

CUSTOMS نافذ جمركية Windows



4.13 BILLION DIRHAMS

IS THE VALUE OF TRADE THROUGH RAK IN THE FIRST HALF

UAE

Sees 6% higher exports during the Pandemic

FCA

Officially Launch UAE Customs Gateway (UCG)

RAK AIRPORT

A Window of RAK as an attractive destination

KSA

Unlimited investment opportunities

General Supervisor:

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saqr Al Qasimi

Editor-in-chief:

Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Mehrezi

Editorial Team:

Ghayeh Saeed Alshamsi
Khawla Jasem Alsuwaidi

NewGeneration Media Team:

Khawla Ibrahim
Abdulaziz Alelwi
Zainab Shieha
Maher Safyeldin



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:

Customer Care: providing internal and external customers and the best services that satisfy their needs and expectations.

Integrity: Rising above self-interest, or even seeking it, for the sake of the Department's interest.

Teamwork: promoting teamwork amongst teams and committees in order to achieve Department objective.

Creativity and Excellence: Taking the initiative in developing department activities through creative methods.

CUSTOMS STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. To ensure the security and protection of society against prohibited commodities, fraud and smuggling attempts.
2. To Facilitate trade and support competitiveness.
3. To ensure sustainability in collecting and managing customs duties.
4. To achieve excellence in delivery of customs services.
5. To promote relations with strategic partners.
6. To develop intitutional support services, and promote a culture of institutional creativity and innovation.



+971 50 690 0399

+971 7 222 999 5

info@ngmedia.ae

Opinions expressed in articles are the writer's own and do not reflect the view of RAK DED Or RAKBusiness Magazine. Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information published, the publisher also disclaims any legal responsibility towards other parties.



CUSTOMS.. IN TACKLING THE CORONAVIRUS

The

Customs have played a prominent and crucial role during the Covid-19 pandemic in enabling the national economy, sustaining the development process, ensuring business continuity, facilitating trade movement and flow of essential goods across the borders, which has involved many obstacles due to the lockdown in most of the world.

Driven by the directives of His Highness Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, and the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, the Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah, and Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, the Chairman of the Customs Department, the Customs Department has combined its efforts with those of the Government of Ras Al Khaimah and all strategic partners to deliver a full stimulus package of initiatives and incentives than can mitigate the severity and intensity of the impacts of the 'Covid-19' pandemic on companies, customers, and the local economy in general.

The Department was very concerned with and successfully managed to focus on creation of the necessary liquidity with the companies during this unprecedented period by deferring the collections of any liabilities of the Department for a period that ranges between 3 to 6 months. Additionally, the Customs Department in Ras Al Khaimah refunded the deposits held by the Department to the customs clearance companies and to the other companies who undertake their own customs clearance transactions. Thanks to its strategies and future outlook of using modern technology and smart information and communication technology (ICT), the Department has strengthened the role of its electronic services and has also made the best services and customs facilitations available to the customers inside and outside the UAE during the remote working. This has demonstrated the capability of the Department to continually satisfy the requirements of our customers to the highest quality standards to ensure business continuity, completion of customs transactions and resolution of any constraints and obstacles, which may have delayed the completion of work as it should have been planned for.

Building on our approach and mission, we, at the Customs Department of Ras Al Khaimah, will relentlessly work on achieving permanent leadership in the provision of customs services that support a secure economic society in accordance with the customs legislation. Also, we will continuously contribute to supporting security and the economy by optimally investing in our resources in order to augment the level of trade to its previous level, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We will together to raise these levels without compromising the implementation of the precautionary measures in order to protect the society of Ras Al Khaimah, for both nationals and residents. We will continue our preparation for the Fifty by stimulating innovation, supporting creative initiatives, adopting the best and most sophisticated customs innovations to strengthen the prestigious prominence of the UAE on the global trade map.

Editor-in-chief:

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



10 | 4.13 Billion dirhams is the value of trade through rak in the first half

The Department has been able to continuously deliver its customs services and facilitations to the customers locally and even outside the UAE, to the highest standards while remotely working during the 'Covid-19' pandemic.



20 | "FCA" to Officially Launch UCG

The gateway aims to enable partners and users to complete operations and tasks as quickly as possible.



16 | UAE sees 6% higher exports

During the period from January to August 2020, compared to the same period last year.



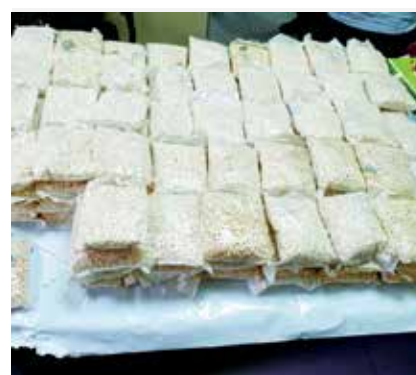
24 | RAK Airport ...enhances the emirate as destination for tourism and trade

Being located between the East and the West, travellers have found RAK Airport a calm and attractive connecting point.



22 | The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Unlimited investment opportunities

KSA has the 2nd largest world proven oil reserves and the 5th largest proven natural gas reserves.



04 | 15.7 thousand drugs seizures

FCA supports customs ports with the latest inspection devices totaling 66 million dirhams.



06 | How customs protect the Intellectual property?

Customs is the first line of defense for intellectual property in its supervisory role in import and export operations.



07 | 463.3 million dirhams

The transferred customs duties between the countries of "cooperation" in the first half of 2020.

15.7 THOUSAND DRUGS SEIZURES IN THE COUNTRY'S OUTLETS WITHIN 5 YEARS

Statistics of the Federal Customs Authority and local customs departments revealed that during the past five years (2015 - 2019) the number of seizures of narcotic substances in border crossing points increased to more than 15,764 seizures, and the efforts of the authority and local customs departments, in coordination with the Ministry



Statistics

of the Federal Customs Authority and local customs departments revealed that during the past five years (2015 - 2019), the number of seizures of narcotic substances in border crossing points increased to more than 15,764 seizures. The efforts of the authority and the local customs departments, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and the relevant security agencies, resulted in an increase in the contribution of the customs sector in the index of increasing the proportion of drug seizures at the state level from 33% in 2018 to 39% in 2019. According to the authority's statistical database, the

51%
The proportion of seizures of Captagon, equivalent to 1.4 tons

19%
Narcotic crystal seizures came in second with a weight of 492 Kilos

amount of drugs seized by the customs sector in the country increased in 2019 alone, to reach about 2.1 tons of narcotic drugs.

Customs Commissioner, head of the Federal Customs Authority, Ali Saeed Matar Al Neyadi, said, "These numbers and indicators reflect the severity of the targeting operations carried out by organized crime gangs for the children of the Emirati society, and at the same time reveal the vigilance of the country's customs sector, and the importance of the great role it plays in Combating drug trafficking.

And he expected a noticeable decline in drug smuggling operations through the country's outlets, during the coming period, after the customs sector succeeded in establishing the concept of customs deterrence, by intensifying drug seizures and implementing new initiatives and mechanisms that achieve this goal.

SOCIETY PROTECTION:

Al-Neyadi said that the authority and local customs departments have taken protection of society's security as a strategic goal for the country's customs sector, and this task has been given a high priority in light of the growing risks, in commitment to its national role, and its belief in the great harm of drugs to the security and health of society and the citizen, and its conviction of its important role in Facing this organized crime, and protecting the security and stability of society, in cooperation with the relevant authorities in the state. Statistical data for the authority indicated that the total number of drug seizures, which were implemented by the customs sector in the country in 2019 alone, reached 4451 seizures, compared to 3332 seizures in the previous year, with a total weight of 2.1 tons, which reflects the extent of the development of efforts made by the country's customs in The field of combating drug trafficking.

