

Chapter VII

Social Development

Youth and Sports

There are more than a quarter million people who participate in sports clubs in the country. These include 70,000 persons who are engaged in various activities in sports clubs and federations. The number of clubs has reached 600 in addition to those run by the military, armed forces and security as well as private clubs, etc. There are about 10 indoor sports halls, 7 large sports stadiums, 24 youth houses and centers and 44 multi purpose facilities.

Registered Members in Clubs and Scouts Teams

Description	Number
Youth and Sports Club	293
Club Branches	285
Empoyed with Clubs	75,848
Active Members Engaged in Sports	22,938
Members	87,200
Scouting Team Members	39,289

There are more than 11 million people below the age of 18 in Yemen. This makes it imperative to consider developing sports and cultural activities in schools and clubs and to build patriotic democratic culture. The government supports sports and youth activities by providing financing for social and sports facilities and activities. The government has issued legislation relating to the development of sports and youth, including the organizational bylaws for the Ministry of Youth and Culture enabling the Ministry to improve capacities of the youth and instill the values and implications of national unity. The Ministry also continues to construct youth and sports facilities, develops fraternal and friendly ties with other countries, and promotes youth events and joint sports activities. The government has also approved a General Strategy for Caring for Adolescents, Youth and Sports which has been issued in Decree no. 59 for 1999, stressing the following fundamentals:

- National allegiance and withholding values of freedom and democracy;
- Affirmation of Islam and Arab values;
- Involvement in development and integrated responsibility;
- Participation of society in nurturing the youth and the integration and coordination among the relevant social institutions.

Since the establishment of the unified state in 1990, the government has taken practical steps for the establishment of facilities for popular sports such as soccer. The government has spent about YR 12.8 billion during 1994-2005 for developing capacities and building up sports and good youth.

Club Members Engaged in Sports Activities

Activity	No. of Members	Activity	No. of Members
Soccer	36,000	Weightlifting	4,000
Volley Ball	16,000	Boxing	4,000
Ping Pong	8,800	Wrestling	2,400
Basketball	4,000	Swimming	2,400
Track and Field	28,800	Billiards	2,000
Chess	8,400	Kung Fu	16,200
Bicycles	4,000	Gymnastics	2,000
Handball	5,600	Field Tennis	600
Body Building	5,200	Horseback Riding	300
Taikwando	6,000		300
Judo	3,000	Total	160,000

Recognition Awards by the President of the Republic

President of the Republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh issued a Republican Decree no. 182 for 1998 on the Establishment of Awards of the President of the Republic for outstanding Youth. The awards cover the fields of Holy Koran recitation, technology and sciences, literature and fine arts. The decree set out regulation and award selection criteria and conditions, including defining the maximum age of contestants to 30 years. The first award ceremony was held in 1999, and awards were given to outstanding youth in the fields of the Holy Koran, poetry, tale writing and the fine arts. Contestants for the Awards have increased in recent years, and the awards have expanded nationwide. The awarding passes through a process of elimination ending up with a final selection at the national level. So far, 50 young men and women received the recognition awards (42 awards went to young men and 8 to young women).

Scouting and Women Guides

The number of members and leaders of the boys and girls scouting teams in the Republic of Yemen has reached 39,289, reflecting the increasing attention paid to scouts. The Strategy for the Development of Boys and Girls Scouts has outlined the general objectives in community development and meeting the needs of young people. In addition the strategy seeks to activate community service and development to address challenges of the 21st century and to work towards integrating development activities in scouting program. The work of scouts over recent years has been tangible matching the role of scouts with the administrative, rehabilitation and public information needs. Scouts across the country have been committed to undertaking rehabilitation courses in the fields of accidents, violence, the environment, first aid and civil defense. Scouts also help in the organization of other activities such as national celebrations and international occasions, participation in the “Know Your

Nation” cultural and tourism programs in the governorates and in providing service to pilgrims traveling to Mecca.

Childhood

Demographic changes in Yemen showed children making up more than 40% of the population. Children are the generations of the future who will take up the responsibility for development and building a modern Yemen. The government has intensified its efforts to cater to the needs of children. The government has ratified a Convention on the Rights of the Child on 26 January 1991. The Convention stresses commitment towards children and the need to secure all means necessary for their protection, nurturing and rehabilitating in order to empower them to become pillars for development and good members of society. The Yemeni Council for Maternal and Child Care was established in 1999. It is responsible for preparing a general strategy and policies related to maternity and childhood. The government has worked towards including the rights of children in legislation, especially in the Constitution and has intensified awareness raising on the rights of children such as non-discrimination, right to life, freedom of speech, civil rights and freedom, right of organization into associations and the freedom of peaceful assembly, etc. The establishment of a Children Parliament is another achievement of Yemen’s democratization process. Children have been encouraged to participate in national festivals and occasions. This clearly shows the level of significance that children have reached. Similarly, the First Conference on Childhood was also held in 1999. There is also a need to expand services of social care for children and increase the number of social protection associations especially for minors and the handicapped.

