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دائرة الجمارك
Customs Department

MISSION:

To protect the society from prohibited items, facilitate the movement of legitimate trade, and ensure a competitive economy for the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah so as to achieve customer happiness

VISION:

A leading customs administration in protection of society, supporting a sustainable and competitive economy with innovative tools and excellent.

INSTITUTIONAL VALUE:

Sustainability and leadership: Applying global best practices and innovations to customs work that will elevate the reputation of the Department.

Governance : Objectivity, equity, transparency and primacy to public interest over private interest.

Empowerment : Raising the capability of government entities to implement the Human Resources policies.

Partnerships: Fruitful collaboration and close working with our partners to successfully achieve our goals and realize our aspirations.

Motivation and innovation : Creating a motivational work environment and devising collective, creative techniques to develop innovative ideas.

Happiness and positivity : Spreading happiness and positivity amongst employees, customers and partners.

CUSTOMS STRATEGIC GOALS:

- * Reinforce the customs security system in order to ensure the sustainable security of society.
- * Develop the customs work system, develop the revenue and enhance competitiveness.
- * Enhance customer experience through the provision of outstanding services.
- * Strengthen strategic relations and partnerships .
- * Manage the human resources professionally and with high efficiency.
- * Consolidate institutional excellence and innovation within the Department.
- * Achieve financial sustainability and maintain properties.

TOWARDS THE 50; ENHANCING COMPETITIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

With the declaration of 2021 as the 'Year of the 50th' by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates, may Allah protect him, in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of founding the United Arab Emirates, Ras Al Khaimh Customs sets off as part of the integrated system to keep pace with the progress in the customs sector, which has lately witnessed huge specific leaps in all its various activities due to the ambitious plans and programs which have contributed to promoting the customs service to the highest levels. The customs sector in the UAE has been able to be exceptionally successful in realising the difficult equation of facilitating trades and goods and passenger movement whilst securing and protecting the borders.

Paying homage to the heritage of the founding Fathers, we at Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department proceed with persistent strides towards the 100th and foresees the future horizons within its plans for the next 50 years. The Department, in collaboration with the Federal Customs Authority (FCA) and other local customs departments, focuses on expediting the steps of digital transformation and deployment of technology in development of leading worldwide best practices relating to customs work, automating the customs operations, improving the customs clearance systems, implementing the authorized economic operator (AEO), standardizing and simplifying the customs procedures and minimizing the release and customs clearance time in order to raise the level of competitiveness and readiness of the customs sector.

All to achieve the balance between maintaining the security of society and facilitating trade through the innovative introduction of systems and applications that will contribute to boost the role of customs within the UAE and global security system. This is achievable in conjunction with facilitation and simplification of goods release procedures, so that the



UAE becomes the destination for traders, investors and businessmen, and strengthens its role as a leading destination on the map of global commerce.

The challenges that the whole world is still facing due to Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdowns imposed throughout all countries on earth, will further necessitate the acceleration of the digital transformation steps, the inevitability which has already been recognized by the UAE government. The UAE have been working on investing in developing its capabilities in the fields of innovation and digital transformation.

The UAE has also adopted the tools of the 4th industrial revolution, with the customs sectors emerging as one of the most extensive government sectors deploying the technology and adopting the applications of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital transformation in its various operations, in order to align with the government directives and expediting changes witnessed by our world today.

In the same context, customs have been very keen to utilize the potentials that open wide horizons towards innovation and creativity. All customs administrations, nationwide, are very determined in the doubling of their efforts and intuitively and creatively working to create new ideas and specific initiatives that draw a futuristic image of the customs sector in the UAE and up to 2071. The customs sector is also consolidating its role in establishing the presence of the United Arab Emirate as one of the most powerful economies all over the world.

Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Mehrezi
The Director General of RAK Customs

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Get the latest update of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department on:
www.rakcustoms.rak.ae

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Czech Republic

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36.5% UAE non-oil trade recovers in the third quarter

The UAE's non-oil foreign trade achieved a growth of %36.5 during the third quarter of last year compared to the second quarter of the same year, despite the repercussions of the «Covid19-» pandemic that cast a shadow on international trade and world economies.

This percentage represents a jump in growth compared to the same comparison period in 2019, during which it reached 2.3%.

EXPORTS

An analytical study of the Ministry of Economy on the rates of non-oil foreign trade on a quarterly basis, during which the results of the third quarter were compared with the second quarter of 2020, revealed that the contribution of exports increased during the third quarter by 40.8% compared to the second quarter 2020, to acquire 19.9% of The total non-oil foreign trade of the country. During the same comparison period, that is, the third quarter compared to the second quarter of 2020, imports grew by 23.5%, accounting for 51.7% of the total non-oil foreign trade, while re-exports grew by 64%, accounting for 28.4%.

FASTER RECOVERY

The Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Dr. Thani bin



Thani Al-Zeyoudi: «A clear indication of the speed of the recovery of UAE's foreign trade, and demonstrate its ability to quickly return to pre-pandemic levels, and to achieve strong growth rates despite the restrictions it imposed on the movement of trade, transport and shipping»

Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, affirmed that these figures are a clear indication of the speed of the recovery of the UAE's foreign trade, and demonstrate its ability to quickly return to pre-pandemic levels, and to achieve strong growth rates despite the restrictions it imposed on the movement of trade, transport and shipping. And business activities in general in various global markets, which confirms the leading position of the country as a vital commercial gateway between East and West.

He explained that this growth is due to the efficiency of the proactive approach taken by the UAE under the guidance of its wise leadership in dealing with the pandemic and limiting its repercussions, the effectiveness of national strategies to enhance the flexibility and diversity of the national economy, and the broad range of initiatives and qualitative incentives launched by the government to increase the momentum of commercial movement and investment flows with partners. Worlds.

THE MOST IMPORTANT PASSAGES

Al-Zeyoudi added that, thanks to the vision and directives of the wise leadership, the UAE was able to consolidate its position as one of the most important commercial corridors for the movement of goods and goods on the global trade map, and to rank third in the world in re-exports, and within the top twenty in commodity exports and imports.

3 MAIN AXES

The Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, said that the Ministry of Economy is working in terms of supporting national exports according to three main axes at the current stage: the first of which is the application and development of plans and initiatives to recover trade from the repercussions of "Covid-19". while the second axis is to promote the Emirati product and develop programs to raise the efficiency of Emirati products, increase the export capacity, provide protection, credit tools and finance the deals executed by national producing companies, while the third is development Continuing in the country's trade policies and developing effective methodologies for dealing with protectionist policies of foreign countries and defending national exports in various international markets, in line with the World Trade Organization agreements]]

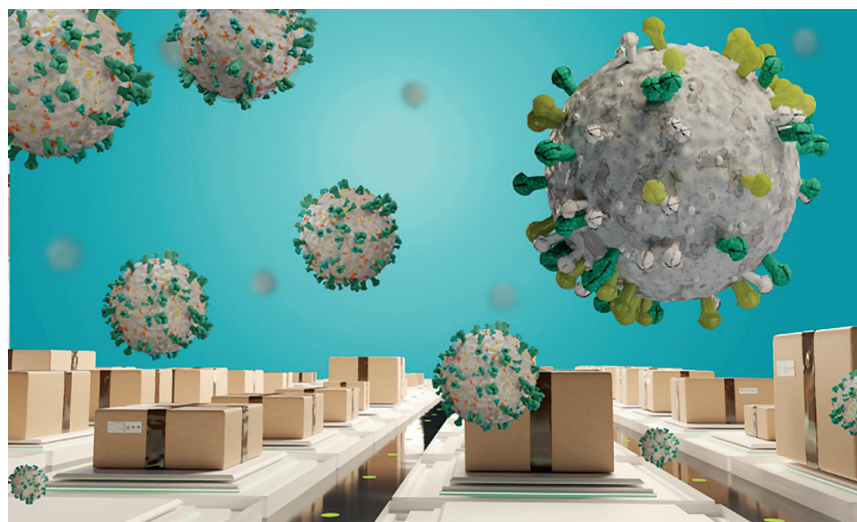
Supply Chain Shock-proof: How to forge resilient supply chains

The UAE's non-oil foreign trade achieved a growth of %36.5 during the third quarter of last year compared to the second quarter of the same year, despite the repercussions of the «Covid19-» pandemic that cast a shadow on international trade and world economies.

It was a powerful wake-up call. The disruption triggered by Covid-19 has prompted leadership teams to confront a new era of supply chain volatility.

Bracing for an era of increased turbulence, leading multinationals are rethinking their supply chain strategies to lower the risk of disruption. In a recent survey of 200 global manufacturers by Bain & Company and the Digital Supply Chain Institute, executives ranked flexibility and resilience as their top supply chain goals. Only 36% of senior executives ranked cost reduction as a top three goal, down from 63% who saw it as a priority over the past three years.

Two key factors that determine geopolitical supply chain risk are the supplier's headquarters and its manufacturing location. Once leaders understand their risk exposure, they start building resilience into their value chains in a two-step process. First, they quickly add flexibility to the supply of finished goods and high-risk subcomponents where possible, to limit immediate risks and satisfy customers. Second, they take a strategic approach to rethinking the value chain from end to end. That includes deciding the pace of



change and periodically reviewing decisions based on external conditions and internal capabilities. Below are 3 steps to help companies pioneer the shift to supply chain resilience:

BOOST FLEXIBILITY

Supply chain flexibility is becoming a more and more important concept for gaining competitive advantages. The first priority in making supply chains shock-proof is increasing flexibility for supplying finished goods and high-risk subcomponents. This would open the possibility for companies to respond to short term changes in demand and supply situations as well as structural shifts in the environment of the supply chain on an immediate basis.