TYPES OF SEIZURES

With regard to the quality of seizures, the statistical data of the Authority revealed that seizures of Captagon pills came at the forefront of customs seizures of drugs for the year 2019, by weight, at 51% of the total seizures weight, equivalent to approximately 1.4 tons, and narcotic crystal seizures came second with 19%, with a weight of 492 thousand grams, while cannabis seizures came third by 11%, with a total weight of 294 thousand grams, followed by cocaine seizures by 7% and a weight of 168 thousand grams, then “tramadol” by 6%, with a weight of 144.2 thousand grams of the total weight Settings. The proportion of seizures of khat, heroin, opium, hemp, cereals and other medicines ranged between 2% and less than 1% for each. Analysis of drug seizures showed, in recent years, that the most common means used to smuggle drugs are: personal bags accompanied by travelers, followed by means of transportation, then parcels, clothes, containers, and finally the viscera of travelers.

INTEGRATED STRATEGIES

Al-Neyadi stressed the implementation by the commission of an integrated strategy to enhance the country's efforts to combat drugs and prevent their smuggling through border customs outlets, in cooperation with local customs departments and strategic partners from ministries and relevant government agencies.

The strategy includes a group of main axes, the most prominent of which is the participation of customs monitors and inspectors in the commission (64 customs monitors and inspectors) deployed in the customs outlets in the country, their counterparts in the local customs departments, the operations of controlling the smuggling of narcotic drugs, and prior information about the smuggling operations to be carried out.

The total value of the devices in which the authority provided customs outlets in the various emirates was about 66 million dirhams, in addition to forming joint teams to monitor and remedy the expected security challenges.

He drew attention to the application of 218 auditing standards related to inspection and security devices and sites, safety, investigation, seizure and seizures, in addition to applying best practices and standards in the field of customs inspection, and the use of modern methods in customs intelligence in analyzing data and the risk engine to target shipments.

FUTURE PROJECTS

His Excellency Ali Saeed Al-Niyadi affirmed that the

The analyzes of drug seizures during recent years have shown that the most common means of drug smuggling are personal bags accompanied by travelers, followed by transportation, parcels, clothes, containers, and finally the intestines of travelers.



H.E. Ali Saeed :
Federal Customs Authority supports customs ports with the latest inspection devices for narcotic and dangerous substances, totaling 66 million dirhams

authority is working on implementing a set of future strategic projects that raise the level of readiness of the customs sector in the country and contribute to its empowerment and building its capabilities in the face of organized crime and drug smuggling operations, indicating that among those projects is the standardization of the electronic customs clearance system at the state level. The system for tracking shipments and trucks electronically, the central customs operations room, the standardization of the customs risk engine system, the unified national number for dealers with state customs and the electronic control and inspection system, and the Ras Cargo project for the security customs inspection unit.

CUSTOMS ROLE IN PROTECTING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Some may think that the role of customs is limited to collection of customs duties levied on the imported commodities and goods. This represents a fraction of the whole truth. Customs departments in the UAE and primarily the Federal Customs Authority (FCA) undertake a very important financial role. However, this role does not occupy the foremost place in customs duties hierarchy. Still, there is the security role of customs, which manifests itself in supporting the security matrix in the whole UAE through protecting the borders, safeguarding the society from illegal trade practices, restricting the entry of dangerous materials, seizing prohibited items and controlling the dual-use commodities (precursors).

Customs are the first line of defense for the society, and in the meantime they represent the civilizational forefront of the UAE. The increase in the security threats necessitates that the customs administration in the UAE must undertake:

- More training and development of the customs working through using the modern and sophisticated detection devices, making use of the international customs working standards and giving more focus to the high risk goods and passengers (i.e. risk management and automated channel system)
 - and to expand the horizons of co-operation in the areas of exchanging information and expertise, border control and co-ordination with the other customs departments, so known as the coordinated (customs) border management.
- Duties and competencies of customs:
- Collect the customs revenue
 - Provide statistics about foreign trade (importation and exportation)

- Combat customs smuggling
 - Safeguard the society
 - Safeguard the borders
 - Implement relevant laws
 - Implement bilateral and regional agreements relating the international trade.
- Here, we will focus on the customs role in protecting UAE citizens, residents, environment and national economy as follows:

I. Customs roles in protecting the locals and residents in the UAE:

- Customs principally take part, in collaboration with the other partners operating at the borders, in maintaining and safeguarding the ethics of society, security and safety and health of both the UAE citizens and residents. These roles are carried out by customs through controlling and monitoring imports and exports, taking the necessary sanitary, veterinary and phytosanitary measures. Customs are also involved in the protection of the intellectual property rights, combat of commercial fraud and restrict illegal trade in commodities that may impose threats on public health and security (i.e. narcotics, counterfeit goods, arms, explosives and materials and items that do not satisfy the required health standards).

II. Protection of environment:

- Customs take part, along with the other partners located at the customs points of entry, in controlling the entry of any materials that may harm the environment, such as participating in:
 - Controlling the entry and exit of toxic waste and ozone-depleting substances through the borders.
 - Combating the illegal trade in endangered animals and floras, and tightening the controls of importing of and trading in danger-

ous chemicals and the importation conditions thereof.

III. Customs role in anti-money laundering

- Money laundering is the process whereby the origin of funds generated by illegal means is concealed. The objective of the operation is to make the funds that are illegally gained seem as if they are derived from legitimate sources. Of the main sources of such funds are narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, trading in arms and smuggling of goods. The crime of money laundering has a very severe impact on the economic transactions taking place in the country. The role of customs in combating money laundering is evident in close scrutiny of import and export documents and in identification of commercial fraud techniques used in the process of money laundering, such as:

1. Overvalued invoices for exported goods in order to bring more funds into the country.
2. Transfer of funds overseas through the importation of goods on highly overvalued invoices, such as raw diamond. In this instance, the raw diamond is re-exported under lower values. As such, we are clearly in front of a money laundering operation.
3. Transfer of funds but in the form of commodities in order avoid anyone being held accountable by the competent authorities.

IV. Customs role in protecting the national economy:

- encourage investment and enhance the capabilities of the national manufacturing to compete,
- protect the national production and encourage local manufacturing,
- encourage exportation and re-exportation through the creation of external markets,
- facilitate and streamline trade exchange by entering bilateral and regional economic agreements,
- control and monitor transit movements in collaboration with the other government departments,
- and simplify customs procedures in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDE ANSWERS OF SUPPLY CHAINS

In collaboration with the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution UAE and Dubai Future Foundation (DFF), the World Economic Forum has released a comprehensive blockchain toolkit to offer businesses and organisations new, industry-tested solutions to the urgent issues impeding global supply chains, which have been exposed by the coronavirus (COVID19-) pandemic.

The Redesignin Trust toolkit provides tools, resources, industry insights and best practices for organisations seeking ways to improve traceability, visibility, accountability and end-to-end, real-time communications for businesses big and small.

The toolkit has been developed through deep analysis of projects and use cases of more than 100 blockchain stakeholders from more than 60 public- and private-sector entities across the world focused on supply chain logistics, including prominent work and feedback from the Dubai Future Foundation and World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution UAE. Commenting on the release of the toolkit, Abdulaziz Al-Jaziri, Deputy CEO and Chief Operating Officer of Dubai Future Foundation, said: "As a test-bed for technological innovations and ideas that drive transformations in vital industries, DFF's contribution to the toolkit will greatly benefit decision-makers, entrepreneurs and businesses in defining their future strategies.

He added: "The pivotal role DFF played in formulating and executing the Forum's seminal blockchain toolkit is an example of how our expertise directly contributes to pathfinding, and how our solutions-oriented approach to major global issues can provide opportunities for the wider world beyond Dubai and the region."

AMariam Al Muhairi, Project Manager World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution UAE at Dubai Future Foundation, said: "The role blockchain technologies can play in the economic recovery post the COVID-19 disruption will be critical. The upheaval has dislocated economies and ecosystems, and has hindered supply chains because of a lack of transparency, visibility and traceability on goods being moved around the world.

She added: "Moving forward, there must be an emphasis on rebuilding global trade networks by learning and putting into practice the lessons emerging from this pandemic. The solutions that blockchain technology provides, outlined in the Redesigning Trust toolkit,



Need for greater transparency and visibility of supply chains has been highlighted by COVID19-outbreak, blockchain technologies provide answers

can go a long way to future-proofing and safeguarding businesses in the recovery and adaptation to the new normal."

