



HE MOHAMED HOSNI MUBARAK

President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Born in the Governate of Monufiyah, President Mubarak was educated at Egypt's National Military Academy and Air Force Academy and at the Frunze General Staff Academy in Moscow.

After completing his training, Mr Mubarak rose through the ranks of the Egyptian Air Force, serving as a pilot and later as a base commander. In 1972 he was appointed Commander of the Air Force, which he led in the 1973 October War, leading to his appointment as Air Marshal in 1974.

The President is married to Mrs Suzanne Mubarak, and has two sons, Alaa and Gamal.

Following the assassination of President Sadat in 1981, Mr Mubarak, who had been Vice-President since 1975, became the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Chairman of the National Democratic Party (NDP).

President Mubarak was elected to the presidency for a fifth consecutive term in the 2005 presidential elections. The election was the first under a new system of direct multi-candidate elections; in previous elections Egyptians could only vote yes or no for a single candidate who was nominated by Parliament to stand in a referendum.

President Mubarak has remained committed to the peace treaty that President Sadat signed with Israel in 1979, overseeing the longest stretch of peace in modern Egyptian history. He successfully achieved reconciliation with other Arab states that had ostracised and expelled Egypt from the Arab League, after the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Through his efforts in the Arab League, President Mubarak has been central in making a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on the principle of land for peace and a two-state solution, the accepted position of the Arab world, often against extremely difficult odds. This laid the ground work for the landmark 2005 Peace Initiative which confirmed that all the Arab states would offer Israel full recognition and normalised relations in response to a complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, and a just resolution to the Palestinian refugee question.

President Mubarak has repeatedly intervened to contain conflicts and reinforce regional stability. In 1991, he joined

the United States in sending the largest Arab combatant military contingent to be a part of the international coalition that liberated Kuwait; in 1998 he mediated a resolution to the crisis between Turkey and Syria that threatened to escalate to war. He led Egypt to intervene in the conflict in Southern Sudan and Darfur, shepherding peace talks, sending peace-keepers, and providing humanitarian and development aid.

In 2008, Egypt brokered a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel that spared Palestinian and Israeli lives. And in January 2009 when Israel launched an attack on Gaza, President Mubarak played an instrumental role by taking the initiative and leading international efforts to achieve an immediate ceasefire between Israel and all Palestinian factions, and facilitating the transfer of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip.

Under President Mubarak's leadership, Egypt has undergone a process of profound economic reform. Upon assuming office, President Mubarak inherited a war-exhausted economy that was still dealing with early attempts at liberalisation begun by the late President Sadat. The President led efforts to rebuild Egypt's neglected infrastructure and domestic economy; implementing a difficult IMF-supported Structural Adjustment Programme in the 90s.

As a result of the most recent phase of economic reform, which began in 2004, the Egyptian economy has become one of the fastest growing among emerging markets. In contrast to a low of 3.2 per cent in the 2002-03 fiscal years, Egypt experienced GDP growth of 7.2 per cent for the third year in a row in 2008, and has been able to grow at an expected rate of 4.2 per cent for 2010 in the midst of the global economic crisis.

Since 2005, Egypt's annual GDP growth rates have outpaced averages for the newly industrialised Asian economies and the entire Middle East. Projections for 2009 and beyond indicate that Egypt will sustain its position as one of the world's fastest growing economies.

The World Bank named Egypt the Middle East's top economic reformer for the third year in a row in 2009 in its Doing Business report. Egypt was also named one of the top ten global economic reformers this year. **F**