RETHINK END-TO-END NETWORK STRATEGY

For each value chain, leadership teams need to properly balance risk and resilience at the lowest total landed cost. This includes decisions on single vs. multiple sourcing, where to manufacture at each stage of assembly, and proximity to customers. They also need to determine whether to produce in-house or out-source, taking into account variables such as national incentives and declining manufacturing costs. Successful companies revisit their value chain choices regularly, especially in turbulent times.



Karim Shariff, Partner at Bain & Company ME: «Resilient and flexible supply chains can be a powerful defensive hedge, but also a source of competitive advantage. Leaders make the most of options such as capacity buffers and digital infrastructure to react faster and more efficiently than their peers»

BALANCING COST AND RISK

Resilience does not eclipse every consideration. As leadership teams start to understand where they need flexibility, they face important trade-offs on cost. Investing in too much flexibility can render a company uncompetitive. As they look to reshape supply chains for the future, successful companies determine how much resilience they need, where it matters most, and what they can afford.

Resilient and flexible supply chains can be a powerful defensive hedge, but also a source of competitive advantage. Leaders make the most of options such as capacity buffers, digital infrastructure and nimble teams to react faster and more efficiently than their peers



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR

By:
Youssef Abu Roumi
Training Specialist

The Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) is a federal program overseen by the Federal Customs Authority (FCA). The program was officially launched in the UAE in October, 2016, and it will serve the purpose of linking the UAE to the rest of the world in terms of trade and customs, and will also enable companies joining the program to have their goods access to the international markets without difficulty.

WHAT IS AN AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR (AEO) PROGRAMME?

A global customs programme recommended by the World Customs Organisation (WCO), implemented by many Customs Administrations globally; based on a partnership between the private sector and the Customs Administration and it is based on the voluntary compliance to the criteria and requirements approved

for the programme by the companies involved in the global supply chain operating in international trade and thus benefiting from the facilities and incentives granted to certified companies.

WHO THE AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR (AEO) IS:

Manufacturers, importers, exporters, brokers, carriers, consolidators, warehouses and distributors, among others.

CONCEPT OF AUTHORIZATION:

A set of conditions and requirements that should be met by the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) in order to be authorized by the customs administration. These conditions are susceptible to transparent review by customs.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The entity eligible for the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program:

1. must be a legal entity that exercises customs-related activities,
2. An active party in the international supply chain,
3. exercises its business in the UAE,
4. has been issued a customs code,
5. with a senior management that have no criminal record of related economic activities, and
6. its Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) certificate must have not been previously withdrawn within the last three years.

CONDITIONS FOR AUTHORIZING THE AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR (AEO):

In order to be authorized under the AEO program, the AEO must:

- have not committed any violation of the national customs legislation within a period of time that is determined under the national program for the authorized economic partners,
- maintain a record system that enables customs to carry out audits of import and export shipment movement,
- Financial continuity of economic partners is a very important indicator of the ability to maintain supply chain standards and security. This element requires the financial capability of such partners to meet their obligations.
- develop, with their economic partners, proper methodologies to educate and train their human resources in policies relating to trade security and identification of suspected goods. Training courses on customs procedures, etc., must organized by these partners,
- be able to use customs-related electronic devices to exchange information,
- also develop relevant standards to maintain integrity procedures while clearing goods and also controlling en-

try/exit gates under high levels of security.

- Jointly, with business partners, develop effective control systems, i.e. customs seals and electronic seals, and set standards for modes of transport to maintain their integrity and security.

BENEFITS OF THE AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR (AEO) IN THE UAE:

- No need to submit supporting documents at the time of submitting the customs declaration (either electronically or on paper) unless specifically asked for.
- A grace period to amend the customs declaration without triggering fees or fines before the submission of the customs declaration for examination.
- Reduction in the number of customs declarations subjected to a lower customs control rate. Risk profiles will be adjusted accordingly.
- Elimination of post-filing submission of supporting paper documents, while the paper copies must be maintained by the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO).
- Electronic archiving of accessible documents is conducted at the premises of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO).
- In case of interruptions and breakdown of customs systems, or in case of emergencies, the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) will be given the priority.
- Faster customs release of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)'s consignments in terms of average release times.
- The Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) will be given inspection priority through the use of appointment times reserved for the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO).
- Inspection will be conducted at the client's choice of preferred inspection location, with the ability of on-premises inspection.
- The Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) will enjoy VIP treatment at the customs posts.
- Post-clearance audits will be reduced for the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO). In the event of an audit, tolerance for unintentional errors will apply.
- The Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) will enjoy the benefits associated with the mutual recognition agreements between the UAE and the other countries.
- Non-intrusive inspection technology will be used with the goods of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) unless in cases where full inspection is required.
- Refund claims will be automatically created. The refunded amounts will be credited to the accounts of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO).
- Training plans will be provided by customs to any entity that wishes to enhance their capabilities in supply chain security/topics related to the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO)]]

K9

CUSTOMS SECURITY INSPECTION UNIT

Boost the security of borders and society By deploying customs canine

This

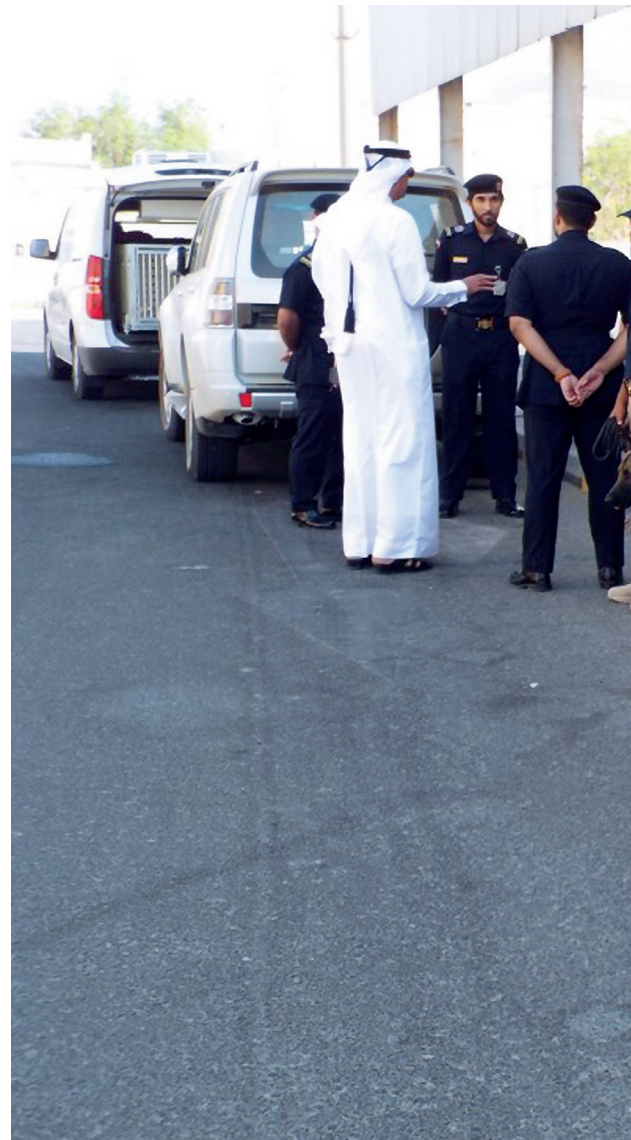
customs canines play a critical role in supporting work in the customs sector. The presence of the customs canines has become evident when the customs security K-9 unit was first established in 2018 with the support of the Ministry of Presidential Affairs. The implementation of the unit was aimed at boosting the controls at all types of land, sea, air and postal customs border posts of the UAE and safeguarding the security of society from the dangers posed by narcotics, firearms and explosives.

This is in addition to solidifying the concept of customs deterrence through the utilization of the customs canines, strengthening the position of the UAE as a focal country to international trade and travel, supporting the endeavors of the UAE to attain the first place globally, and applying the worldwide experiences and best practices.

The Federal Customs Authority (FCA) has completed its customs canine unit in stages that started with selecting the canines and implementing an integrated training program to stimulate the location and operating environments at the UAE customs posts in accordance with the relevant international best practices. Additionally, samples of prohibited items, including narcotics and explosives, have been provided by the competent authorities in the UAE for canine unit training purposes.

In 2018, the FCA commenced its first customs inspection operation using the federal customs K-9 at Al Dara border customs center of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department.

Within a short period of time and due to the collaborative efforts of the FCA and the other relevant authorities, the K-9 unit has proven its creditworthiness and efficiency, and managed to realize many seizures at various land, sea and air customs posts.



K9 DOGS TO SUPPORTS EFFORTS COMBAT COVID-19”

In its June 2021 volume (4:686), the legend scientific periodic, Communications Biology issued by the globally renowned Nature Foundation, published a scientific paper on the success achieved by UAE in proving the excellence of K9 Unit in detecting the Covid-19 free individuals, which supports and complements the PCR testing technique.

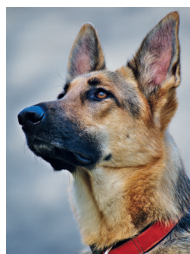
In cooperation with the Higher College of Technology “HCT”, the Federal Customs Authority “FCA” succeeded last year end in achieving the first of its kind scientific paper in global arena on employing K9 dogs to detect those Covid-19 free persons through sniffing sweat to score 98.2% success ratio; a significant scientific achievement contributing to concrete nations and governments capabilities and enhance international



endeavors to combat the virus.

