

SAMIR J FANCY Chairman, Renaissance Services

‘ We all have a role to play in Oman’s future

The infrastructure achievements in Oman are plain for all to see. But it is the intangible achievements of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said’s reign that really stand out: The assured security and defence of the nation; the balanced, tolerant, discreet yet courageous foreign policy that attracts global acclaim and enhances Oman’s reputation and standing in the world; the ever-improving education of our children; healthcare for all; and a free and growing economy in which people and businesses may work and prosper. Perhaps His Majesty the Sultan’s greatest achievement that encapsulates all of this, is that he has built a sense of enduring nationhood – we all understand the deep sense of pride of what it means to be Omani.

In a modern technological world that expects instant results, His Majesty the Sultan had the wisdom to conceive a long-term vision and the patience, stamina and courage to deliver that vision. He appreciated that nation-building takes time and it takes the effort and contribution of all. He motivated and encouraged all Omanis – both men and women – to play their part, and the outcomes are astounding. His Majesty the Sultan recognises that challenges remain; and he is urging us all to help implement solutions: the need for further improvements in education and training to ensure all

Omanis have the skills to compete in a modern world; the need to build an enterprise culture that creates and sustains SMEs; the need to reduce bureaucracy and red tape for the ease of doing business and investing in Oman. The history of the last 44 years gives us every confidence that the culture and commitment to continuous improvement in all these areas shall prevail.

Looking ahead, I am energised by what I see as His Majesty the Sultan’s vision in creating a sustainable USP for Oman. We all know the blessings of the hydrocarbons are finite, and we welcome the boon of the EOR initiatives for oil and the exciting prospect of developing the significant reserves of tight gas. But the long-term USP comes from His Majesty the Sultan’s diversification initiatives. Oman will compete internationally in three key areas: ports, logistics and tourism. Oman’s future lies in developments such as Duqm – like Sohar and Salalah it is a port on the opportunity-laden Indian Ocean rim. His master plan is to back up those ports with world class logistic infrastructure by road, rail and air. While we celebrate the great achievements so far, we can see that His Majesty’s vision remains a sure and far-sighted work in progress for which we can only admire him, respect him, and salute him – and each do our best to support him.