Social Care

The government took on the responsibility of caring for the disabled in society through expansion in housing institutions and centers for the disabled. Such institutions and homes provide rehabilitation and training for the handicapped and people of special needs to acquire practical skills that generate income and ensure integration into society. Rehabilitation and social care centers were set up to accommodate different types of the handicapped. They have been equipped and provided with well trained staff. Schools for the handicapped and disabled include the deaf and mute in order to teach them typing and secretarial work, sewing, tricot and upholstery. In addition, handicapped children are trained and rehabilitated for appropriate activities that will integrate them into society.

The number of social care and rehabilitation centers reached 25 centers and houses that are distributed in all governorates. The number of the centers under the National Program for Productive Families increased from 10 centers in 1990 to 59 centers in 2004. These centers train families in productive work. The number of beneficiaries from these centers multiplied noticeably from 100 beneficiaries to 3000 beneficiaries over the same period. The services of the program were also available in all governorates.

Social Safety Network

When the government began implementing the Economic, Financial and Administrative Reform Program in 1995, implementation of the reforms were linked to establishing an integrated Social Safety Network. The SSN aims to employ the largest possible number of manpower, to reduce unemployment and alleviate poverty. Efforts exerted in this respect have already yielded positive results by means of the impact of the SSN institutions and approaches.

Social Welfare Fund

The Social Welfare Fund was established in 1996. The objective of the SWF is to provide cash assistance to the needy and secure care and protection for individuals and families. The SWF provides permanent assistance to orphans and women, who do not have a breadwinner, or who suffer from permanent total or partial temporary disability and to families with an absent or missing breadwinner and families with an imprisoned provider or recently released provider from jail.

The SWF has undertaken surveys for identification of the needy cases in all governorates. This has been in accordance with a program that aimed to increase the number of beneficiaries by a projected 50,000 cases a year. The number of beneficiaries in 2004 came to 550,000 beneficiaries.

Social Fund for Development

The Social Fund for Development was established in 1997. The aim of the SFD was to participate effectively in the implementation of the economic and social development plans. This is to be done in cooperation and coordination with the local communities and involvement of the beneficiaries in planning proposed projects. The SFD achieves its objectives by means of the following programs:

- 1) Community Development Program, which includes education, water supply, health, rural roads, the environment and cultural heritage;
- 2) Capacity Building Program, by means of supporting local communities, government agencies, NGOs and contractors;
- 3) Small Enterprises Development Program and Micro Credit Program, which finances small investors.

The SFD has implemented the First and Second Phases of its activities during the period 1997-2004. The total number of executed projects comes to 330 projects that are distributed around all governorates and include all various targeted fields. The implementation of these projects has contributed to raising the development rates of the basic sectors, in reducing poverty and in reducing unemployment. Work has commenced in the implementation of the Third Phase, which aims to accomplish 4,400 projects at a total cost of YR 70 billion.

Projects Implemented by the SFD during 1997-2004

Sector	No. of Projects	US \$ (million)
Environment	110	14.9
Interateed Interventions	38	1.8
Trianing	226	4
Education	2,133	175.9
Institutional Buildup	263	8.7
Health	354	23.7
Roads	155	16.9
Groups with Special Needs	231	15.9
Micro Credits	73	6.4
Small Enterprises	12	1.5
Cultural Heritage	97	13.9
Water	716	45.7
Total	4,408	329.3

Public Works Project

The Public Works Project was established in 1996 in order to contribute in the implementation of the SSN policies. The PWP finances projects in health, education, water, sanitation, roads, agriculture, public buildings and social affairs. The PWP entered into contracts for project implementation in accordance to an advanced management mechanism that ensures efficiency in execution and the employment of the largest number of workers. The PWP achieved significant success during the past years and contributed to the completion of infrastructure projects and basic services in all governorates. The number of projects implemented during both the First and Second Phases was 2,035 projects at a total cost of \$ 196 million.

The PWP provides nearly 64,000 job opportunities a month and contracts 260 contractors, 147 engineers and consulting offices. The PWP has begun working on the Third Stage. The cost of this stage is estimated to be about \$ 120 million.