According to "Nature", the study incorporated a sample comprising (3290) individuals taken from those visiting Covid-19 testing centers where all of them were subject to the traditional PCR test then they were asked to voluntarily donate sweat samples following their written consent. All samples were complied and collated to sweat samples from under the armpit to verify how accurate the results of K9 dogs are.

The study concluded that the results achieved by K9 dogs scored (98.2%) in detecting virus free individuals, such score indicates the high accuracy in identifying and detecting Covid-19 free individuals. Negative predictive value (NPV) of the trained K9 based examination represents a robust indicator of the high benefit of employing such examination to detect the virus free individuals.



Dogs inspected about 20 to 30 sample an hour for each analysis unit, in other words K9 dogs can inspect 160 to 240 containers/trucks daily within 8 working hours daily

"FCA" LAUNCHED "RASCARGO" TO DETECT SMUGGLED GOODS EMPLOYING K9 DOGS

On the side line of "UAE Innovates 2021" session, the Federal Customs Authority "FCA" launched "RasCargo" project aiming at detecting drugs and explosives in inward consignments to customs, employing K9 dogs sense of smell.

Through RasCargo project, state-of-the-art technologies detect smuggled substances by collecting an air sample from consignments, containers, mass goods, wooden ships, engines, huge machinery, small and medium vehicles and closed trucks, then the same will be inspected by K9 dogs of the customs inspection unit within the Authority which in turn smell it to detect any smuggled drugs or explosives demonstrating specific sign if any such substances suspected.

H.E Ali Saeed Matar Alneyadi, Commissioner of Customs - Chairman of FCA, said the UAE is the first country ever to implement such modern technology worldwide for detecting drugs, and highlighted that such technology is one of its kind in inspecting trucks, goods and closed vehicles by combining modern technology, man effort, and K9 dogs **||**



Walid Al Shamsi, The customs supervisor: My line of work helps me volunteer to confront Covid-19

At the time when it was imperative for everyone to carry out their work from the comfort of their homes and to stay home to keep safe and avoid getting infected with the spread of Covid19- virus representing a worldwide pandemic. The UAE citizen Walid Al Shamsi buckled up and was determined to volunteer with his time and effort to confront the pandemic. Walid Al Shamsi, employee of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department was amongst the first volunteers from both the Emirat

is and the residents to support the frontline. "When you live in an extremely generous country and under our prudent and wise leadership, there is no doubt that this will encourage and stimulate you to give and reciprocate as much as possible as you can. Like so, the idea of volunteering came to emphasize my love and loyalty to my country and is a return the favor to both the country and our prudent leadership", Walid said.

Regarding balancing between his official job and volunteering, Walid said, "My work as a customs supervisor and the shift person-in-charge at Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department helped me a lot to devote a significant portion of my time on a daily basis to continue

“When you live in an extremely generous country and under our prudent and wise leadership, there is no doubt that this will encourage and stimulate you to give and reciprocate as much as possible as you can

my volunteering tasks. Due to the nature of working shifts, I could manage to go to my work in two morning shifts, another two evening shifts and one day off. So, the timing of me doing the voluntary work happens to be during the times in which I am not joining my official job. This has made it easier for me to organize my time and carry out my tasks and duties earnestly on both sides. And, I would like to thank the administration of my center and my family for the unlimited support they have provided me with to comfortably and passionately continue my voluntary tasks.

VOLUNTARY TASKS:

About the nature of his voluntary tasks, he said, “Work at the national screening center has been organized under the Emirati Marshals team. The tasks focus on receiving visitors who want to receive any of the various services delivered by the center, which include the nasal swab, the PCR test, or blood sampling or preserving an appointment to receive Covid-19 vaccinations. At the start, vehicles are categorized with a sticker and are then directed to the locations where the different services they want to receive are provided. Visitors are also guided while they enter into the registration area and directed to the test area to finish all the remaining procedures. Senior citizens and people of determination are receiving special assistance while attending the center.

Walid Al Shami reaffirmed that his voluntary work at the national screening center did not pose any concerns or fears about getting infected and transmit the infection to his family. He Added, “Setting off with my belief in the fate chosen to me by Allah before anything else, and as I believe in the nobility of volunteering work, particularly during these concerning health conditions that the whole world is facing, I did not have any concern or fear, and all things ended up very well, praise to Allah. This can be directly attributed to the directives of our prudent leadership to strictly apply the precautionary measures in order to ensure the safety of all Emiratis and residents, not to mention the availability of a state-of-the-art health infrastructure. We should not also forget our frontline heroes who have exerted tremendous efforts in confronting this pandemic. Today, Allah’s willing, we have demon-



“Screen and detect Covid19- infections was an endeavor to secure the safety of all members of society and reassure their health within the precautionary measures and procedures taken by the UAE to limit the spread of Covid19- coronavirus”

strated our confrontation capabilities, thanks to Allah and due to the full adherence to the directives of the Emergencies, Crises and Disasters Committee.”

Walid continued, “From my side and to further ensure that infection is not transmitted to any of my family members, I used to go the extra mile and apply a higher tier of precautionary measures when I returned home and before entering it and getting into contact with my other family members. This included cleaning, sanitizing and changing all my clothes.

SAFETY ADVICES:

About the advice and guidelines to all members of society, Walid Al Shamsi said, “Despite the fact that we have entered into the recovery stage, thanks to Allah, I would like to advise people not to take the subject of precautionary measures lightly or carelessly. They must also adhere to the directives of the government and the Ministry of Health. People should not get into contact with other people, especially our senior people, when feeling any of the Covid-19 symptoms **II**

Dubai Customs Records 35 reports of smuggling witchcraft and sorcery materials over 3 years

► Dubai Customs has foiled several attempts to smuggle objects used in black magic like animal skins and blood, talismans, bones, hair and amulets. In a major smuggling attempt, Dubai Customs suspected a bag of a passenger coming from an Arab country last year. Officers found 4kg of items used in black magic like sorcery books, and notes.

According to Khalid Ahmad, director of Passengers Operations Management at Terminal 1, officers seized objects weighing 68.4kg between 2018 to 2020 in 35 smuggling attempts. He said that Dubai Customs will stand against anyone trying to smuggle such objects as it is punishable by the UAE's law. "Items that could be associated with sorcery or black magic are prohibited under a decree by the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee. Attempts to bring these prohibited materials into the country in various ways are considered smuggling in accordance with the unified customs law," said Ahmad. He said that confiscated sorcery objects included knives, needles, ampoules full of animal blood and other liquids, animal hair, bones, pieces of metal, rings, and sorcery books. According to article 316 of the UAE's Penal Code, smuggling black magic objects are subject to prison terms and fine or both punishments.

Ahmad said that 47.6kg of witchcraft items that could have been used for deception of others were seized in 2018. Another 12.9kg were confiscated from passengers in 2019 and 7.9kg last year. "Well-trained customs officers depend primarily on their skills in reading body language of passengers to detect who might be carrying such items before screening and manually checking luggage," added Ahmad



Asian attempts to smuggle 12kg of marijuana inside cereal bags in Dubai

► Dubai Authorities have seized around 12kg of marijuana from an Asian traveller who attempted to smuggle the drugs into the country. The Airport's customs inspectors were checking the traveller's luggage when they found bags of cereal with marijuana bags hidden inside and wrapped in tin foil.

The Asian drug-smuggler confessed to attempting to smuggle the marijuana during interrogation and that the bags belonged to him. Authorities praised the vigilance of customs inspectors in detecting the drug-trafficking operation, mentioning that efforts of Dubai Customs have been strengthened to address the dangers of smuggling drugs of all kinds, and to form a wall against smuggling attempts through its various customs outlets, and through relying on qualified and trained experts. It was also revealed that drug-trafficking most common techniques include hiding drugs inside the body, or in the bottoms and sides of bags, inside shampoo bottles and within traveler's clothes

RAK Customs Dept.

How to Obtain a customs declaration?

This service allows customers to obtain a land, sea or air customs declaration, complete the clearance procedures and pay applicable customs taxes (duties) according to the GCC Common Customs Law in order to move the goods from outside, inside or across the UAE. This service is limited to the following types:

Issue of Import declaration:

It is the process of admitting goods into the UAE for commercial or non-commercial purposes, whether by sea, air or land. The competent customs office will collect the customs taxes “duties” levied on imported goods in accordance with the common customs tariff, excluding goods exempted under the provisions of the GCC Common Customs Law, the Unified Economic Agreement of the GCC Arab states or any other international agreement within the framework of the Council.

Export and Re-export declarations:

It is the process of transfer/selling of goods from a licensed company in the UAE to an importer located outside the country. Customs taxes (duties) are not levied on this type of goods as these goods, which are exported from the local market, are deemed to be duty-paid or locally manufactured.

Export and Re-export declarations:

It is the process of transfer/selling of goods from a licensed company in the UAE to an importer located outside the country. Customs taxes (duties) are not levied on this type of goods as these goods, which are exported from the local market, are

deemed to be duty-paid or locally manufactured.

Re-export:

It is the process of exporting goods of foreign origin that were previously imported, against a deposit or a bank guarantee (in an amount equivalent to the sum of the customs tax ‘duty’), provided that the goods intended to be re-exported are the same imported goods in terms of quality, quantity, indications, signs and brands. The period, during which the goods can stay in the Emirate, may not exceed six months. The deposit will be refunded after the goods exit the country. If part of the goods is sold in the UAE, the customs taxes (duties) will apply to the quantity sold. The remainder of the deposit will be refunded, in addition to the goods of foreign origin that come from the local market.

