

## **His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan**

His Highness Sheik Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan , president of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Abu Dhabi and the supreme Commander of the armed forces, assumed power on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2004 following the death of the late his Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan al Nahayan, the founder of the country, may god rest his soul in peace. His Highness was chosen unanimously by the members of the Supreme Council the rulers of the emirates.

Sheikh Khalifa is the eldest son of the late his highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, May God rests his soul in peace. Since his birth in 1948 he grew up in the city of Al Ain. He learnt politics from his father. He has also witnessed the march of building the UAE and he has assumed many leading roles in Abu Dhabi Emirate.

In 1966 his Highness was the ruler's representative in the eastern zone and head of the courts there. He was the crown prince of Abu Dhabi since February 1969. His choice was in line with his wisdom, knowledge and understanding of the issues of his country. His choice as crown prince of Abu Dhabi was supported by Al Nahayan.

In the same year, Sheikh Khalifa also headed the Directorate of Defense in Abu Dhabi when the Abu Dhabi Defense Force, which became the nucleus of the armed forces, was established. He was also Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Ministerial Council in 1971 and he became in charge of the ministries of defense and finance.

Following the federation and the formation of a Federal Ministerial Council, his Highness Sheikh Khalifa became deputy of the chairman of the Federal Ministerial Council.

From 1974 till his appointment as president of the country, his highness has been the chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council and since 1976 he has occupied the position of Deputy Supreme Commander of the armed forces and chairman of the Supreme Petroleum Council.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa follows the example of his father and considers him his model, he says: “My father is teacher that I follow his example and inspire his wisdom.”

His Highness is keen on meeting nationals from different emirates away from the routine procedures. He listens to their problems and work to meet their needs. His Highness adopted forming the Directorate of Social Services and Commercial Buildings which offered help to Abu Dhabi nationals in building and construction.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa stressed in his annual speech to the Executive Council the constant and dogmatic policy of the UAE, internal and external, as drawn by his Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.