Yemeni Emigrants

The history of Yemeni emigration goes back to ancient times. The biggest early emigration of Yemenis was the wave that left after the collapse of the ancient Marib Dam. This wave headed for Najd, Al-Hijaz, and Al-Maghareb. With the advent of Islam and its spread, Yemenis were in the vanguard in the Islamic conquests and in the propagation of Islam in many of the African and Asian countries. Large groups of Yemenis also immigrated in late 19th Century and early 20th Century to African

countries, such as Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania (Tanganyika and Zanzibar), and to Asian countries such as Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. The second half of the 20th Century witnessed a wave of economic emigration for large numbers of Yemenis to countries of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, to East Africa, to the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Yemeni emigrants played a major role in supporting the national patriotic movement and similarly in the efforts exerted to achieve Yemeni unification.

At the time of unification, the number of Yemeni emigrants was estimated at about 2 million persons distributed in different countries throughout the world. The annual remittances sent back amounted to \$ 1 billion. These remittances played an important role in providing a significant share of the foreign currency requirements of the country during the 1970s and 1980s. However, after the Second Gulf Crisis in 1990, nearly 1 million Yemeni emigrants returned home. The unified state of Yemen dealt with this problem wisely. It gradually began to turn towards liberalizing economic policy and freeing the economy from the constraints that were facing the private sector and investment. This encouraged local and emigrant Yemeni capital to set up projects in all fields, in addition to having an impact in rehabilitation of the returning labor, especially after acquiring technical and service skills. However, Yemeni emigration did not stop altogether. The number of Yemeni emigrants who still maintain contact with the homeland is about 1.7 million persons, without mentioning the larger number of Yemenis who have acquired the citizenships of different countries, such as those in Southeast Asia and East Africa.

Continuous contact is maintained with the heads of the Yemeni communities overseas to monitor their conditions and solve their problems as they arise. The First Emigrants Conference was held in May 1999 and the Second Conference was held in September 2002. Many of the concerns related to the emigrants and their contribution in the march towards development were discussed. Based on the foregoing, Law No. 34 for 2002 Concerning Yemeni Emigrants was issued. The Law confirmed the need to provide care to the emigrants while in the country and overseas, and has identified the rights and benefits enjoyed by Yemeni emigrants. These include taking part in elections, training and education,...etc. The government provides the school books, curricula and teaching aids to the schools of the Yemeni communities, not to forget overcoming the problems of more than 150,000 students through getting them enrolled in public schools in the Gulf states.

The Armed Forces

During 15 years, the armed forces were able to make major quantitative and qualitative strides in all organizational and training aspects. The armed forces have become capable of dealing with the most modern technologies to face up to the challenges, to defend the sovereignty of the homeland and protect the gains of the revolution and unity. The strategy which the armed forces charted out rests on a clear vision, which was set out by the President of the Republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. He emphasized: "We are building our armed forces with the perception of the era and the requirements for safeguarding national sovereignty until it becomes a defense force that can be relied upon in defending the decks of the country and the gains of peaceful work for the people and

in providing the safe climates for development and comprehensive resurgence of the country.

To the extent that the modernization and development of the Yemeni Armed Forces comes as an urgent requirement imposed by the international changes, which Yemen can not remain isolated from, they also come as a national necessity for defending national sovereignty and insuring the maintenance of the security and stability that our country enjoys. They also accompanied the significant progress achieved in the different aspects of political, economic and social life. It should be taken into consideration that there is no development without the role of the armed forces and no effective armed forces without development.

Rehabilitation and Educational Facilities

The rehabilitation of the Armed Forces proceeded along the major directions. Most outstanding was the focus on improving and modernizing the national military educational facilities. Facilities were either newly set up or staffed with qualified teaching and training staff of high academic specialization. Officers, staff and soldiers were also sent overseas to specialize in fields that were needed in the Armed Forces. Modernization of the military educational facilities included upgrading the curricula of the War Academy and securing the most updated means and equipment. They also entailed creating several military academies, institutes and schools, including the Air Force and Air Defense Academy, the Naval Academy, the Command and General Staff Academy and the Al-Thulia Institute for Leadership Rehabilitation and Training. Other educational facilities were also established and developed, of which is the Technical Training Center for the Air Force and Air Defense Corp.

The Higher Military Academy was also established to include the Command and General Staff Academy, the Higher War Academy, the National Defense Academy, and the Strategic Research and Studies Center. The new headquarters for the Academy was inaugurated on 24th September 2004, and has been equipped with the latest scientific and teaching instruments. It consists of 16 lecture halls, 2 computer labs, a language laboratory and 2 semi central halls. There is also a central hall with a capacity for 1,000 persons and is equipped with the latest audiovisual equipment, studios, technical preparation rooms, control unit and simultaneous translation. There are also the administrative and service offices. This academic fortress is considered one of the main landmarks that the Armed Forces can be proud to have realized.