Transit declaration:

It is the transit of imported goods from outside the UAE for the interest of an importer located outside the UAE. The goods must be addressed in the name of the importer or in the name of a carrier agent licensed by the local licensing authorities on behalf of the importer. The completion of the customs declaration will be mere-

ly for registration of the goods while they transit across the territories of the UAE to the final destination. A deposit amount equivalent to the applicable customs taxes (duties) on the total value of goods will be collected to guarantee that the goods exit from the UAE within 30 days from the date of the transaction.

Temporary Admission declaration:

It is the admission of goods of foreign origin into the UAE for specific purposes and periods of time under customs declarations and against financial guarantees equivalent to the applicable customs taxes (duties). These goods will be re-exported or locally cleared after collection of applicable taxes (duties) and fees and submission of necessary approvals.

Service Fees:

AED 80 : Import Declaration for Exempted Goods
 AED 70 : Import Declaration for Dutiable Goods
 AED 100: Export and Temporary Exportation Declarations
 AED 50 : Transit Declaration
 AED 80 : Temporary Admission Declaration



[Operations Center]

AIRPORT- OPERATION



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+971 7 2333 733
Ext. 542
@ info.airport@customs.rak.ae

SAQR PORT- OPERATION



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Ext. 444 - 444 - 446 - 447
@ info.saqrport@customs.rak.ae

RAK PORT- OPERATION



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Ext. 292
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NORTH FZ CUSTOMS



+971 50 9966257
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POST OFFICE- OPERATION



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SOUTH FZ CUSTOMS



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ALJAZEERA PORT



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AL DARA CUSTOMS



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[Glossary]



The purpose of this section is to familiarize the readers with the various customs terms to use them whenever necessary.

BILL OF LADING

Shall mean a document issued by a carrier; it is a carriage contract between an exporter and a carrier specifying the port of loading, port of arrival, means of carriage, freight and how to pay the same. The bill of lading shall be deemed a confirmation by a carrier that cargo is delivered to the holds.

AIRWAY BILL

Shall mean a document forming a carrier's confirmation of takeover and its readiness to carry the cargo.

WAYBILL

Shall mean a written list of names and descriptions of cargo carried on a vehicle, train, or a car. It is the official document accepted by a carrier in the event the cargo owner or the insurer claims the carrier to pay the price of any part lost or damaged in the cargo during shipment.

FREE ON BOARD (FOB)

Shall mean a pricing condition referring that the price shall include the cost of cargo carried aboard a ship at a designated place. The exporter shall not be responsible for cargo, once the same is placed aboard a ship at the port of departure. Hence, the purchaser shall bear all costs and risks that may affect cargo after being placed aboard a ship.

COST INSURANCE AND FREIGHT (CIF)

Shall mean a pricing condition indicating that the price shall include the cargo cost, insurance, and freight until cargo arrives at the destination of the importer's country.

EX-WORKS OR EX-FACTORY (EXW)

Shall mean a pricing condition under which the seller's liability is limited to making cargo available to the purchaser at any of the seller's places such as the factory or warehouse. The purchaser shall bear all costs of carrying cargo and any risks resulting from receiving cargo from the seller's land until delivering the same to a named destination. This condition places the minimum obligation on the seller.

DELIVERED DUTY PAID (DDP)

Shall mean a pricing condition stipulating that the seller shall fulfill his obligations when he delivers cargo to the purchaser cleared for import unloaded from the means of transport at a named destination. This condition places the maximum obligation on the seller.

QUOTAS

Shall mean the permissible quantity of cargo imported at a low tariff which was negotiated in a trade agreement.

MOST FAVORED NATION (MFN)

Shall mean a provision added to economic, financial, air, and sea conventions and agreements, by which one country pledges to grant another country the same privileges, facilities, or exemptions it had previously granted, or may grant in future to a third country. MFN is one of the World Trade Organization's principles.

DEMURRAGE

Shall mean the fees paid by the importer for his delay in returning shipping vessels at the destination port after the lapse of one- or two-week period granted thereto or as per the agreement between the carrier and importer. The delay period shall be calculated as of the date of the cargo arrival at the port of destination until returning empty vessels to the port.

CUSTOMS DUTIES

Shall mean taxes usually levied on commodities imported to or exported by the country. Such taxes shall be ad valorem duty that shall be estimated as a percentage of the goods value, or may take the form of a fixed amount levied on the commodity whatever its value is and in such case, custom duties shall be called scheduled taxes. Beside tariffs, custom duties shall be basically used as a tool to raise state revenues and as a tool to protect domestic producers from competitors from abroad.

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

Shall mean a certificate issued by the chamber of commerce in the exporter's country specifying the place of manufacturing or producing the cargo to be exported. It is deemed an important document to know the nationality of cargo in order to estimate the duty rates that shall be levied thereon or the preferential treatment that shall be granted thereto. The certificate of origin shall be beneficial to manage preventing economically boycott or banned commodities from leaking.

EXPORT QUOTAS

Shall mean restrictions imposed on the quantities of commodities a country is allowed to export. The government resorts to such a measure either to help control prices so as to avoid price hike or with view of controlling goods for defensive purposes]



[Free Zones]

Ramy Jallad:

SAQR PORT

Is the gateway for exports in Ras Al Khaimah

By: Khawla Ibrahim

In an interview with Customs Windows Magazine, Ramy Jallad, the CEO of RAK Economic Zone (RAKEZ), affirmed that owing to its geographic location, the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah has become a gateway for exports through Saqr Port, the largest in the Middle East and North Africa in handling large bulk carriers.

explained that in addition to Saqr Port, the other ports of Ras Al Khaimah, the logistical hubs and road networks have been providing the companies operating under the umbrella of RAKEZ with the required assistance and support to grow and increase the volume of their businesses. Ramy Jallad also noted that the facilitations offered by Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department to the companies located within RAKEZ free zones include admission of raw materials into the free zones without paying the applicable customs duties.

He also talked in the following interview about the close work relationship between RAKEZ and Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department:

How does RAKEZ assume its type of business as an attractive destination for international investments?

We, at RAKEZ, work on attracting investments from around the globe by highlighting the potential investment opportunities that Ras Al Khaimah offers. RAKEZ has been contributing to reinforcing the Emirate's position as an ideal investment destination in the whole region by consolidating the three values of life in doing business in Ras Al Khaimah, that is, 'work, live, and play', thanks to its advanced infrastructure, which suits the requirements of living, working and well-being. This is statistically proven by the increase that Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) has witnessed in the number of registered companies over the period from 2017 to 2021, which accounts for 15.38%.

What are the most prominent sectors and investments that RAKEZ embraces?

RAKEZ is constantly working on developing its products and services to meet the requirements of our investors. Companies registered with RAKEZ operate and do business in more than 50 sectors, including trading, manufacturing, consultation, education, media and e-commerce. The trading sector ranks first at 43% of the total number of the registered companies followed by the services sector at 34%, the general trade at 7%, the media sector at 4% and the industrial sector at 3.7%, etc.

RAKEZ currently embraces a number of leading industrial companies in their industries, such as Caresoft Global, a company specialized in providing the reverse-engineering services; Polar Manufacturing, a leading company in advanced engineering and carbon fibre manufacturing; Ashok Leyland, a leading company in buses manufacturing industry, Rad Asphalt, who are specialized in road construction operations, Italfood, who are specialized in production of fresh cheese, in addition to many other international industrial companies operating in different manufacturing activities.

What about the facilitations that you provide?

RAKEZ offers several business set-up packages, which cover different types of business licenses. These packages provide investors with a large number of activities that would allow them to do business and set up their companies effortlessly. Furthermore, the investors are now able to set up their business electronically and flawlessly, and they can also enjoy all the advantages, facilitations, services, and a wide variety of very high-quality amenities, facilities and modern installations, including co-working spaces, offices and warehouses, amongst the other facilities to meet the different

customer requirements. Investors at RAKEZ also have the flexibility to complete the simplified administrative procedures in a one-stop shop and at high level of efficient coordination with the other government entities and banks operating in the UAE.

It is worth noting that we have recently opened our Compass Co-working Center, which is intended to be a community that encourages business owners to create and innovate as they can connect with like-minded members of the business community and create networks that serve their businesses while enjoying the high-end amenities and facilities provided at the center, including co-working spaces, meeting rooms, event space, fun area and recording studios.

On the other hand, we, at RAKEZ, work on elevating our services to meet the requirements of manufacturing companies by providing them with the facilities that can meet their different needs; such as customizable warehouses that are available for manufacturing and storage, and land for development to build facilities intended for large-scale industrial operations in addition to convenient on-site housing for male workforce that are located at RAKEZ industrial zones at a proximity to their workplaces.

RAKEZ has specialized zones that provide the ideal and catalytic environment to do business; such as RAKEZ Business Centre, RAKEZ Industrial Zones located in Al Hamra, Al Hulaila and Al Ghail, in addition to RAKEZ Academic Zone. Plus, RAKEZ also has representative offices in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, India and Germany to serve the investors and customers at their locations.

You have launched the 'Make, Manage, Move Your Products' package. What about this initiative and its role in reinforcing the presence of Ras Al Khaimah as attractive investment destination, and in supporting local economy and trade movement?