With over four trillion consumer products made and shipped around the world each year, from vital medical supplies to home office furniture and supplies that can help SMEs and start-ups continue to provide a robust backbone to emerging economic, the need for greater efficiencies, resilience and adaptability is clear, and the Forum's blockchain toolkit provides insights for public and private sector entities to re-enter and compete across markets

CUSTOMS TERMS

Article 2

The following words and terms, wherever mentioned throughout this Regulation “ Law “ , its Explanatory Note and Rules of implementation, shall have the meanings hereby assigned for them, unless the context otherwise requires:

Continuation of the previous issue;

23. “*Related persons*” means persons who are:

- (a). legally recognized partners in business,
- (b). officers or directors of one another’s business,
- (c). employer and employee,
- (d). any person directly or indirectly owns, controls or holds 5 per cent or more of the outstanding voting stock shares of both of them,
- (e). one of them directly or indirectly controls the other, (f). both of them are directly or indirectly controlled by a third person,
- (g). together they directly or indirectly control a third person,
- (h). members of the same family.

23. “*Valuation Agreement*” means the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the GATT 1994.

24. “*Origin of the goods*” means the producing country, whether these goods are natural resources, agricultural crops or animal or industrial products.

25. “*Prohibited goods*” means any goods the import or export of which is prohibited under the provisions of this Regulation “ Law “ or any other regulation “ law “.

26. “*Restricted goods*” means those goods the import or export of which is restricted under the provisions of this regulation “law “ or any other regulation “ law “.

27. “*Source*” means the country from which the goods are imported.

28. “*Importer*” means the natural or legal person importing the goods.

29. “*Exporter*” means the natural or legal

person exporting the goods.

30. “*Manifest* “ means the document containing a full description of the goods carried on the various means of transport.

31. “*Free zone*” means a part of the state’s territories in which commercial or industrial activities are exercised under the respective laws of that state. Any goods entering that zone are considered to be outside the customs zone and shall not be subject to the usual customs control and procedures.

32. “*Duty-free shop*” means that licensed building or place wherein goods are placed free of customs duties (taxes) for purposes of display or sale.

33. “*Customs Declaration*” means the goods declaration or the declaration submitted by the importer or his representative describing the elements identifying the declared goods and quantity thereof in details according to the provisions of this regulation “ law “.

34. “*Storehouse*” means that building or place intended for the temporary storage of goods pending their withdrawal under one of the customs procedures whether such place/ building is directly administered by the Administration or by the official public agencies or the investors.

35. “*Warehouse*” means the place or facility wherein the goods are deposited under supervision of the Administration free of customs duties (taxes) according to the provisions herein.

36. “*Carrier*” means the owner of a means of transportation or his authorized representative (under an official authorization).

37. “*Specified routes*” means the routes specified by the minister for the carriage of the imported or exported goods into/ from the country or the goods in transit under a resolution.

38. “*Treasury*” means the public treasury.

39. *To be continued*

Services

AAWIN ESERVICE

Aawin Eservice; aims to activate the community contribution with the government that is represented by RAK Customs Department. This service provides a facility for any individual to report a smuggling case against offences related to the Customs Department or its provided services. The individual can fill in the report and upload the supporting documents and photographs in order to lodge a case. Email and SMS notifications will be sent to the user as a reference of his submission.

Would you like to serve Ras Al Khimah?

Do you have any information about illegal customs offences? Are you interested in a decent reward?

So, help us to protect Ras Al Khimah and we guarantee you the confidentiality of any actions taken.

Step 1 : *Login as a registered user or use the service directly as anonymous and click the service link from home page.*

Step 2: *Enter all required fields and submit the form. You can support your report by uploading attachments like images and documents*

Step 3: *Submit the form and you will receive SMS / mail confirmation about the Report with Reference number.*



DUBAI CUSTOMS THWARTS 16 BODY STUFFING ATTEMPTS AT AIRPORTS IN 9 MONTHS

Dubai Customs, with their advanced inspection division and highly skilled inspection officers managed to thwart 16 body packing smuggling attempts at Dubai Airports in the first 9 months of 2020. This type of smuggling requires vigilance and advanced experience from the inspector's side to detect. More than 1450 capsules of narcotics that weighed 12,286 grams were uncovered in the operations.

Dubai is becoming an example to follow in combating drug trafficking worldwide, and, to maintain this, the emirate invests heavily in developing its inspection division to protect the society from the perils and hazards of this illegitimate trade.

FOUR MEN OFFER DH98M BRIBE TO SMUGGLE SANDALWOOD

Four men allegedly offered Dh98 million worth of bribes to the executive director of a security establishment and paid him Dh50,000 to entice him to break the law, a court heard.

The Court of First Instance was told the four men approached the Emirati Director of the Ports, Customs and the Free Zone security establishment in Dubai, to help them illegally take 98 containers of banned sandalwood that was seized by customs, out of Jebel Ali Port.

he accused were willing to hand him Dh50,000 to pay to other employees for any help in the smuggling of the banned shipments.

The defendants were arrested in a sting operation on December 12, 2016, right after one of them paid the director Dh50,000 in an envelope to give to other employees for their help in facilitating the exit of containers from the port.

The police raided the meeting venue in a hotel in Bur Dubai and the bribe money was seized. The four men are Indians. One is a businessman, two are salesmen and the fourth is a sales manager.



RAS AL KHAIMAH POLICE SEIZE 369 BICYCLES AND SCOOTERS IN TWO WEEKS

Ras Al Khaimah: Ras Al Khaimah Police has confiscated 369 bicycles and scooters as part of a traffic campaign. Brigadier Dr. Mohammad Saeed Al Humaidi, Director General of Central Operations, said the crackdown on cyclists and bikers was part of an ongoing traffic campaign to reduce accidents caused by them.

Brigadier Al Humaidi said that the inspection campaigns being carried out by the field teams in the emirate are based on the directives of Major General Ali Abdullah bin Alwan Al Nuaimi, Commander-in-Chief of Ras Al Khaimah Police, to intensify traffic campaigns against bicycle users and scooters in violation of the traffic law, and improve traffic culture among community members.

Brigadier Al Humaidi added that such campaigns contribute to avoiding the occurrence of run over accidents, traffic accidents, and the preservation of life and property, which occur due to illegal driving of bicycles and scooters on the roads. Most of these riders drive without wearing the phosphorescent reflectors and helmets, and often ride opposite the direction of traffic and on the pavements, which causes traffic accidents, and endangers their lives and the lives of others.



DR. MOHAMMED ABDULLAH AL MEHREZI

4.13 BILLION DIRHAMS

IS THE VALUE OF TRADE THROUGH RAK IN THE FIRST HALF

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mehrezi, the Director General of the Customs Department in Ras Al Khaimah, confirmed that the Department has been able to continuously deliver its customs services and facilitations to the customers locally and even outside the UAE, to the highest standards while remotely working during the 'Covid-19' pandemic. He attributed this success to the Department's strategy and its futuristic outlook to the use of modern technology and smart information technology, which has greatly enhanced the Department's capability to continue to meet customers' needs to the highest quality standards.





In

a special statement to 'Al Bayan Economy', H.E. Dr. Al Mehrezi declared that the volume of the external trade through the customs centers of Ras Al Khaimah during the first half of 2020 reached 4.13 billion dirhams, a decrease by 6.84% when compared to the first half of the previous year. He added that the volume of importation into the Emirates increased by 6.61% in comparison to the first half of the previous year.

He stressed the importance to continue working closely with the strategic partners of the Department as well as its customers to augment the level of trade back to what it used to be before the 'Covid-19' pandemic. He also assured that all authorities are working together to raise these levels without any compromise by implementing the required precautionary measures in order to protect and safeguard the society of Ras Al Khaimah, both citizens and residents.

