

**Speech of Prime Minister  
On the Inauguration of Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayad Al-Nayhan Hospital,  
Rawlakot on November 29, 2010**

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Raja Zulqarnain Khan, Honorable President of AJ&K,  
Sardar Atique Ahmed Khan, Prime Minister of AJ&K,  
Federal Ministers,  
Mr. Hamid Yar Hiraj, Chairman ERRA,  
Lt Gen Muhammad Haroon Aslam, Deputy Chairman ERRA,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalam-o-Aliakum!

It is a matter of immense pleasure for me to be part of this auspicious ceremony, which marks the inauguration of Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nayhan Hospital, Rawalakot. This hospital, besides being a symbol of hope and new life for the people of Rawalakot and other earthquake affected areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, epitomizes the time tested friendship between the brotherly peoples and governments of Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I acknowledge the generous support and help extended by our friends; the United Arab emirates, as usual being in the forefront, to alleviate the suffering and hardships of the hapless victims of the October 8 Earthquake.

This inauguration ceremony is, indeed, a memorable occasion for the people of Pakistan as well as Azad Jammu and Kashmir and will mark the beginning of latest healthcare services for the victims of 2005 Earthquake.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates have always enjoyed exemplary relations, based on our cultural affinities and values. Over the years the UAE has emerged as one of our most valued economic and trading partners. The United Arab Emirates has also surfaced as a philanthropist state; a reputation well earned in light of its assistance to third world countries. The Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nayhan Hospital, a 250-bed institution that will serve a population of 500,000, is one of many projects funded by the United Arab Emirates, not only in the earthquake affected areas but across Pakistan.

I just had a brief tour of the Hospital premises, and I saw before my eyes world class healthcare facilities, another landmark in this emerging commercial capital of AJ&K. I have no doubt that the Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nayhan Hospital will address the growing demand for efficient healthcare, as a multi-specialty hospital. It is highly appreciable that this project has been financed solely through charity. At this occasion I must pay tribute to those who lost their lives and those

who lost their loved ones in the earthquake, to whose memory we are dedicating this Hospital today.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Hospitals must meet the needs of all segments of our society. They must respond to the needs of the community at the grass root level. Medical and paramedical personnel must be imbued with deep sense of commitment to ensure the well being of the community they serve. It is, therefore, very satisfying that this Hospital, a symbol of compassion and philanthropy, is inspired by a larger commitment to the humanity. We have great hopes that this facility will emerge and maintain its reputation as a premier hospital.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

There are some issues that need to be addressed before the benefits of such facilities can accrue to the local population. The lack of qualified medical and paramedical staff after the earthquake must be addressed. AJ&K today, and for a number of years to come, has a great need of men and women qualified in the medical and paramedical fields. It is clear that we must envisage training for nurses and doctors. We must engage in strategic planning with local governments and medical institutions in order to conceive and put in place these training programmes, which are so critical for the future.

The October 2005 earthquake, besides causing massive loss to life and infrastructure, left millions of people homeless and in acute need of help. Without the help of friendly countries, development partners, NGOs and donors; the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the earthquake affected areas, in a short span of 5 years, would not have been possible. Natural disasters know no borders or limits. It is heartening to know that the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts also transcended geographical boundaries, and this humanitarian gesture helped to manage the aftermath of 2005 earthquake. I would like to reiterate the pledge of my government to stay the course till the complete rehabilitation of all the earthquake-hit areas.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

In the end, I thank you all for your presence on this auspicious occasion. I once again thank the people and government of United Arab Emirates for their generous help. My thanks and appreciation is also due to all those who remain associated with the construction of this mega project in various capacities. I wish this Hospital and the hospital staff, doctors and paramedics, a great success in the noble task of serving the local population in the ensuing years.

Thank you very much

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