CEO

In a related development, HRH Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Public Investment Fund (PIF), announced the signing and appointment of Dr. Klaus Kleinfeld as Chief Executive Officer of Neom.

Dr. Kleinfeld is a former Chairman & CEO of Arconic & Alcoa Inc.

Dr. Ra'fat discusses preparations with Pakistani Hajj delegation

The Office of Pilgrims' Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan discussed the service arrangements provided to Pakistani pilgrims during a meeting held recently at the South Asia Pilgrims Muta-wiffs Establishment headquarters in Al-Rusaifah district. The Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Religious Affairs of the Republic of Pakistan Mrs. Shafiqah Jumani and the accompanying delegation met with Dr. Ra'fat Ismail Badr, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Establishment as well as members of the Board of Directors.

Makkah - Ahmad Al-Ahmadi

Mrs. Jumani explained that the ancient historical relations between the Kingdom and Pakistan and the continuous cooperation and that interrelationship between the two peoples will continue, God willing, until the Day of Judgment. She said: "We consider the Kingdom our home. As the Pakistani people, we have religious and national connections to these lands. We are



very pleased to serve the Pakistan pilgrims and we have discussed with the Establishment how best to continue providing these distinguished services to the guests of Al-Rahman."

Mrs. Jumani expressed her sincere thanks to the

government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz and the Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Mohammad Saleh Bin Taher Benteen for their efforts in serving the guests of Al-Rahman and the facilities they provide.