Mechanisms

Al Mehrezi affirmed that the Department had dealt with the 'Covid-19' pandemic to the highest levels of professionalism and responsibility. He explained that the Customs Department implemented all directives promulgated by the government of Ras Al Khaimah and the National Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA), the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO). It is notable that RAK Customs Department issued the departmental service manual of the remote working mechanism for the emergency purposes. The Department also approved the remote customs clearance policy which has been in place at all customs centers since the early days of the pandemic. An alternative

4.13
Billion dirhams is the volume of foreign trade through customs ports of Ras Al Khaimah during the first half of 2020

161000
The number of electronic customs transactions completed from January to July 2020

165
The number of seizures of the Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department in the first half of the same year varied between prohibited and restricted materials, immoral items, tobacco and other materials.

plan has also been set by the Department for all internal departments and sections to follow while remotely working. A significant amount of co-ordination with the other local government departments located in and operating from the Head Office building of RAK Customs about the implementation of the precautions procedures took place. A wider role was given to the Operations and Co-ordination section, and the customs inquiries electronic service was activated through the official website of the Department to receive the requests and queries of customers.

Al Mehrezi stated that the national industries played a vital role in strengthening the roles of the state in supporting the UAE and international markets. This is clearly evident through the presence of many leading global companies in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. He reiterated that the Emirate is very keen to continually expand its industrial base and maximize the role played by the national factories and companies at the local and international level.

Electronic transactions

He pointed out that the number of the electronic transactions completed between 1st January to 31st June this year was more than 161,000 customs transactions, including 69,000 customs declarations and 11,000 requests for goods inspections inside and outside the customs zones. Additionally, 626 transactions for registration and licensing customers with RAK Customs Department were completed during the period.

These services targeted almost all customers of the Department, including the free zone companies operating in Ras Al Khaimah and the local market companies, mainly the national factories who are



Customs Department in Ras Al Khaimah is working to develop its operations and work in full coordination with the various competent authorities, strategic partners and companies supplying modern and advanced inspection devices that help customs in combating smuggling

approved by the Ministry of Economy to receive the industrial exemption for their raw materials imported from outside the UAE through the points of entry of Ras Al Khaimah. The imported materials are intended for manufacturing of national products which are for domestic consumption in the UAE and are also being exported overseas as national products.

Seizures

Al Mehrezi stated that RAK Customs Department made 165 seizures in the first half of the year, which varied from prohibited and restricted items to pornography material, smuggled tobacco and other materials. Additionally, the Department was able to foil several attempts to smuggle counterfeit items and thwarted many tax evasion cases. This can clearly be attributed according to HE Dr. Al Mehrezi to the high awareness and sense of security that RAK Customs staff, including the customs inspectors, enjoy, which they have acquired through qualification and induction training and courses on security, passengers and cargo screening machines, and inspection devices deployed to the customs centers.

Use of technology

The Director General of RAK Customs pointed out the recent approval of the UAE Cabinet regarding the use of a standardized customs clearance system, which

will be introduced with few months. Al Mehrezi explained that there is significant importance in having all the local customs departments, and customers as well, to use one customs clearance platform in the UAE, which, according to HE Dr. Al Mehrezi, will strengthen and standardized the customs procedures across the UAE.

He continued that the Department consistently works on developing and raising the quality of its operations and closely works with different competent authorities, strategic partners, manufacturers and vendors of modern and sophisticated inspection devices, which considerably assist the Department in combating smuggling. Al Mehrezi asserted that the Department is always seeking after all technology updates relating to customs inspection systems and devices used in customs inspection and examination, which have significant outcome on saving the time and effort of customers. Al Mehrezi sees that all of this strengthens and enhance the capabilities of the Department at the borders, particularly the ability to target and detect restricted and prohibited items, by supplying the customs centers with modern devices which are very important tools for the customs work and eventually serve the safety and security of the UAE. He also declared that for instance, RAK Customs Department is testing one of the most updated scanners used for screening different types and sizes of vehicles.

Initiatives

The Director General of RAK Customs assured that the efforts of the Customs Department should be combined together with the efforts of the government of Ras Al Khaimah to come out with a full stimulus package of initiatives and incentives than can mitigate the severity and intensity of the impacts of the ‘Covid-19’ pandemic on companies, consumers, and the local economy in general. He added that the Department was very concerned with and successfully managed to focus on creation of the necessary liquidity with the companies during this unprecedented period by deferring the collections of any liabilities of the Department for a period that ranges between 3 to 6 months. Moreover, the Customs Department in Ras Al Khaimah refunded the deposits held by the Department to the customs clearance companies and to the other companies who undertake their own customs clearance transactions.

The Department has also delayed the delivery of supporting documents of completed customs transactions and limited the requirements during the pandemic to only receiving electronic copies via the email and the other electronic systems in use at the Department.



Mehrezi, Customs Department in Ras Al Khaimah refunded the deposits held by the Department to the customs clearance companies and to the other companies who undertake their own customs clearance transactions

"FCA" TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH UAE CUSTOMS GATEWAY (UCG)

The Federal Customs Authority (FCA) has officially launched UAE Customs Gateway, a unified window comprising all systems adopted by FCA. Mainly, the Gateway aims at activating communication with partners and users, and enabling them complete their operations and tasks as swiftly as possible through unified access feature in line with best International practices quality.



HE

Ali Saeed Matar Alneyadi, Commissioner of Customs - Chairman of FCA, highlighted in a press release on this occasion, that launching Emirates Customs Gateway crystallizes how far the Authority is keen to fulfill digital electronic transformation needs, UAE smart government enablers and the principles of Emirates vision 2021 in addition to enabling system users from government and local customs departments complete their transactions easily and as swiftly as possible through a unified window comprising all systems.

While current Gateway users, from the Authority, government entities and local customs departments, amounted 652 users, the coming years are expected to witness folds of such user numbers coinciding with launching the new systems given that the Gateway is electronically integrated with 25 government entities across the country.

His Excellency underscored the significance of this remarkable milestone on the trajectory of Authority and customs sector's arrangements to the following fifty years and pointed out that the Gateway is a unified window featuring the capability to accommodate future systems, enables convenient follow up and control of Authority's different systems, and serves as a central base to external entities users.

Early 2020, working on the Gateway has commenced by integrating applicable customs systems under the Gateway on three phases where the Gateway currently accommodates 6 systems namely; e-statistics, electronic set-off, customs du-

ties direct transfer among GCC countries, customs circulations, cash sums declarations and statistical integration.

HE Ali Saeed Alneyadi added that the Authority developed a prospective plan to develop the Gateway including modern technology implementation to leverage systems efficiency, and developing its performance constantly, implementing dash board feature that analyzes systems of big data and abstracts data in the form of dynamic charts then generates reports directly and as required and furthermore, user can avail the same in customs risks management where new systems are set to be added on the Gateway soon as e-TIR system and smart inspection system.

6 electronic systems

Positioned as the most prominent system within the Gateway, the customs duties direct transfer system links FCA and local customs departments in the country to GCC Secretariat Information Center and gulf customs departments. Notably to say that its current users amount 240 users while total transferred customs duties to state members came up to 6 billion Dirham since system inauguration.

E-statistics system captures non-oil foreign trade statistics whether direct trade, free zones, customs warehouses or transit. The system is fed by statistics through 7 local customs departments to benefit 25 government and private institutions. As well, the system contains 15 million statistics record pool through which 24 monthly reports are generat-



ed on direct trade and free zones trade in addition to 140 annual statistics report addressing a wide range of trade items.

When it comes to customs circulation system, it represents a database for all circulations issued by federal government entities and supervisory institutions in the country to prevent, restrict or lift the import or export banning of commodities or other customs procedure. Since 2013 to date, the system captured 304 circulations. It is linked to 11 government entities.





Set-off and Declaration

Developing the e- set-off system was triggered early January 2003 with a view to finalize customs clearance procedures and collect customs duties imposed on imported goods at the first entry point in any GCC country. Moreover, the principle of re-distributing collected customs duties in all GCC customs ports based on the final destination of imported goods when transported to any other GCC country, has been approved. As regards to cash sums declaration system, it serves as a cash sums database, including cash currencies, holder's negotiable financial instruments, precious metals and valuable stones in adult travelers possession from and to the country if their value exceeds 60 thousand Dirham. Worthy to say that the number of cash sums declaration state wise represented 44 thousand and 641

The portal aims to activate communication with partners and users and enable them to complete operations and tasks as quickly as possible


The portal allows easy monitoring and control of the operation of the authority's various systems, and it also contains a central base for users from external parties

UCG SERVICES

	
MAGASA AND CLEARANCE SYSTEM	AUTO DUTY TRANSFER SYSTEM
	
CUSTOMS CIRCULAR SYSTEM	CUSTOMS STATISTICAL SYSTEM

declaration in 2019. Providing the most magnificent exhaustive federal database on non-oil trade data, the e-statistics integration system, the recently added system to the Gateway, contributes to laying down policies and decision making in federal and government entities as it facilitates dispatch preparation of a pool of daily reports and statistics to cater the provision of data and statistics to private and government sectors rapidly.