The 'Make, Manage, Move Your Products' is the most cost-effective package offered in the UAE at an affordable cost to the manufacturers, trades and logistics providers. The package has been launched with the aim of promoting innovation and supporting investors in mind. This package is ideal for companies operating in the business of storage, manufacturing and logistics as it includes many advantages starting from warehouses, land for development, and labor and staff accommodation, down the line to the proximity to the ports, logistics centers and road networks. It also offers the licensing, leasing and residence visas fees, amongst the other advantages and facilitations provided, at discounted rates. These solutions also allow setting up industrial enter-



Today RAKEZ embraces more than 15,000 companies from more than 100 countries, prominently from India, the UK, Pakistan, France, the UAE, among others.

prises in Ras Al Khaimah for moving goods to prosperous markets with ease.

Launch of tailored packages for manufacturers, like this package, will make substantial contribution to supporting and diversifying the economy of Ras Al Khaimah to reinforce its presence as a global investment attraction hub.

How has RAKEZ contributed to increasing exports and developing export-oriented industries?

The strategic location of Ras Al Khaimah is regarded as a gateway for exports through Saqr Port, which is the largest in the Middle East and North Africa in handling large bulk carriers. This has assisted the companies operating under the umbrella of RAKEZ to grow their business and thrive. Many of these companies carry out trading activities in various industries and economic sectors and exercise their activities in importing goods and commodities from outside the UAE for either selling them locally or re-exporting them, which contributes in revitalizing trade movement, and therefore, increasing





export and import volumes. Goods handling services are also available at all ports of Ras Al Khaimah. The cost-effective set-up and doing businesses play a significant role in encouraging companies to export their products to the local, regional and international markets.

The industrial companies registered with RAKEZ also carry out industrial activities to process and transform raw materials into final products, such as plastics and foodstuff, that can be then distributed inside the UAE or exporting them to the outside world. In this way, these companies contribute to the GDP of Ras Al Khaimah and raise the overall GDP of the UAE.

Since Ras Al Khaimah has advanced infrastructure that incorporates the most important logistics centers in the Middle East, such as Saqr Port and Ras Al Khaimah International Airport, this has helped the companies registered with RAKEZ to exercise their business with ease due to being located in the proximity of all these vital



The Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah has a developed infrastructure that includes the most important logistics centers in the Middle East, and this has greatly helped the companies operating under the umbrella of RAKEZ

centers. The Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah is linked with the other Emirates through a substantial road network that also assists in facilitating the movement of goods.

What about your partnership with the Customs Department and the other strategic partners?

We at RAKEZ are very keen to strengthen the well-established links with all our strategic partners. Our partnership with the Customs Department contributes to regulating and facilitating the customs procedures for RAKEZ's companies in terms of the entry and exit of the goods, and simplifying the procedures for exports and imports at the borders.

We are also linked with other partnerships with Ras Al Khaimah Municipality, a partnership that focuses on urban development and construction of modern roads to facilitate transportation and movement of goods, and we also have another partnership with the Public Works Department to manage the automated road toll gates

in order to facilitate the transit of vehicles loaded with the goods of our customers. Our partnerships extend to cover the Federal Electricity and Water Authority (FEWA), the Environment Protection and Development Authority (EPDA), the Civil Defense Department, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Public Health Department, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, in addition to our partnerships with various banks and service providers, and all of which are aimed at serving the investors in their journey to do business, and supporting the economy of Ras Al Khaimah.

What about the customs procedures for the free zones, special customs facilitations and transactions that companies operating under the umbrella of RAKEZ receive?

Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department grants companies based within the free zones of RAKEZ certain facilitations, including importation of raw materials without paying the applicable customs duties. The Customs Department have located its representative offices within RAKEZ's free zones. Through these offices all customs procedures are applied to all goods removed into or out of RAKEZ's industrial zones. These procedures typically include subjecting all goods to customs inspection and declaration, issuance of bills of entry and collection of applicable customs duties. Goods removed from RAKEZ's industrial areas into the local market are subject to a customs duty rate of 5% of the total invoice value. The customs duties paid for the goods intended for export to the outside of the UAE are deemed as a deposit refundable when the goods have left the country.

What are the conditions and controls that govern how companies operate at RAKEZ in terms of import, export and re-export? And what about prohibitions?

All goods clearance procedures are subject to the rules and regulations of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department. Customs laws in the UAE and the GCC Common Customs Law are applied to all companies. Goods are treated in terms of customs as per their final destination, and the Customs Department is the entity competent with determining the prohibitions and release of goods after comprehensive audit and completion of all requirements and procedures.



Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department grants companies located within the RAKEZ free zones great facilities, such as importing raw materials without customs tariffs. also facilitated the clearance of customs procedures through its representative offices within the RAKEZ zones

How your companies are made aware of the laws and regulations that regulate doing business in UAE?

Local and federal circulars and resolutions regarding updates about new and introduced laws and regulations are constantly received by RAKEZ. These circulars and resolutions incorporate the latest updates that the companies should comply with. By its turn, RAKEZ disseminates all these laws and circulars through its different channels, i.e. through notifications, circulars, publications and through our eservices portal, in addition to our social media pages, in order to make our customers aware of the laws applicable in the UAE.

What are the most prominent import, export and re-export activities?

The following activities have seen a significant surge by the new companies that have recently joined RAKEZ:



general trading, foodstuff and beverages trading, building and construction materials trading, apparel trading, vehicle spare parts and components, perfume and cosmetic trading, pharmaceutical products, mobile phone and accessories trading and medical equipment.

What is the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on business and business continuity at RAKEZ? And, how did you support business continuity and supply chains?

Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic extended to almost every aspect of our all health, social, occupational and economic living last year. RAKEZ has worked hard to alleviate the impact of the pandemic on these companies. RAKEZ has offered many facilitations, deductions and exemptions to support customers, for instance, a sum of AED 50 million in the form of incentives packages to support the companies and relieve the burdens imposed by the pandemic. Additionally, innovative set-up packages have been introduced, i.e. "My Business" package, with the aim to encouraging new entrepreneurs to set up their business ventures. RAKEZ has undertaken all these measures and initiatives in order to ensure that all its services delivered to our business community are not affected by the implications of the pandemic whilst strictly adhering to the instructions and guidelines issued by the UAE competent authorities.

On the other hand, our customers are now able to complete their requests electronically on our e-services por-

tal 'Portal 360' at the comfort of their home in order to minimize any direct contact.

What about your plans, goals and expectations for post-Covid business growth?

We, at RAKEZ, are very conscious that planning for the future and for the goals that RAKEZ is actively pursuing is very important. We harness all capabilities to serve our customers and support them in an environment where business can be done in ease. RAKEZ has ambitions to be an attractive industrial hub within the region to assist in promoting economic development, and guide the harmonized investment promotion activities in line with Ras Al Khaimah's Vision 2030. Probably, the most significant things that we are currently planning to carry out are the various initiatives, programs and facilitations to support the businesses of our existing customers and assist them to scale their business up. Additionally, we are working on a master plan for our industrial zones in order to attract more industrial companies, and building new warehouses in our specialized industrial zones. This is in addition to building several new labor accommodations and supermarkets to serve labor and staff working for companies operating in RAKEZ zones. It is also one of our goals to enhance the working environment to line up with the ease of doing business. We are also developing the infrastructure of our industrial zones to empower the industries to grow and thrive, and we will add more executive offices at RAKEZ's Business center.]]

FCA TO ISSUE VISUAL GUIDE TO TRAVELERS TO UAE

The Federal Customs Authority "FCA" called on all travelers from and to UAE to strictly comply with customs procedures as prescribed by GCC unified customs law and relevant applicable laws in the country to ensure their safety, and safe risk-free travel experience.



IN

In a press release, the Authority highlighted that travelers from and to UAE entertain handful customs benefits and facilitations which counts up their travel entertainment from and to the State, whether it comes to luggage, permitted substances, prohibited and restricted commodities or cash sums in their possession. In this context, the Authority broadcasted an awareness movie in three languages; Arabic, English and Urdu on its various social media platforms and its website www.fca.gov.ae to educate travelers on travel customs procedure, travelers' rights and

obligations as prescribed by GCC unified customs law.

H.E Ali Saeed Matar Al Neyadi, Commissioner of Customs - Chairman of FCA, said leveraging the level of customers and travelers' customs awareness and offering safe and risk-free travel experience is one of the strategic objectives of customs sector in the country therefore, the Authority alongside local customs departments are keen to ensure effective communication with traveler and traders and their up to date updates on customs procedures and requirements.

H.E pointed out that the monitoring operations by the Authority and local customs departments of travelers' compliance with customs procedure assures the high level of customs compliance among the majority of travelers despite the attempts by foreign smuggling and organized crime gangs to exploit a few travelers' lack of awareness and the appetite of some of them to attain swift gains, to implicate them in committing smuggling crimes of prohibited substances as drugs, hazardous materials and endangered species and other prohibited and restricted substances.



PERMITTED LUGGAGE

Authority's movie addressed those substances qualified to be brought into the country and duty exempted namely; telescopes, Movie projection devices and relevant accessories, Radio and CD players along with CDs, video and digital cameras and their tapes for personal use, Portable music instruments, cellular phones, TV and receiver –one each-, strollers, personal sports equipment, portable computers and printers, calculators, special needs' chairs and equipment, medication for personal use provided complying with applicable



Ali Al Neyadi:
Leveraging the level of travelers' customs awareness and offering risk-free travel experience is one of the strategic objectives of customs sector in UAE

The Federal Customs Law defines some customs procedures for travel in order to prevent the lack of sufficient awareness of some travelers and implicate them to commit customs evasion crimes for prohibited and restricted items

regulations, personal clothes, toilet tools and luggage of personal nature.

