



**SHEIKH ABDUL
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GENERAL PRESIDENCY
OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE
TWO HOLY MOSQUES

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia serves the Two Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madinah, where Muslims from across the globe gather to comply with the ordinance of Allah ﷻ and His Prophet ﷺ, to perform the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimage. We, at the General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques (Haramain), are devoted to creating a safe, spiritual and clean environment in the Two Holy Mosques.

The General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques, linked directly to the Head of Ministerial Council, has been headquartered in the Holy City of Makkah since its inception. The primary function of the Presidency, aside from several initiatives related to education, guidance and preaching, is to supervise the religious, administrative and technical affairs of the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah.

There are several sites from among the numerous landmarks of the Grand Mosques that we are tasked to protect and preserve. Aside from the Kaaba – the most sacred place in Islam – we have the Hajr-e-Aswad (Black Stone) and the Maqam Ibrahim (the place where Prophet Abraham stood while building the Kaaba), the Well of Zamzam and the hillocks of Safa and Marwah, which are an integral part of Hajj and Umrah. Also under our remit are the libraries inside the Two Holy Mosques and the King Abdul Aziz Complex for making drapes for covering of the Holy Kaaba (Kiswah). In Madinah, we have the venerated grave of the Prophet and other landmarks in the Prophet's Mosque.

Through its office of supervision, the Presidency monitors the current expansion work being carried out in the Two Holy Mosques. Our suggestions for the better functioning of the Two Holy Mosques and to improve services using state-of-the-art technology, are regularly communicated to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, HRH King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

The Presidency works in close coordination with the security authorities, civil defence and the municipality of Makkah with regard to the security of the Two Holy Mosques, particularly during the busy month of fasting (Ramadan) and then during Hajj. During Hajj, the Presidency hires thousands of people, on a temporary basis, to assist in the provision of support services like medical and first aid services as well as other services to ensure the safety of the Hajj pilgrims. This enables the pilgrims to perform their religious duties in a peaceful and spiritual atmosphere.

The Presidency also holds annual competitions for the recitation of the Holy Quran in the Grand Mosque of Makkah and Prophet's Mosque in Madinah, in which the Huffaz (those who have attained a high level of knowledge and competence in Quranic recitation) congregate from across the globe.

For us at the Presidency, it is an honour, privilege and the blessing of Allah to be located in the Holy City of Makkah, referred to in the Quran as "Umm al Qura", the Mother of all Settlements. As Muslims, it is our duty to present to the world the centrality of this Holy City (and Madinah) to the life of Muslims, and I applaud this historic publication for serving this important purpose. **F**