UAE SEES 6% HIGHER EXPORTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

The UAE saw a growth in its export rates by 6% during the period between January and August 2020, compared to the same period last year 2019, reports Al-Bayan newspaper.

The contribution of non-oil exports to the country's total non-oil foreign trade increased from 14.3% to 17.5% during the same comparison period, and the positive side's contribution to trade (total exports and re-exports) increased from 44% to 45%.

This came in a study prepared by the Ministry of Economy on the performance of the state's non-oil foreign trade during the period from January to August of this year, which witnessed the spread of COVID-19 on a global scale, and its implications for the reality of international trade.

The study indicated that the total non-oil foreign trade of the state witnessed a growth of 13.6% in August 2020 alone compared with August 2019, and that in this same month, Emirati exports achieved a significant growth leap, reaching 46%. In addition, the UAE imports in August itself grew by 14.9%.

"The UAE is a vital center for trade and business in the region and the world. Thanks to the support and wise vision of our wise leadership, the UAE's non-oil foreign trade is entering the recovery phase, as the country was one of the fastest in the region to adopt a clear methodology to support the economy in the face of the repercussions of



Since the beginning of the pandemic, national efforts have focused on ensuring the continuity of supply chains and supporting UAE companies expand logistics networks and diversifying, besides launching initiatives that support the country's leading position in the field of trade and logistics

the COVID-19 pandemic abiding by a sustainable, resilient, and competitive model." ABDULLA BIN TOUQ, UAE'S MINISTER OF ECONOMY

By implementing a bundle of 33 specific initiatives to support the economic sectors in the country, the ministry vows that it will work to revitalize national markets, increase production, support the private sector, and generate various commercial and investment opportunities that will be an incentive to expand UAE's network of commercial relations with various global markets.

According to Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi, the results of the country's non-oil foreign trade performance during the first eight months of this year demonstrated the country's high commercial capabilities and its growing export potential, even in light of the repercussions imposed by the "Covid 19" pandemic on trade activities. In various parts of the world.

He said that at a time when most of the world's economies are witnessing an understandable decline in their foreign trade as a result of restrictions and reduced demand resulting from the spread of coronavirus across the world, the UAE is making important

The contribution of exports to the total non-oil trade of the country increased to 17.5% during the first eight months of 2020 compared to 14.3% during the same period in 2019.

During the same period, UAE trade deficit decreased from 6% to 5%, and the positive side's contribution to trade increased from 44% to 45% in August 2020 compared to August 2019

development leaps in its non-oil exports and its foreign trade is entering the recovery phase at good rates, with important results in Reducing the trade balance deficit.

This reflects in a practical way on the quality and efficiency of the country's trade policies, the high confidence and the positive reputation it enjoys in global markets, and its pivotal role in facilitating trade even in times of crisis and unusual circumstances.

MONTHLY COMPARISON

By comparing the months of 2020 with the corresponding months of last year, the study revealed that the country's total non-oil foreign trade witnessed a growth in January and February 2020 compared to the same two months of 2019.

With a monthly comparison of non-oil exports, the state's trade grew in January and February of this year compared to the same two months of last year, and despite Corona, exports grew in June of this year by 29%, to a significant jump in August of 46%.



FOREIGN TRADE

The study monitored the most important non-oil foreign trade markets for the UAE during July and August 2020. China ranked first and accounted for 11% of the UAE's total non-oil foreign trade with the world during these two months, followed by Saudi Arabia in second place with 6.8%, then India third with 6.4%, followed by Switzerland fourth with 3.7%, and Iraq came in fifth place, acquiring 3.6%.

EXPORTS

In terms of export markets, Switzerland ranked first as the largest future of the UAE's non-oil exports in July and August 2020, accounting for 14% of the total UAE exports to the world, followed by Italy, with 10.2%, then India, the third with 8.9%, and Hong Kong. Fourth, with 8.6%, and in fifth place, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with 8.2%.

IMPORTS

With regard to imports, China was the largest supplier to the country and accounted for 16.3% of the total imports of the UAE from the world, followed by India with 6.8%, the United States of America ranked third with 6.6%, Guinea fourth with 4.5%, and then the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is fifth, at 3.7%.

AED3.671 BN IN EXPORTS BY MEMBERS OF RAK CHAMBER IN 9 MONTHS

The value of exports of members of the Ras Al Khaimah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RAKCCI) totalled AED3.671 billion during the first nine months in 2020.

The announcement was made by Mohammed Hassan, Acting Director-General of the RAKCCI, who noted that the emirate's diverse economy has helped maintain the stability of its economic performance during the COVID-19 pandemic, as reflected by the value of exports of the chamber's members.

Eman Al Hayyas, Deputy Director-General for Trade Services and Business Development at the Chamber, noted that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries topped the list of countries that import products from chamber members, in terms of export value, accounting for 37 percent of exports, valued at AED1.356 billion, followed by non-Arabic speaking Asian countries with 20 percent, AED730 million, Arab countries with 18 percent, AED661 million, European countries with 10 percent, AED343 million, non-Arabic speaking African countries which accounted for 9 percent; American countries accounted for 5 percent, and Oceania and other countries 1 percent.

Saudi Arabia topped the list of countries, in terms of numbers of certificates of origin, with 3,208 certificates covering goods valued at AED582 million, she added.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

THE subject of the intellectual property has become a key concern to almost all countries due to its huge impact on the national economies and economic progress and growth of these countries. The scale against which the development of the countries, led by China and the USA, is measured has become the number of patents that are registered per annum. We can clearly observe the trade war between those countries, and one of the reasons is the protection of intellectual properties.

The concept of intellectual property is not new, however, as it is old as humanity. During the Roman period, they used to mark potteries with trademarks. It is believed that the intellectual property has substantially arisen after the industrial revolution in Europe and has figured prominently in northern Italy. In 1474, a law was issued in Venice to regulate the protection of invention patents that granted an exclusive right for the inventor.

The copyright dates back to 1440 AD when Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. Late in the 19th century, a number of countries felt the need to set laws to regulate the intellectual property.

Globally, two conventions constituting the basis for IPR system worldwide have been

signed: Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (TRIPs) (1883) and Berne Convention for Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (WIPO) (1886).

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN THE UAE:

Since its establishment in 1971, the UAE has endeavored to generally protect the intellectual property rights through its constitution. In 1974, the first legislation to regulate the commercial relationships at the local level was issued in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. However, and at the federal level, the first relating law was issued in 1992 followed with its rules of implementation in 1993.

It should be mentioned that the UAE joined the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 1975. Following the UAE joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), a federal law was issued in 2006 under which the intellectual property competencies in the UAE were transferred to the Ministry of Economy. The Ministry was competent with coordinating the intellectual property positions, both internally and externally, so that such positions are in accordance with the global direction of the WIPO for copyrights and public performance.

In the UAE, intellectual property is divided into trademarks, invention patents, copyrights and related rights.





THE CONCEPT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:

Intellectual property is the product of the human intellect including creativity concepts, e.g. inventions, industrial models, trademarks, songs, literature, symbols, brands, etc. Intellectual Property Rights do not differ from other property rights, which was initially an idea that developed and crystallized into the form of a product.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IS DIVIDED INTO TWO CATEGORIES:

Industrial Property, which includes: trademarks, inventions patents, industrial designs and models and geographic indications, among others.

The second category is the literary and artistic work rights, e.g. copyright, related Rights in books, statues, performance, music and software.

TRADEMARKS:

“A trademark is any distinguished form of names, words, signa-

tures, letters, figures, graphics, logos, titles, hallmarks, seals, pictures, patterns, announcements, packs or any other marks or groups of marks, if they were used or intended to be used either to distinguish goods, products or services”.

