

ALL-INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Hassan Ali Salman, Chairman of Al Hassan Group of Companies examines how His Majesty laid the foundation of comprehensive development in the country

His Majesty accorded great importance to the development of the agriculture sector and to the religious and spiritual aspects of Omani life

I was in Qatar when we received the good news about His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said coming to power in the country. Like all Omanis we were also pleased to hear this great news. From that day onwards, Sultanate came to the forefront of the world.

In 1971, I had the privilege to receive His Majesty at Doha airport. Guided by the words of Imam Ali that health and safety are the two least recognised blessings, His Majesty accorded top priority to health and safety. He set up hospitals and health centres throughout Oman and laid the foundations of internal and external security. As a result of it, Oman developed a well-trained, well-equipped and experienced armed force and set up police stations. This was followed by appropriate regulations and institutions for all segments of Omani society. He also did not lose sight of the tenor of the famous saying 'Seek knowledge even from China'. He attached great importance to providing education to people in every nuke and cranny of the country.

He also accorded a lot of importance to the development of the agriculture sector and to the religious and spiritual aspects of Omani life. Mosques were set up in all areas. He enacted laws and regulations aimed at the economic development of the country. Omani rial became one of the strongest currencies in the region. Besides, His Majesty set up a securities market. He also took utmost care in the development of Omani industry as an invaluable resource for this country and its people.

With the dawn of the Renaissance, top priority was given to the extraction of oil and discovering more resources. Oman also concentrated on developing extracting mechanisms and technology for this important process. Understanding the great risk involved in this, His Majesty attached top priority to professional health and safety. His Majesty



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also accorded top priority to the opening of embassies and consulates of the Sultanate in the world and to develop the relations and friendship with these countries. Oman has also signed several agreements on the border with the countries of the region and joined in various international organisations.

As regards tourism, Oman is gifted with a number of beautiful places which attract a large number of tourists. His Majesty set up the Ministry of Tourism for the development of tourism sector in the country. Besides, Oman has a long history and a great heritage and tradition. His Majesty set up the Ministry of Heritage and Culture for the development of Omani culture and preservation of its rich heritage. He also set up a public authority for the development of crafts industries in the country. The achievements of Oman during the blessed Renaissance are numerous to count.