The Naval and Coastal Defense Forces

The attention to building up the Naval and Coastal Defense Forces became apparent, as a result of the extended coasts and territorial waters. There is also the strategic importance of the islands spread out in both the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea and their relevance to preserving the national sovereignty, in addition to the need for modernization of the naval forces as a strategic force. The naval force was able to make long strides in taking its rightful place as a trusty guard and defender of the sovereignty of our territorial waters and Yemeni islands. The Naval Forces have a

well established base that qualifies it to defend Yemen's sovereignty, through the available means it has in the areas of maintenance of naval vessels and its constant preparedness. The naval forces also protect the water passages and inlets to Yemen and prevent their use for smuggling, which adversely affects development efforts.

The Air Force and Air Force Defense

The Subsidiary Plan for the Air Force, after implanting the roots of unity after the 1994 War, included various programs to elevate the Air Force. The most outstanding signs have been the implementation of the mobilization projects on the map and on ground, which took place with the participation of the Army and the Naval Forces. The aim has been to improve the skills of the personnel in force and raise their combat capabilities, especially the development of the skills of pilots and technicians. The maintenance programs were intensified and detailed inspections were carried out on aircrafts, in order to maintain the technical and combat readiness and to carry out emergency missions, in addition to enhance the capacities of the Air Force with modern aircraft, of which the MIG-29 is the most outstanding. The MIG-29 is considered one of the strongest combat interceptor aircraft in the world. This makes the Air Force a striking force capable of protecting the national sovereignty, and the strongest element in enhancing the defense capabilities of Yemen.

The Republican Guards and the Special Forces

Based on the importance of strengthening the defense capabilities of the nation, the Republican Guards and the Special Forces were established. Today, they have turned into a force that is worthy of pride. The personnel have been rehabilitated and trained in accordance with the latest basis of combat and operational training. These forces were supported with advanced combat weapons and equipment. Morale has been also a crucial element in such preparations.

The preparation of these forces centered on four main directions, which are proper planning of the training systems, precise implementation of all training plans and programs, strict monitoring of implementation, and the continuous evaluation of the training duties and obligations and reinforcement of the disciplinary aspect. The creation of these forces constitutes a new take-off in the course of building up and developing the defense institution of Yemen. These forces are characterized by excellent capability to carry out combat missions and maneuvering, and moving from a defensive stance to an offensive one, as well as acting decisively in combat. Up to now, several specialized batches have graduated with proven capability to deal skillfully with all forms and aspects of modern battles. At the same time, they can also provide assistance to members of society in the most complicated and difficult military and security situations, including combating terrorism in all its forms, as well as fighting smuggling and preventing infiltration along the land and marine borders of Yemen.

The Duties of the Armed Forces in Development

The noble slogan “The military for defense and construction” remains the guide to determining the role, duties and responsibilities of the armed forces in protecting the nation, ensuring its sovereignty and independence and safeguarding all the gains. In addition, there is the positive and effective contribution to the efforts exerted by the people in achieving progress, advancement and prosperity of the nation under the path towards comprehensive development. In this context, the Armed Forces undertook the construction and development of military airports, plants and laboratories. This entailed all the different technical preparation, including building workshops and processing facilities. The Armed Forces also participated in constructing roads, telephone links, and water and electricity lines. In addition, it has been involved in constructing dams and water dikes, drilling of wells, building mosques and health clinics, installation of water desalination plants, and the provision of cisterns in the islands, etc.

The Unity of the Military and the People

The political leadership is adamant in strengthening the relationship between the armed forces and the masses of the people. Such relationship is the mirror of truth. The Armed Forces have sacrificed streams of martyrs and was at the forefront in launching the Yemeni Revolution of 26 September and 14 October. It was also in the frontlines to achieve and defend the unity of Yemen. It also displayed the greatest moments of bravery in the victory of the will of the people for unity and constitutional legitimacy. With these positions of the heroes of the Armed Forces, the different groups that make up the people stood as strong supporters for the fighters of the Armed and Security Forces. The people provided all sorts of support, whether through volunteering with soldiers for the defense of unity or through the material and moral support, which were manifested by the caravans of popular support. Bright pages were recorded by men and women backing the Revolution and the Yemeni unity.