Trademarks can be divided into a trade mark and service mark. The legal protection period following the registration is ten years, renewable to a similar period of time.

The objective of IPR Protection is to:

1. encourage innovation in all areas of technology and culture. Therefore, all countries have to protect the innovator and writer for fear that such innovator may emigrate and his/her innovations and creations are lost.
2. encourage investment in a way that pushes the wheel of economic growth forward and creates new job opportunities in different industries.
3. encourage legitimate competitiveness and eradicate illegitimate competitiveness.
4. fight counterfeit and fake goods and protect the consumer from fraud.
5. maintain and safeguard public health and safety.

The importance of the role of customs in protecting the IPR:

1. The role of customs in protection of the IPR emerges from being significantly located at the land, sea and air points of entry to handle trade activities conducted through importation and exportation of goods, which may be counterfeit or fake and often in large commercial quantities.
2. Customs are considered the first line of defense for protection of IPR through taking the necessary border measures to protect the IPR. This comes in conformity with the TRIPs Convention, an annex of the World Trade Organization Agreement.
3. Customs execute several laws and legislation relating to trade operation, particularly the importation of goods. It is difficult for a customs inspector to identify the IPR infringement if it is in relation to a patent or industrial models unless he/she is provided with sufficient information from the competent authorities (i.e. Ministry of Economy) about the product subject case of the IPR infringement.

Customs is considered the first line of defense in protecting intellectual property rights, with its important presence in the land, sea and air ports and its supervisory role in import and export operations



EMIRATES CUSTOMS SEIZES OVER 168,000 COUNTERFEIT GOODS IN 2019

The Federal Customs Authority, FCA, and local customs departments in UAE yielded 67 seizures of counterfeit good infringing intellectual property rights, IPR, of genuine mark owners in 2019 compared to 63 seizures in 2018 as revealed by IPR 2019 report recently issued by the Authority. According to the report, IPR seizures in 2019 counted 168,251 pieces compared to 169,587 pieces in 2018. The limited decline in seized pieces is attributed to the increase of small consignments seized in regular and courier mail under the increasing growth of e-commerce movement.

Ali Saeed Matar Alneyadi, Commissioner of Customs and Chairman of FCA, corroborated UAE's keenness to protect IPR, confronting any counterfeit goods infringing the rights of genuine marks owners whether national or foreign companies and asserted that UAE is committed to applicable IPR-relevant international agreements and legislation.

Alneyadi said, "Elaborating from the significance of cooperation among relevant entities, customs sector in UAE is actively engaged with many local and federal institutions and authorities whether within the country or international supply chain to avoid the risks of IPR infringements and protect the interests of genuine mark owners. This goal can be achieved through a number of joint committees with local and global concerned entities in addition to sharing data and expertise which will

lead to reinforcing risk management systems employed by customs to target prohibited goods".

As well, Authority report classified seizures in accordance with product type, indicating that 37.31% of seizures falls below other goods (miscellaneous) category while hand luggage accounted for 29.85% of total seizures during the year followed by cellular phones and accessories which accounted for 11.94% then garments with 7.46%, perfumes and shoes 4.48% each and finally 1.49% each for accessories, lenses, glasses, waters and jewellery.

Alneyahdi applauded the high level of customs sector inspectors and controllers' vigilance in the country, and their keenness to protect the community and maintain the rights of entrepreneurs within the country and abroad against malicious trade practices and also appraised the standard of cooperation furnished by international institutions, private sector and local customs departments in sharing information and expertise on any goods and consignments infringing intellectual properties rights.

Authority report offered a classification on IPR seizures in 2019 in terms of transport means highlighting that counterfeit goods seizure by air cargo represented 33% of total seizures, followed by regular and courier mail which accounted for 31%, while marine transport represented 19% and finally, 16% goes for land transport.

i
37.31%
of seizures falls below other goods (miscellaneous) category

29.85%
Of seizures accounted for hand luggage of total seizures during the year

11.94%
Of seizures accounted for cellular phones and accessories

RAK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ENHANCES THE EMIRATE AS DESTINATION FOR TOURISM AND TRADE

Being uniquely and strategically located between the East and the West, travellers from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian Subcontinent and the Far East have found Ras Al Khaimah International Airport a connecting point as well as a calm yet attractive stopover destination.



The

Ras Al Khaimah International Airport, established in 1976, the airport is midway between Europe and the Far East and is the gateway between Ras al Khaimah and the world. It operates passenger and cargo services to a variety of destinations covering Europe, the Middle East, North & East Africa, Central Asia, Sub-continent. The airport began in April 2007 an extensive expansion program including a significant upgrade of the passenger terminal building, public transport infrastructure, and the building of new cargo terminal with state of the art facilities.

Located about eighteen kilometers from the city, boasts a 3,760 meters long runway. The present airport is set for more expansion in the coming years but currently consists of two passenger terminal buildings, cargo terminal facility, taxiways, apron, fuel farm, airport fire-fighting service, aircraft maintenance facilities, support facilities, access roads, car parking, control tower/ technical building, administrative building/



RAK airport is constantly developing its services and facilities to match Ras Al Khaimah's presence as a global destination for tourism and adventure

security and staff accommodation.

According to the Ras Al Khaimah Center for Statistics and Studies, the Passenger Traffic in Ras AL Khaimah International Airport witnessed significant growth over the period between 2015-2017 represented by increasing the number of arrivals, departures and transit passengers by 58%, 61% and 38% respectively.

Today, the competent authorities are taking serious steps towards improving the services quality offered to passengers, to provide more facilities and simplify procedures, to cooperate or contract with travel and tourism companies regionally and globally for the macro or micro investment of the Airport services in different fields to enhance optimization and increase the benefit.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

To be at par with the ambitions of the emirate, Ras Al Khaimah International Airport has invested in the overall infrastructure development including a new



cargo terminal, passenger terminals, corporate aviation areas and security facilities to meet customers' needs.

Ras Al Khaimah International Airport is keen to develop an environment that is commercially viable, creates a competitive proposition and is market-led for its business partners, is a natural choice for inbound, outbound and transit/tech carriers, as well as cargo, MRO, Training, and other businesses.

The airport can accommodate all types of aircraft and there is continuous training for airport personnel to be able to handle these aircraft. Training is also given to all other personnel working in fire and rescue services, electronics, ground services and air traffic control.

RAK FREIGHT CENTRE

The airport recently inaugurated the new "RAK Freight Centre" with the state-of-the-art handling equipment, comprehensive air cargo security, loading docks, electronic weighing equipment geared with professional management and operations team. Currently airport focusing on increasing transshipment freight via road feeder network to the rest of the emirates. The airport provides 24 hours a day cargo handling operations and custom clearances.

Freight center provides a full range of services including the Import and Export of Cargo, Inter Airport trucking, Customs Clearance, free parking spaces for large trailers and Cold Storage facilities with Freezer & Chiller Capacity of 36CBM each for Loose Cargo. also accept Diplomatic Cargo, Valuable Cargo and Dangerous Goods shipments. Emirates Sky Cargo, Aramex,

The airport recently inaugurated the new "RAK Freight Centre" which provides a full range of services including the Import and Export of Cargo, Inter Airport trucking, Customs Clearance, free parking spaces for large trailers and Cold Storage facilities

Rak Airport officially inaugurated its new-look Duty Free shopping area, which include wide selection of prestigious brands

FEDEX and DHL through an integrated air and land network provide their services from this facility.

The growth and establishment of free and economic trade zones in Ras Al Khaimah has lead to a consistent and significant demand and for airfreight services from Ras Al Khaimah International Airport.

CARGO AREA


The cargo area of the airport consists of two dedicated buildings that house storage facilities, X-ray equipment and special secure areas for storage of hazardous cargo and valuables. The area can handle bulk cargo, live animals, fresh meat and dangerous goods. Customs officials are available round the clock. while health department staff attend to supervise handling of livestock and inspection of fresh meat imports.

DUTY FREE

Ras Al Khaimah International Airport operates the Duty-Free outlets in Departure and Arrival terminals. The outlets are open round the clock and offer a complete range of duty-free products at competitive prices to incoming, outgoing and transit passengers.

