

A proud history of success

By **ANWAR ABDULLA AL-MULLA**

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AL MULLA GROUP



ANWAR ABDULLA AL-MULLA

was born in Kuwait in 1943 and is the son of the late Mr Abdulla Saleh Al-Mulla, who was the Secretary of State to the late Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the late Sheikh Abdulla Al-Salem Al-Sabah, former rulers of Kuwait. He was educated in England, Lebanon and the United States and started working with the Al-Mulla Group of companies in 1968 which is today one of the largest business conglomerates in the Middle East. He presently holds the position of Deputy Chairman & CEO.

In 1938, the late Abdulla Saleh Al-Mulla, Secretary of State for Kuwait for over two decades and founder of today's Al Mulla Group, started an electrical appliances shop and soon acquired the distribution rights for General Electric appliances in Kuwait. Being both a visionary as well as an entrepreneur, the late Mr Al Mulla continued to search for opportunities to grow the business while managing to balance his responsibilities as Secretary of State.

In 1947, the company managed to secure the exclusive distribution rights for Chrysler, Dodge, and Plymouth automobiles in Kuwait. This partnership continues until this day with Chrysler International, growing stronger and healthier with time, a fact that the Group prides itself with. The business witnessed even further growth over the next decades, with diversification of business into new areas, such as Engineering, Financing, Manufacturing, Insurance, and Travel, while still continuing to grow the automotive business.

In 1972 the automotive division of Al Mulla Group marked a milestone success when it won the rights to be the exclusive distributor for Mitsubishi Motors in Kuwait. This partnership also exists until this day, with further growth of the partnership with Mitsubishi in new areas such as Iraq and Egypt, both through joint ventures with other partners.

New subsidiaries were created to cater to this expansion, with companies such as Bader Al Mulla & Bros, Maseelah Trading Company, and Saleh Jamal & Partner, all wholly owned subsidiaries, being created from the 1950s onwards. Al Mulla Group Holding Company was later created as an umbrella company under which all Group subsidiaries, affiliates, and associates that total over 30 are held.

In 1978, the shareholders decided to implement a series of radical changes to the company. A multinational board was appointed, going against the longstanding local tradition of the board being made up solely of family members. This allowed the Group to begin venturing into a range of different businesses such as environmental systems, vehicle rental and leasing, fire protection, office equipment, security services, engineering products, consumer appliances and insurance consultancy. Building on its solid foundations, the Group continued to expand and enhance its operations into the 1980s up to the present

day, constantly searching for new opportunities and diversifying its operations into new fields and in new locations throughout the Middle East.

Under the guidance and leadership of the Group's shareholders, Al Mulla Group's principal goal is to create effective and far-reaching solutions that address a wide range of needs, while at the same time identifying and securing new business opportunities to benefit our customers.

Today, the Group is run by a team of highly qualified professionals that includes family members from two generations as well as high-calibre executives that bring a wealth of global business experience to the Group. The Group also maintains a solid work ethic, with clear emphasis on honesty, dignity, and high moral values when dealing with customers as well as with colleagues at work. This has enabled Al Mulla Group to occupy leading market positions in all of its existing lines of operation as well as new operations in fields such as healthcare, investments, real estate and others, and continues to be a leading example of a successful family business in the Middle East.

Innovation and technological advancement underpin Al Mulla Group's activities at home and abroad, thus keeping abreast of global trends and developments in its pursuit of its business, development, and community goals.

Al Mulla Group at present is one of the largest privately owned businesses in Kuwait and the Gulf, and is considered one of the leading family-run enterprises in the region. With more than 10,000 employees, along with more than 30 different companies and subsidiaries, and operating in eight different countries and affiliations with around 200 international brands, Al Mulla Group is active in the following fields: automotive distribution and servicing; rental and leasing of vehicles and heavy equipment; engineering, construction, oil and gas services; insurance and re-insurance broking; steel vessel, cold storage, and air distribution manufacturing; consumer and corporate financing; security services; money exchange; office automation; engineering products distribution; healthcare; hospitality; travel; and cargo services.

Al Mulla has operations in Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, the UAE, Qatar, India and Egypt; with further plans under way for expansion in other areas in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. F