Additionally, the Authority confirmed in the press release that the unified customs law provided for a set of conditions for the said commodities to qualify for exemption, that is to say that gifts brought in with traveler shall not exceed AED 3000, luggage and gifts should be of personal nature but in non-commercial quantities, traveler should not be frequently dealing with customs department or a trader of the substances in his possession, cigarettes should not exceed the permissible limit (200 cigarettes), tobacco quantity should not exceed the permissible limit of chopped tobacco for smoking, pipe tobacco, regular tobacco or hookah exceeding which the same shall be subject to imposed duties and traveler should not be one of the crew of the transport means. Additionally, tobacco products and alcoholic drinks may not be entered nor exempted for a travel below 18 years.

CASH SUMS

In terms of cash sums with traveler, the Authority emphasized in the awareness movie that all travelers coming to or departing from the country shall disclose any currencies, financial and bear's negotiable instruments, precious metals of stones of more than (60) thousand Dirham or its equivalent in any other currency, exceeding which they shall fill in relevant cash sums

disclosure form. The Authority highlighted that those below 18 years may not bring in or take out any sums above the set threshold given that any sums in their possession shall be added to their parents' limit. Prohibited and Restricted Commodities,

FCA drew the attention to an existing list commodities prohibited by the country to import or export in accordance with customs law and competent authorities in the State, the top of which narcotics of different types, gambling tools and machines, nylon fishing nets, live animals of pig species, raw ivory, laser pens with red light package, fake and counterfeited currency, used and renewed tyres, substances contaminated nuclear rays and dust, publications, pictures, drawings and stone sculpture against religion or public moral., paan substance and betle leaves and any other goods prohibited to import.

FCA added: "Entry of a number of restricted commodities may be allowed following competent authorities' consent including; live animals, plants, fertilizers and pesticides, weapons, ammunitions, explosives and fireworks, medicines, drugs and medical equipment and instruments, media publications and products, new vehicle tyres, transmission and wireless devices, alcoholic drinks, cosmetics and personal care products, raw diamonds and cigarettes manufactured and processed from tobacco.

"In case of restricted commodities, competent authorities' consent shall be sought, including the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Culture and Youth, Federal Authority for Nuclear Energy, Ministry of Industry and Advance Technology, Telecommunication Regulatory Authority, Dubai Police and Kimberley UAE". Added the Authority.

SMUGGLING

H.E Commissioner of Customs – Chairman of FCA, stressed that customs inspectors and controllers are quite vigilant in customs port to detect any smuggling operations or



The penalty of smuggling crime, ranges financial fine, imprisonment for one month to 3 years or either penalty, or confiscating goods and tools engaged in smuggling depending on the type of smuggling and smuggled commodity

any breach to stipulated customs procedures as prescribed by the law whether it relates to exempted commodities, permitted cash sums in the possession of travelers, restricted or prohibited commodities. FCA emphasized that any traveler com-

mitting smuggling crime shall be subject to punishment whether by fine, imprisonment or both penalties. It indicated that the unified customs law defined smuggling as the entry or an attempt of entry or taking out any goods from or to the state without paying duties wholly or partially, or in contradiction to the provisions of prohibition or restriction prescribed by the unified customs law or other regulations and laws. The Authority listed some forms of smugglings as refraining from heading to the first customs department with the goods upon entering the state, travelers' non-declaration of any goods of commercial type in their possession, passing goods away from the customs department without disclosure thereof, furnishing forged documents, placing false signs to evade duties or the

provisions of prohibition and registry, transporting or possessing prohibited or restricted goods without providing an evidence of systematic importation thereof in addition to detecting any concealed goods without declaration.

Pertaining the penalty of smuggling crime, the Authority said that in accordance with the unified customs law, the penalty ranges financial fine, imprisonment for one month to 3 years or either penalty, or confiscating goods and tools engaged in smuggling depending on the type of smuggling and smuggled commodity.

GOLDEN TIPS

FCA provided a bundle of golden tips to travelers to ensure their safety and enjoying a risk-free journey the most prominent of which is refraining from receiving luggage or bags from unknown persons in the country of departure without knowing their contents, not to exchange luggage with friends under good faith grounds without verifying their contents and refraining from concealing cash sums, precious items or hesitating in disclosing the same where reaching the set threshold.

As well, Authority's tips to travelers included submitting an evidence of the gentility of possessing the goods carried by travelers (a certified prescription for medication), following the guidelines and instructions issued by airlines and forwarding companies, being familiar with its applicable laws on imposed prohibitions and restrictions before traveling, acting upon the guides and instructions of customs officers within customs and inspection areas in addition to not concealing information pertaining persons carrying prohibited or restricted substances and finally, not to penetrate randomly among travelers in crowded areas to speed up travel formalities **II**

The Authority advised travelers and traders to visit its website or refer to #customs_enquiries for further details.



VAT REFUND FOR TOURISTS

Tourists

and visitors can claim refund on VAT paid on purchases they made during their stay in the UAE. Recovery of payment will be done through a fully integrated electronic system which connects retailers registered in the 'Tax Refund for Tourists Scheme' with all ports of entry and exit from the UAE. Read the details.

Applicable date for Tax Refund for Tourists Scheme

From 18 November 2018, eligible tourists in the UAE were able to request refunds on the Value Added Tax (VAT) incurred on their purchases while there are in the UAE.

Conditions for tourists to claim their VAT refunds

For a tourist to claim VAT refund on purchases he made in the UAE, he must fulfill certain conditions:

- Goods must be purchased from a retailer who is participating in the 'Tax Refund for Tourists Scheme'
- Goods are not excluded from the Refund Scheme of the Federal Tax Authority
- He must have the explicit intention to

leave the UAE in 90 days from the date of supply, along with the purchased supplies

- He must export the purchased goods out of the UAE within three months from the date of supply
- The process of purchase and export of goods must be carried out according to the requirements and procedures determined by Federal Tax Authority.

Where and how can tourists claim VAT refund for their shopping

Federal Tax Authority has allocated spaces where tourists can reclaim taxes through a fully electronic system managed in partnership with a global operator. Tourists will receive their refunds through a special device placed at the departure port - airport, seaport, or border port - by submitting the tax invoices for their purchases from the outlets registered in the Scheme, along with copies of their passport and credit card.

Once these documents are submitted, tourists can either recover the VAT in cash in UAE dirhams, or have it transferred to their credit card. Until October 2018, 4,000 retail outlets across the UAE were connected electronically to the system.

These eligible outlets can be identified with posters displayed on their storefronts and visible to visitors **I**

UAE CUSTOMS FRUITFUL EFFORTS IN PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS



UAE represented by the Federal Customs Authority (FCA), local customs administrations and relevant departments, has adopted a firm policy for combating and foiling attempts to smuggle counterfeit goods and commodities to ensure safeguarding the security of society from the harmful effects of counterfeit goods, protecting business stakeholders from the illegitimate trade practices, facilitating trade and promoting collaboration with the outside world.

These entities have set the protection of the intellectual property rights and combating fraud and counterfeiting amongst their strategic priorities and within their vision for building a competitive knowledge economy, as per the UAE Vision 2021.

The efforts of the UAE customs administrations in combating commercial fraud, piracy and counterfeiting have yielded 923,700 seized counterfeit pieces in 2020 as per the Intellectual Property Rights report of 2020, which has recently issued by the FCA.

UAE CUSTOMS SEIZED 923,724 COUNTERFEIT GOODS IN 2020

Nearly 923,724 counterfeit goods were seized by the UAE Customs, according to the report on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) for 2020 issued by the Federal

Customs Authority (FCA).

The FCA report segregated the number of seizures through sea, air, and land transport. Through the sea, there was 70.73 per cent, followed by air transport at 19.51 per cent, and 4.88 per cent through land transport, parcels and couriers each.

Ali Saeed Matar Al Neyadi, commissioner of Customs, and Chairman of the FCA said that combating smuggling of counterfeit commodities and protecting IPRs are have protected society, consumers, trademark holders and the private sector against economic, commercial and social harms resulting from infringing IPRs and the stemming the distribution of counterfeit commodities.

The FCA has implemented 17 agreements on Customs technical cooperation and administrative assistance with the most prominent trade partners worldwide to share information and target illicit trade of goods within the global supply chain, reported state news agency WAM.

Three UAE Customs sector convened several meetings with international partners in 2020 including the US and the EU to shore up cooperation and exchange best practices in enforcing IPRs. Over 124 training activities were conducted to increase the capabilities of Customs inspectors.



ABU DHABI CUSTOMS: 48 SEIZURE OPERATIONS,

The General Administration of Customs in Abu Dhabi (Abu Dhabi Customs) celebrated the World Intellectual Property Day 2021, with the participation of several strategic partners, trademark owners, and officials, as part of its plans to unite efforts to combat smuggling. Contributing to the protection of intellectual property rights owners inside and outside the country, Abu Dhabi Customs inspectors and controllers completed 48 seizure operations, during the period between 2017 and the end of Q1 of 2021, resulting in the seizure of over 20,000 counterfeit items.

Fahad Ghareeb Al Shamsi, Executive Director of Support Services Sector at Abu Dhabi Customs, said that protecting intellectual property rights in international cross-border trade is one of the most important strategic objectives of Abu Dhabi Customs, which embodies its efforts to protect society and ensure legitimate trade to drive Abu Dhabi's sustainable economic growth. Abu Dhabi Customs has in place a strict policy to combat smuggling, and collaborates with all local and international customs authorities to exchange expertise and information that can help track and seize counterfeit goods, he added.



