



Serving the Pilgrims and Developing the Holy Cities: The Kingdom's Contribution to World Peace

Since its establishment by King Abdul Aziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its leadership, government and people have made a priority of the development of Makkah and the Holy Mosques, seeking only the rewards of Allah ﷻ as a return.

For eight decades, Saudi Arabia has not allowed the Hajj – the fifth pillar of Islam – to be politicised in any way. Since its establishment, the Kingdom has proved to be more than capable of managing this great Islamic occasion and offering its finest services to all pilgrims. We do this not to seek favour or to make a point, but solely for the sake of Allah. The Saudi is thus obliged to perform his duty towards his Muslim brothers who travel to this Holy Land every year, as is the custom.

Through this publication, I am sure the world will see that Makkah has always been – and will continue to be – a powerful symbol of peace

Islam in the Kingdom is based on the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of Allah's prophet ﷺ. Adopting these principles, Saudi Arabia offers what it can to the guests of Allah and The Holy Places, regardless of their doctrines, methods and sects.

For the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, it is an honour to serve Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. Our sole objective is to make their experience as smooth and easy as possible. There is no financial agenda behind this; any development project that has been completed or that we aim to complete in the future, God willing, is exclusively for the

comfort and reassurance of pilgrims, so that they may fulfil their religious duties in full.

Allah has entrusted the Kingdom with the immense responsibility of serving the two Holy Mosques. As a reflection of this responsibility, the Holy City of Makkah is undergoing an unprecedented development phase. The current expansion of the Masjid al-Haram is the largest expansion in history, estimated at 400,000 square metres and designed to accommodate two million worshippers. It includes six main components: the outer courtyard, bridges, pedestrian corridors and service buildings, including health centres, civil defence, hospital, central air conditioning station and back-up generator.

Saudi Arabia's care for the health and safety of pilgrims is further demonstrated by the development of the Jamarat Bridge – a five-storey project that will accommodate 300,000 pilgrims per hour, with the possibility of increasing the number of floors to twelve, to serve five million pilgrims.

More than three million pilgrims, from over 163 countries, speaking many different languages, travel at the same time and to the same place during the Hajj. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thanks to Allah, has succeeded in managing such crowds and providing the necessary medical, security and other services to enable each pilgrim to perform their duties with ease and comfort over the course of five days.

Saudi Arabia's efforts to develop Makkah and the Holy Places are in recognition of the fact that pilgrims are guests of Allah and must be treated equally, with dignity and without discrimination.

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HRH Prince Khalid bin Faisal Al Saud
Governor of Makkah, Advisor to the Custodian
of the Two Holy Mosques