Ras Al Khaimah International Airport officially inaugurated its new-look Duty Free shopping area, the state-of-the-art Duty-Free retail space in Departures and Arrivals terminals were upgraded in response to an increasing number of passengers in recent years. RAK Duty Free further enhances the shopping experience by housing a wide selection of prestigious brands as well as premium confectionary, beverages and cosmetics brands.





THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

UNLIMITED INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) is one of the super powerful economies in the world. The Kingdom ranks seventh amongst the G20 group of countries. The country has the second-largest world proven oil reserves and the fifth-largest proven natural gas reserves. It comes after Russia and the United States with the third most valuable natural resources of an approximate value of \$35 trillion. The Kingdom holds the 26th place on the Global Competitiveness Index according to the Global Competitive Yearbook report of 2019 issued by the International Institute for Management Development.

ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

The economy of the KSA is based on oil since it is considered the largest exporter of oil in the world. As part of the Government's directives, the Kingdom has endeavoured since 2016 to build strategies for diversifying the non-oil sources of income within Saudi Vision 2030, which bears in mind making the Kingdom a "leading investment power". These reforms have resulted in raising the expected economic growth rate from 1.8% in 2019 to hit 2.1% in 2020. The growth of the Saudi economy in non-oil sectors and stability in the economic factors, in addition to the increase in public spending in infrastructure and economic projects, forms an attractive environment for foreign investment. In the recent years, the increase of the annual growth rate has reached 4% while the gross domestic product (GDP) scored \$782 billion. The facilitations provided to those who are willing to invest have also increased, making Saudi Arabia one of the most growing Arab countries in the flow of the foreign investment value with a percentage of 126%. The total balance of direct foreign investment has increased to \$230.19 billion.

According to the General Investment Authority, 2019 witnessed a steady increase in foreign investment opportunities in the sectors of education, construction, wholesale and retail trade, transportation, storage, manufacturing, communication and information, in addition to healthcare, insurance, hotel services, management and support. China, the UAE, Jordan, Egypt, the USA, India, the UK and France are among the countries highly investing in Saudi Arabia during the 1st quarter of 2019.

The Premium Residency system, which was introduced in May 2019, has enabled the investors to invest and directly trade in stocks with the Saudi Stock Exchange. Moreover, investors are now able to set up and do business under the foreign investment system, which allows full foreign ownership for companies in most of the sectors. This is in addition to owning real states for residency, commercial and industrial purposes. The Saudi Stock Exchange has cancelled the maximum threshold of investor ownership in the stock market, which has allowed the inves-



UAE ranks second globally and first in the Arab world in Saudi's non-oil exports, accounting for 13% of Saudi's exports to the world and 40% of its exports to the Arab countries.

AED417 Billion is the non-oil trade volume between the UAE and Saudi Arabia

tors to own larger shares in the companies listed in the Saudi Stock Exchange. The total investments of foreign investors in the market scored \$14.4 billion in the first half of 2019.

TRADE VOLUME BETWEEN THE UAE AND SAUDI ARABIA

The UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have close co-operation and brotherly relations and a strategic partnership in all areas, particularly on the economic, trade and investment front. The report issued by the Ministry of Economy in the UAE has revealed that the Kingdom is the third largest trade partner of the UAE in the world and the first in the Arab world. The trade volume between the two sides is believed to be the highest among the GCC states at \$113.2 billion.

The Kingdom is considered the UAE's first re-export trade partner across the world and the first in the Arab world, with 11.1% of the total UAE's re-exports to the world. It also ranked eighth amongst the exporting countries to the UAE with a value of AED25.1 billion in 2019.

In 2019, Saudi Arabia was the number one importing trade partner from the UAE globally, and the number one in the Arab world for gold, copper wires, facilities, dairy and cream of a value of AED 30.9 billion estimated at 12.8% of the total UAE exports to the world. The Saudi-Emirati Co-ordination Council has realised substantial results in different sectors and businesses. The Council aimed at

boosting the financial security between the two countries and to providing a competitive, secure and digital technology environment with focus on human development. The UAE is in the forefront of the countries investing in Saudi Arabia at a total value of over AED34 billion, which is reflected in almost 122 investment projects by more than 65 companies and investment groups from the UAE, who are carrying out major projects in Saudi Arabia. Investments by the UAE banks amounted to AED53.5 billion in the first half of 2019. According to the report, the balance of direct Saudi investments in the UAE has crossed AED16 billion. Additionally, 4459 Saudi trademarks are registered in the UAE, and 70 commercial agencies and 16 registered companies operate and are involved in various investment sectors, including: mining, quarrying, wholesale and retail trade, financial activities, insurance activities, and in other areas such as the human health, social welfare, education, accommodation and food services, real estate activities, building and construction, agriculture, fishery, transport, storage and management service activities, support services, professional, scientific and technology activities and the ICT.



Over 20 economic and commercial activities are on the mutual investments list between the two counties, including: manufacturing, energy, logistics, air freight, financial activities, and the ICT, amongst others

REMARKABLE TOURISM BOOM

27th September, 2019 saw a major shift in the Saudi tourism sector with the introduction of the tourism visa for the first time in its history. The tourism visa allows nationals of the world countries to come to the Kingdom around the year in accordance with specific regulations of this visa, which is valid for one whole year. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is counting on increasing the contribution of the tourism sector in its GDP. Investments amounted at SR115 billion have been attracted since the launch of the tourism visa. It is expected to receive an increase of 100 million tourists per annum for the Kingdom to be, according to the Saudi Vision 2030, amongst the top 5 tourist-receiving countries in the world. Saudi Arabia is currently raising the capacity of its airports to 150 million passengers per annum. New tourist destinations, such as the futuristic city of "Neom" and the cultural Qiddiya City near Riyadh, are currently being developed by Saudi Arabia, in addition to a number of tourism and entertainment projects with the vicinity of the Red Sea. It is expected that the numbers of hotel rooms will see an increase of additional 500 thousand rooms.



NO OTHER COUNTRY PROVIDES AS MANY TOURISM OPTIONS AS IN SAUDI ARABIA

When you pick Saudi Arabia as your tourism destination, you will definitely enjoy unlimited options of pleasure and entertainment. You will also try out an extra-ordinary tourism experience in a country that puts its historical heritage and massive legacy between your hands, a vast part of which you can view at the museum that hold artefacts and collectibles covering the different historical times passed by the Kingdom. Further, a tourist will take pleasure in more than additional 10 thousand heritage sites in the country, not to mention the cultural and natural variability spread over an extensive geographical area that embraces distinctive beaches on the shores of both the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, incredibly high mountain ranges, rich plateaus and fascinating desert regions. The warm waters and longer day hours of the Kingdom will definitely present you with an exceptional opportunity to spend moments full of pleasure and excitement.

Shopping tourism stands for 75% of the overall spending on entertainment activities. If you are one of the enthusiasts for shopping and collection of the different global brands, you will unquestionably find the sought-after pleasure in visiting the huge shopping malls



located throughout the Kingdom. Statistics indicates that the shopping tourism accounts for about 75% of the overall spending on entertainment activities there. That said, the options in the shopping field are numerous. There are the local markets, traditional groceries, supermarkets and the modern shopping malls, where many global brands and products are found. In the local markets, many things can be found, such as handcrafted products, furniture, carpets, perfumes, incense, gold and jewellerys, in addition to antiquities, artworks and clothes, to name but a few. The local markets can usually be found in all cities and major villages, while the main cities are featured with the presence of modern shopping malls.

DOORS ARE FLUNG OPEN TO BUSINESS TOURISM

Owing to the huge development that the Kingdom currently witness in line with the Saudi Vision 2030, and because of the massive investments projects and unlocking the doors to the foreign and global investments, notable and upward growth in the business tourism field. All of that goes along with the economic and urban growth and the enhanced services and infrastructure it provides. Business tourism represents an important avenue in the tourist market in the KSA. Spending by business tourists is approximately 21% of the total spending on tourism in the Kingdom. Every year, there are more than 100 thousand business events held and attended by 3.9 million tourists at spending rates that exceed SR4.2 billion. Additionally, there are more than 600 exhibitions, conferences, meetings halls. The spending is expected to reach SR30 billion by 2024.