ABU DHABI CUSTOMS

48
seizure operations,
during the period
between 2017 and
the end of Q1 of
2021.

20200
Counterfeit items

DUBAI CUSTOMS

17280
counterfeit items.

Value of
400000
AED

DUBAI CUSTOMS:

THWARTS ENTRY OF 17,280 COUNTERFEIT VASELINE PACKS

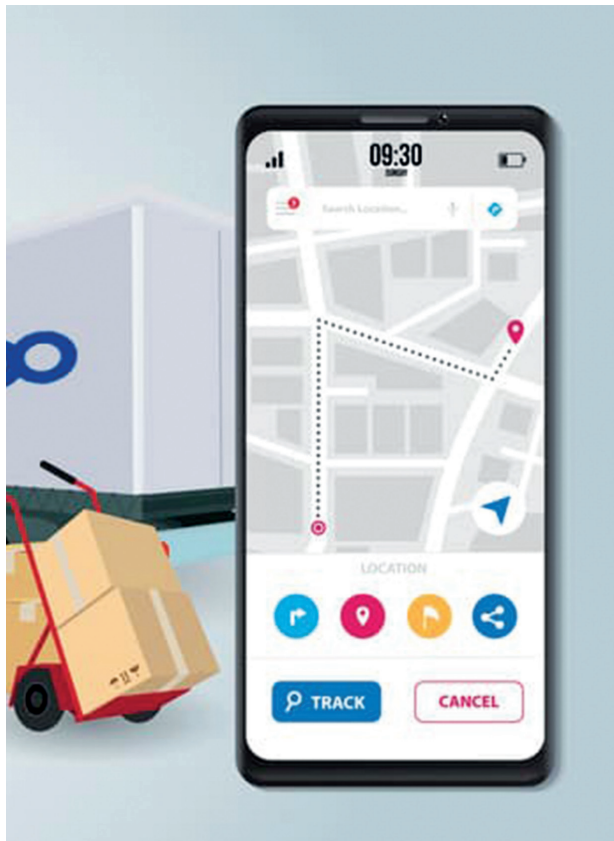
Dubai Customs' Intelligence Department thwarted an attempt to smuggle a counterfeit petroleum jelly "Vaseline" shipment that contained 17,280 packs, with a street value of AED400, 000, with the help of the inspectors of Air Cargo Centre Management and in co-ordination with the IPR Department.

Dubai Customs follows strict guidelines and implements solid customs risk management and intelligence methods to ensure safety and security of products coming into the market and to protect the rights of brand owners. Towards this end, Dubai Customs trains its inspectors on the latest methods and techniques of detecting counterfeit goods and preventing their entry into the local markets, or through the transit.

"We enhanced our potential in fighting all types of commercial fraud or smuggling of counterfeit and prohibited goods by using the latest and most advanced technologies and through regular updating of our smart risk engine," said Shuaib Al Suwaidi, Director of Customs Intelligence Department. "Thanks to our advanced risk engine and the high skills and experience of our employees we can work proactively and detect any risks at very early stages before reaching the emirate's ports."

The IPR Department leads the way in protecting intellectual property rights, and it is the first department of its kind in the Middle East.

Along the same line, Yousef Ozair Mubarak, Director of IPR Department said: "Counterfeit goods cause great harm to society and the economy. We received information about a shipment of counterfeit petroleum jelly "Vaseline" coming from an Asian country, and with the help and coordination with the Intelligence Department, we set a plan to seize it. We co-operate with the Brand Owners' Protection Group to fight these counterfeit goods and protect the rights of trademarks, and engage trademark owners in workshops to educate our inspectors with the latest methods of detecting and distinguishing fake products." On his part, Saleh Alshamsi, Director of Air Cargo Centre Management said; "We cooperate with all other departments to intercept, detect and seize counterfeit goods within our vision in Dubai Customs to protect the society and the intellectual property rights from the hazards of counterfeiting" **]]**



FCA... 3 smart projects Support customs sector efforts in protecting intel- lectual property rights and com- bating smuggling and commercial fraud

The

Federal Customs Authority, FCA, reviewed three advanced customs projects; smart passengers inspection unit, smart inspection and monitoring system in addition to the under implementation trucks and shipments e-tracking system, at "UAE Invents 2021" cycle.

H.E Ali Saeed Alneyadi, Commissioner of Customs - Chairman of FCA, said bracing innovation culture in state wise customs sector serves as a pivotal strategic goal to achieve on its journey to implement a state-broad unified customs strategy stemming from our wise leaders directives and in compliance with UAE vision 2021 and UAE Centennial 2071.

PASSENGERS INSPECTION UNIT

Among FCA's initiatives through the current innovation cycle, showcasing the smart passengers inspection unit, which FAC proudly innovated its architecture and mechanism; the unit is a mobile integrated inspection unit equipped with side screening device to inspect luggage, detect drugs, explosives, radiant substances and forged documents in addition to other supporting handheld devices. The side-screening device features its superior capability to inspect containers, trucks and light vehicles, in addition to screening approximately 100 vehicle an hour, and the capability to capture vehicle plate number to be mapped to rays images accompanied by image analyst remarks.

"RAMS" SYSTEM

Furthermore, Authority's initiatives incorporate navigating the smart monitoring and inspection system (RAMS), a smart system developed by the Federal Customs Authority to manage and govern daily operations performed in inspecting



and monitoring customs ports across the country by Customs Inspection & Monitoring “K9” Department within the Authority.

The “RAMS” system operates on IOS and Android based tablets, which includes dedicating tasks to controllers and task forces within the Customs Inspection & Monitoring “K9” Department in remote work sites, and facilitating information sharing, submitting daily reports on customs centers’ status, attendance management through the system by integration with the approved federal government employees system, Bayanati, in addition to automating the approved vehicle inspection process under the transports Internationaux Routers (TIR) system.

TRUCKS TRACKING

As well, Authority’s participation during current innovation cycle includes introducing the recently approved by Cabinet, electronic trucks and shipments tracking project, which is under implementation to go live in the months to come. Trucks and shipments electronic tracking system represents one of the most recent projects adopted by the Authority, an electronic system to track means of transport (trucks transporting goods) in an electronic manner by integrating tracking devices thereon for monitoring purposes from the port of origin to its final destination in the country through operations chamber providing direct and on-spot follow up for such shipments by satellites or telecommunication network on 24/7 basis and generating relevant follow up reports.

The project is a step to reinforce customs security scheme by tracking the movement of dangerous, critical and high-risk shipments, outstanding positions for customs duties, and ensuring arrival to final destination by electronic integration with concerned entities on port **II**

Good To Know!

IMPORT PETS INTO THE UAE

Through this service, it is agreed to import companion’s animals - cats or dogs from outside the country and obtain an import permit valid for 30 days from the date of issuance and then examine these animals at the entry port when they arrive in the country and release them. Verifying that they comply with the import permission, conditions and specifications Necessary technical.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Issuance of Import permit prior to importation, issued through the MOCCAE web site (validity of permit is 30 days. It is not allowed to import pets with an expired import permit).
- Cats and dogs will shipped according to IATA conditions for pet animal transport.
- The cats and dogs must be identified with a permanent microchip, and the chip number in the health certificate must conform with the chip No. which is implanted in the animal.

The imported cats and dogs shall be accompanied with the following: Authorized health certificate issued from the competent veterinary authorities.

Vaccination document or passport which must include the animal microchip number, animal full description (species – color – sex – date of birth)

Ban on the following dog breeds to be imported into the United Arab Emirates:

- Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed of dog,
- American Pit Bull Terrier breed of dog,
- American Staffordshire Terrier breed of dog,
- American Bully ,
- Brazilian Mastiff (Fila Brasileiro),
- Argentinian Mastiff (Dogo Argentino),
- Any Mastiff or Hybrid,
- Japanese tosa or hybrid,
- Rottweilers breed or hybrid ,
- Doberman Pinschers,
- Canario Presa, Boxer ,
- any mixed breed of above breeds of dog or their Hybrid.

CZECH REPUBLIC

ONE OF THE MOST PROSPEROUS ECONOMIES IN EUROPE

The Czech Republic is considered one of the fastest growing economies in recent years, particularly after the Republic has succeeded in diverting from guided and centralized economy to a more prosperous market economy that is more open and capable of attracting investments.

The country is located in central Europe and shares its borders from the four directions with Poland, Germany, Hungary and Slovakia. The Czech Republic joined the European Union (EU) in 2004, and it was the first country from Central and Eastern Europe to be accepted into the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is also a member of the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). The Czech Republic is part of the International Bank as well.

INDUSTRY IS THE LEADER OF ECONOMY

The economy of Czech Republic is export-oriented economy with highly sophisticated industry in all relating sectors. The industrial sector comes second to the services sectors as a leading sector of the Czech economy. The country has very advanced engineering, particularly in car manufacturing. It is amongst the 20 countries that can manufacture more than one million cars annually. The leading car manufacturer in Czech Republic is the well-known Skoda Company, which also makes electric trains. The Czech industry is not only limited to manufacturing cars, but includes the manufacturing of machinery, metals and defense industry. Glass industry is also considered amongst the Czech traditional industries, particularly in the county of Bohemia.

The country has very low unemployment rates when compared to the other countries of the European Union. The structure of the Czech economy relies significantly on exports, and these exports represent nearly 80% of its GDP. The most prominent traditional Czech export sectors are: the car manufacturing, aviation, engineering industries,





environmental technologies, electronic and electrical engineering, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, glass and tiles industry, and ITC sector.

ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT

In 2020, the Czech Republic came in the 41st place (quite easily) on the Ease of doing Business Index. The Czech economy and investment legislation has significantly assisted in attracting foreign capital. This is in addition to the political and economic stability of the country, availability of many incentives, facilitations, and non-discrimination treatment of Czech and foreign investors. The customs regulations currently in place are also open, and no extraordinary duties are levied on importation and no special restrictions are imposed on exportation. The Czech Republic has adopted a median customs tariff level of 4.6% whilst applying a more flexible customs system for other countries partnering the Czech Republic in the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). The country ranks second in the flow of foreign investment amongst other countries of central Europe. The industrial sector is deemed to be the most important sector attracting foreign investment; such as the car and mining industries.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE

ADVANTAGES

Despite the fact that the country is a member of the European Union, it has not yet joined the Euro zone and it still holds its currency, the Czech crown, which was considered among the most powerful currencies in 2017. The Czech Republic has created attractive working conditions for all different types of companies. The good and transparent tax conditions, the availability of qualified workforce and the country's vital geographical location have attracted many international companies and brands. Today, it embraces large offices for Microsoft, IBM, HP, SAP, Panasonic, Kia Motors and Hyundai, amongst others. Additionally, there is also a distribution center with huge warehouses for Amazon. Foreign and local entities are receiving equal treatment at different levels of investment, included the offered investment incentives and protection of intellectual property, as the Czech Republic is a signatory to the Berne Convention and Paris Convention and the international copyright conventions. The current legislation guarantees the protection of all forms of property rights, not to mention the patents, copyrights, trademarks and designs and plans of semiconductor chips.

UAE AND CZECH RELATIONS

The bilateral and economic relations between the UAE and the Czech Republic are

growing substantially in different areas. The two countries are in the course of bilaterally reinforcing economic and trade relations at the levels of both public and private sectors with the aim of serving the economic goals of the two countries.

The UAE is considered the biggest trade partner of the Czech Republic in the Arab region. Due to its strategic location and the logistic advantages made available to the investors, the UAE forms a solid base for the Czech companies willing to enter the regional markets and the markets of the Middle East and Southeast Asia and Africa. On the other side, the Czech Republic represents a gate for the exports and re-exports of the UAE to the countries of central Europe.

Various opportunities are available to investors from both countries in various sectors, including trade, logistics services, tourism, banking, agriculture and manufacturing. The Czech Trade Office, which was opened in Dubai in 2007, plays a significant role in presenting the existing trade and investment opportunities between the two countries, and this has led to doubling the commercial exchange figures. The 'CzechInvest' Agency provides investors with a database and communication channels when it comes to finding manufacturing companies and qualified service providers in the Czech Republic via their website: www.czechinvest.

org, where all information and prerequisites pertaining to investment in the Czech Republic can be located. The UAE and the Czech Republic have already entered into many important agreements, which form the foundation for their bilateral collaboration, most notably:

- Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPA)
- Avoidance of Double Taxation and Fiscal Evasion Agreement in relation to income and capital taxes.
- Air Transport Agreement.

The top Czech exports to the UAE: IT technologies, telecommunications, control systems, cars, defense industry and foodstuff.

The top prominent Czech imports from the UAE: for a long period of time, the key imported element has been the semi-manufactured aluminum products and plastic polymers used in the process.

To further facilitate the movement of tourists and businessmen between the two countries, an air route has been established between the UAE and the Czech Republic via a number of direct flights throughout the week. Charters are also available. Visitors between the UAE and the Czech are counted in tens of thousands every year (until 2019 and before the Covid-19 pandemic).



Czech exports to the UAE is Information technology, telecommunications, control systems, Cars, defense industry and food.



Czech imports from the UAE are semi-finished aluminum products and plastic polymers



GLOBAL DESTINATION FOR THERAPEUTIC TOURISM

The Czech Republic is considered an ideal destination and resort for tourists. Despite the fact that Czech is an inland destination with no sea, but the country contains ranges of mountains and hills and offers warm rainy weather in the summer and cold weather in the winter with falling snow, particularly in the elevated mountain areas.

The best time to visit is between February and May, and from August to November.

The Czech Republic is well-known for its various multi-site clinics and resorts that provide physical therapy service and hundreds of springs rich with clay and mud that can treat many diseases.

WHERE TO GO IN CZECH?

Prague: the capital of the Czech Republic and the largest of its cities. Prague is full of very fascinating castles, palaces, bridges and prestigious cathedrals of great history, which constitute the most prominent tourist attraction factors due to their beautiful architectural engineering. There are a wide range of shopping options in Prague, including boutiques, local markets and luxurious malls that offer many prestigious international brands. If you think about buying souvenirs from **there**, you have to look at the locally made glassware and jewelry. While in Prague, do not forget to visit Charles Bridge, which was built over the Vltava river and decorated with some thirty, extremely fabulous statues. The Castle of Prague also embraces some of the most elegant palaces and buildings built in the Gothic and Romanesque styles.

Karlovy Vary: is located to the west of Prague, the Czech capital and is well-known for its therapy resorts as it contains 13 springs in addition to the Tebla River, which is characterized by its warm waters, during the day and night, plus a large number of ancient churches. Brno: is known as the city of ancient exhibitions. It is the capital of Moravia province and is the second largest populated city after Prague. Brno is located at the confluence of the Svatava and Svratka rivers in the south-eastern part of Czech.

Cesky Krumlov: enjoys a magnificent view of several valleys to the south and west. It is located 200 km to the south of Prague and Bohemia and adorns the banks of River Vltava. The city is characterized by a multiplicity of big shopping malls and stores.

Ostrava: is located in Schlesé region to the northeast of the country at the confluence of three rivers. Ostrava is an industrial and commercial city and it is the home of several coal mines. Do not miss the opportunity to visit this city to enjoy many tourism activities **]]**



Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah visits Al Jazeera Customs center

► His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, the Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah, yesterday called on Al Jazeera Customs center. His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mehrezi, the Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department, and a number of the Customs Officials in the Department were at the reception of His Highness the Crown Prince. During the visit, His Highness the Crown Prince viewed the workflow at Al Jazeera Customs center and was briefed about the work mechanisms, electronic transaction services and customs facilities provided to customers, which boosts the UAE's position as an economy and trade hub.

His Highness commended the human resources deployed to the customs center of the Port and their role in expediting completion of the transactions and the role of the Customs Department in supplying the state-of-the-art customs equipment as required for the safety and security of the UAE in general and the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah in particular.



Al Kuwaiti in his official visit of inspection to Al Dara Border

► His Excellency Mohammed Ahmed Al Kuwaiti, the Director General of the General Authority for the Security of Ports, Borders and Free Zones paid an official visit of inspection to Al Dara Border to view the overall work progress and procedures put in place at the border crossing. The customs operations employees briefed His Excellency on the customs working mechanisms and demonstrated the cutting-edge inspection equipment and devices deployed at the customs center.

His Excellency Mohammed Al Mehrezi, the Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department, extended his thanks and commendation to His Excellency for the unplanned visit and expressed his hope that such visits to the center will be regular as it emphasizes the high level of liaison and keenness on collaboratively working with partners of the Department for the interest of safety and security of UAE society.



RAK Customs attained 1st Place in Business Continuity and Crisis Management

► Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department attained the 1st place in the Business Continuity and Crisis Management category of the Government Excellence Reward of 2020 in its 15th session. His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Al Mehrezi, the Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department, commended the Business Continuity team for their efforts in developing and sustaining work through determinedly taking all precautionary measures to protect staff and customers during the unprecedented circumstances of Covid-19 pandemic.

and receives the gold plaque of the E Partnership in Financial Performance Award

► Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department received the gold plaque after being nominated as the most outstanding financial performance partner at the level of Ras Al Khaimah government in the Outstanding Financial Performance Partnership Awards in its 2nd edition, a financial award stemming from Julfar Finance Award for Excellence in its 4th session.

His Excellency Yousef Al Blushi, the Director General of Finance Department in Ras Al Khaimah congratulated Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department and expressed his best wishes of more progress and flourishing for the Customs Department.



RAK Ports and Monjasa finalize new deal

► RAK Ports has signed a strategic partnership with Danish established Monjasa, a global top ten bunker fuel provider supplying around five million tonnes of oil products every year. Firmly rooted in the Middle East since 2006, Monjasa's office in Dubai employs 75 specialists covering regional supply operations across the Arabian Gulf and West Africa.

Recent investments in Ras Al Khaimah Ports amounted to more than 250\$ million, making it a pivotal role for supply chains around the world.

With recent investments in overall infrastructure at RAK Ports totalling over US\$250 million, today Ras Al Khaimah's modern and flexible network of four ports plays a pivotal role in the supply chain for thousands of companies from all corners of the globe.

Roger Clasquin, CEO of RAK Ports said: "Due to our unique, strategic gateway position at the central point of the Gulf states and as the closest ports to the Strait of Hormuz, RAK Ports are ideally located to become a significant bunkering hub."

Handling close to 2,000 vessels per year and strategically located near to the main shipping lanes, RAK Ports marine and anchorage division has a modern fleet of support vessels and technical equipment providing first-class marine services, operating 24/7 and to the highest international standards.

The new partnership with Monjasa will enable a full suite of marine fuel services to be offered, both in-port and right across RAK Ports' anchorage area with its draft of up to 60 metres.