

Mohammed tours civil defence centre

Says coordination among civil defence centres in the country a key factor

DUBAI — His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, paid an inspection visit of Al Manara Civil Defence Centre on Sheikh Zayed Road.

The Dh45 million-centre is a model firefighting facility which boasts the most advanced technologies and highly trained human resources.

Shaikh Mohammed was briefed on the six-pronged federal civil defence strategic plan which seeks to adopt best practices on firefighting, prevention, rescue and disaster response as well as spread of culture of safety and prevention.

Major-General Rashid Thani Al Matroushi, acting Commander-General of Civil Defence, informed Shaikh Mohammed that the strategy focuses on imparting professional training to human resources to make the UAE one of the world's best countries in terms of civil defence capabilities and programmes. The strategy, he explained, calls for establishing state-of-the-art network of e-communications and early warning system.

"The sophisticated civil defence infrastructure and e-crisis management is the first in the Middle East, enabling the UAE to join the ranks of the most 14 safest and secured countries worldwide," he noted.

After touring several facilities and inspecting modern civil defence engines in the centre, Shaikh Mohammed signed the Emirates Code book, a UAE creative breakthrough of its kind in the Arab World.

Outside the centre, Shaikh Mohammed watched a mock firefighting drill where civil defence men landed from a height of 56 metres to handle fire on a virtual tower.

Shaikh Mohammed said he was



Shaikh Mohammed with Lt. Gen. Shaikh Saif bin Zayed, Shaikh Hamdan bin Mohammed and Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi at the Al Manara Civil Defence Centre in Dubai on Tuesday. — Wam

delighted at the qualitative progress the civil defence has made in terms of vigilant human resources, equipment and technologies. He asserted that the civil defence sector receives great, serious attention from the leadership and government, noting the efforts being made by Lt.General Shaikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, for upgrading performance and modernising equipment of the civil defence.

Shaikh Mohammed directed that focused attention be given to development of human resources to shoulder their responsibility effi-

ciently, confidently and properly.

He said that coordination among civil defence centres in the country provides a key factor in creating a safe environment that is free of serious damage from fire or disaster.

Shaikh Mohammed was accompanied by Shaikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai; Lt.General Shaikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior; Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister for Cabinet Affairs; Dubai Police Commander-in-Chief Lt. General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim and top Interior Ministry officials. — Wam