There has been a remarkable and progressive growth in the field of business tourism due to the “Vision 2030” and the modern infrastructure, where the spending of business tourists reached about 21% of total tourism in the Kingdom



463.3 MILLION DIRHAMS

TRANSFERRED CUSTOMS DUTIES BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF “COOPERATION” IN THE FIRST HALF



The

total value of customs duties transferred between the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf during the first half of this year amounted to 463.3 million dirhams, through the implementation of 77 thousand and 903 transactions (entitlement number), within the framework of the direct automatic transfer of customs duties between the GCC countries.

The data of the Federal Customs Authority showed that the value of customs duties, which were transferred by the UAE to the Gulf countries, for goods and goods that entered those countries through the state's customs ports (first entry points) amounted to the equivalent of 415.8 million dirhams, representing 89.7% of the total sums transferred, during the first half of the year, through the implementation of 66.7 thousand transactions.

According to these data, the value of customs duties transferred from the countries of the Cooperation Council to the local customs departments in the country amounted to 47.5 million dirhams, as customs duties for goods and goods that entered the country through the Gulf ports, through the implementation

415.8 M/AED
The value of customs duties, which were transferred by the UAE to the Gulf representing %89.7 of the total sums transferred, during the first half of the year, through the implementation of 66.7 thousand transactions

of 11.2 thousand transactions, representing 10.3% of the total amounts Transferred, during the first half of 2020.

According to the Authority's data, Saudi Arabia acquired a stake of 216.4 million dirhams, equivalent to 46.7%, followed by Oman with a share of 112.5 million dirhams, equivalent to 24.3%, while Kuwait came third with a share of 44.7 million dirhams, representing 9.7%, and Bahrain's share reached 40 million dirhams. 8.6%.

Customs Commissioner and Chairman of the Authority, Ali Saeed Matar Al Niyadi, said that the value of customs duties transferred between the countries of the Cooperation Council during the first half of this year reflects the stability of intra-GCC trade movement and its continuation at normal rates, despite the repercussions witnessed by the trade movement The global and commercial markets in the world during that period, which is considered a new testament to the ability of the UAE economy and the Gulf economies to face global economic and trade challenges, deal with them flexibly and overcome their repercussions as soon as possible.



FEDERAL CUSTOMS AUTHORITY (FCA) CONDUCTS AN EVALUATION OF AL DARAH VEHICLE SCANNER

Within the framework of the continuous collaboration between the Customs Department of Ras Al Khaimah and the Federal Customs Authority (FCA), especially in relation to the customs inspection devices, the FCA completed, between 14th -16th July 2020, the Site Acceptance Test (SAT) of the new light and heavy vehicles scanner at Al Dara customs center.

On the first day of the technical evaluation visit, the technical team of the FCA viewed the technical specifications of the new scanner manufactured by the Chinese company PowerScan. The

The new inspection systems are based on the principle of designing inspection units that can be easily integrated with other devices at customs ports

scanner is the first of its kind in the UAE and the Middle East.

It is worth mentioning that the evaluation visits aimed at adding the new scanner to the list of devices approved and endorsed by the FCA. The visit also intended to check the safety parameters while the scanner is used to scan light and heavy trucks in order to ensure the health and safety of the passengers and public.

During the second day of the visit, the FCA's team performed the other required operational and site tests of the new scanner. The evaluation included testing the x-ray penetration capabilities, material discrimination and tests of radiation leakage within the perimeters of the scanner. The team concluded its visit to Al-Dara Border Crossing by having a conclusion meeting with RAK Customs Department and the manufacturer of the scanner, who were briefed of the initial findings of the evaluation. The FCA's team pointed out that the initial findings indicated that the device is in conformity with the international specifications as well as with the technical specifications of the FCA.

RAK CUSTOMS CONDUCTS A MOCK EXERCISE AT AL DARAH BORDER

RAK Customs, in collaboration with the other enforcement authorities at Al Dara Border Crossing between the UAE and the Sultanate of Oman, have conducted a 'mock exercise' which was focused on raising the security level at Al Dara Border and increasing the rate of targeting and inspection of vehicles and passengers while crossing into the UAE.

The operation was aimed at establishing the current operational level of customs inspectors at RAK Customs, particularly at Al Dara Border. Another objective of the operation was to check the readiness and operational efficiency of the inspection devices available at the center at detecting potential security and customs threats and risks.

The operation was initiated when Al Dara Customs received a notification from the Operations and Co-ordination Room, at the Head Office of RAK Customs Department, to advise the center of an urgent requirement to raise the security level at

Al Dara Border, requesting customs to tighten the inspection and examination controls on vehicles, goods and passengers arriving from outside the UAE through Al Dara Border. The operations continued for four hours, during which the efforts by the concerned enforcement authorities were combined to bring success to the operation and to measure the operational efficiency at Al Dara Border while the operation was underway and after it was effectively accomplished.

HE Dr. Mohammed Al Mehrezi, Director General of RAK Customs Department, expressed his happiness about the outcomes of this mock exercise, the prompt response by Al Dara Customs Center and the successful undertaking of the roles assigned all participants. He also commended the roles of the Department's strategic partners at Al Dara Border Crossing and the support they provided RAK Customs with during the operation. He added that the operation was successful by all accounts.



“FCA” FORMS THE CONSULTATION COUNCIL WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

Ali Saeed Matar Alneyadi, Commissioner of Customs, and Chairman of FCA, issued a resolution to form the Customs Consultation Council with the private sector to reinforce partnership and collaboration between the Federal Customs Authority, FCA, and the private sector to discuss customs issues, projects and initiatives to develop customs operations and promoting its global competitiveness position.

He said the private sector is a strategic partner on the trajectory of customs development and sustainable development embraced by the country, and also a key player in implementing UAE vision 2020’s principles and targets. It is also relied upon by the UAE leadership to assume a key role in helping projects and initiatives succeed in preparation for the next fifty years and the UAE Centennial 2071. In accordance with the resolutions, the Council is chaired by Suoud Salem Al Agroobi, Director of International Relations Department in the Authority, with the private sector’s representative, elected by members of the council, in the office of the vice chairman.

The council comprises up to no more than 20 members from the private sector who are elected by candidacy in accordance with the terms and conditions set by the resolution, in addition to the directors of Policies and Customs Affairs, Legal Affairs and Operations and Customs Control Departments.

“ The resolution provided for the mechanism of electing candidates so that the Authority will open the candidacy to private sector members, where members will be elected from a range of sectors or groups they represent, provided they have direct interaction with State customs.

The Authority announced that private sector representatives aspiring to join the Council could fill in candidacy form through their website with effect from today until the next three weeks. Interested individuals may visit the Authority website www.fca.gov.ae for further details.

Under the resolution, the office of a Council member will last for two years subject to renewal. The Council’s vice chairman will be elected by private sector members for one year and may be re-elected for a similar term.

The council comprises up to no more than 20 members from the private sector who are elected by candidacy in accordance with the terms and conditions set by the resolution

RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS CAN FLY TO RAS AL KHAIMAH WITHOUT APPROVAL

AE residents and tourists will be allowed to fly to Ras Al Khaimah without prior approval from October 15, authorities have confirmed.

They will be required to present a negative Covid-19 certificate from a swab test taken no more than 96 hours before they board a flight to Ras Al Khaimah International Airport.

All passengers must also undergo a PCR test on arrival.

Travellers or their sponsors must cover the cost of an additional test and the expense of quarantine if they test positive for the virus following airport screening, said the emirate’s Department of Civil Aviation.

The move comes as tight restrictions imposed on global air travel to combat the pandemic continue to gradually ease.

Tourists may enter the emirate from all countries on condition they fill in a medical tourism form in addition to presenting the negative Covid-19 test certificate.

Emirati citizens and residents will also be allowed to travel to any destination scheduled by Ras Al Khaimah International Airport, in line with travel procedures in place in those countries.

Ras Al Khaimah Airport offers flights to a number of major cities across the globe.