The bonds and the close relationship between the masses and the Armed Forces are more solidified when facing challenges and disasters. The fighters in the Armed Forces take part in rescue efforts, provision of medical services, reconstruction and in many development projects that serve the people. Hence, the relationship between the people and the Armed Forces becomes stronger and deeper.

Military Medical Services

The military medical services witnessed a noticeable transformation, which has been reflected in improving the performance of the central military hospitals in Sana’a, Aden and Hodeida. Military medical services sections have been established in the Air Force and Air Defense, the Navy and Coastal Defense, and in the military regions. The military medical services provide services to all members of the Armed Force and their families. Hospitals have been equipped with all their requirements and were staffed with qualified human capabilities, including the construction of outpatient clinics, support to laboratories with modern equipment, provision of heart and general

surgery units, internal medicine units for the intensive care sections, introduction of the magnetic resonance radiation machine, core sectionalized photography, ultra sound equipment and “television” examination equipment. In addition, the artificial kidney section at the Military Hospital was equipped with the latest advanced medical equipment.

Security and the Police

The reunification of the Republic of Yemen placed heavy responsibilities on all national patriotic official and community forces and institutions, led by the security branch. It also required the restructuring of the security branch and improving its performance to keep pace with the wheel of development and modernization. The Ministry of Interior was provided the appropriate climate for strategic restructuring in a modern and progressive manner. The MOI worked towards amending several laws and by-laws that included the functions, duties and rights in all areas and branches of the security services. These include the Law of Police Authority No. 15 for 2000 and Law No. 10 for 2001 for the Creation of a Police Academy, in addition to the approval of the laws that regulate work in many of the authorities and departments of the Ministry. Such laws include the Laws of Passports, Residence, Citizenship, Personal Status, the Civil Record, Prisons, Traffic, Civil Defense, and Possession of Weapons and Explosives. The MOI also relied on scientific planning, by means of carrying out a comprehensive and qualitative survey of human and material resources of the Ministry, followed by classifying them and reorganizing status of staff based on specializations. Computerized documentation and archiving has been also adopted by installing various computer systems.

The MOI emphasized four pillars for its development effort, which are IT, training and rehabilitation, expansion of infrastructure and implementation of strategic plans. In view of the significance of using information systems in security work, the Department of Information and Translations was set up at the Minister of Interior’s Office, which was linked with the Immigration and Passports Authority and its systems. This department undertakes following up on developments through the Internet, in addition to the introduction of an electronic archiving system. Work is also proceeding towards completing the interconnection with other authorities and departments, as well as the ambitious introduction of electronic information messaging.

In the Capital Secretariat, a new automatic control system was recently set up using digital cameras. This is a first phase undertaken through the Operation Room. Work is also proceeding in the construction of the First Security Complex in the Capital Secretariat (The Model Police Complex), which will encompass all services provided to the public. This model will be replicated in all governorates. Police telecom witnessed noticeable improvements, as a result of the modernization of the telecom systems used by the security units and governorates. Advanced telecom systems were introduced to the Central and Subsidiary Connection Units. Similarly, a number of telecom systems, both HF and VHF were also introduced, in addition to the “conference” system, with the control system. These systems control and cover all on foot and mobile patrols in the cities and long hauls as well as the security deployment services in the regions, district and outposts.

Training and Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation and training took on major significance since the early days after reunification of the homeland. Educational curricula have been improved in the educational institutions of MOI, such as the Police Academy, the Specialized Institute for Police Officers, the Training School for Police Personnel, the training wings and camps of the Central Security and Emergency Police. Foreign languages have been added as new subjects for rehabilitation purposes. These institutions have been also equipped with the required teaching instruments, laboratories, and computer systems. The MOI worked towards expansion of the Police Women Services and prepared the gender training and rehabilitation centers and programs, including the Training School for Police Personnel. The MOI took in more than one thousand women recruits among its ranks engaged in administrative work, medical services, immigration, passports and civil status, etc.

Security personnel are also trained in the Yemeni universities and institutes and in some fraternal and friendly countries. They receive specialized training courses and higher education, besides on the job training and preparation. Physical and mental preparation for policemen is undertaken through the General Headquarters of the Police Sports Federation and the Sports sections in the security agencies, including martial and self defense arts and the development of intellectual and mental talents. They also practice various sports activities.

Expansion of Infrastructure

The MOI is working to keep pace with the expansion in deployment and modernization of the security by means of providing security facilities in all governorates. Completed projects came to 274 buildings and installations up to the end of 2004, comprising police precincts and security departments. The total cost of the latter is YR 6,461 million. In addition there are 127 projects in progress that are estimated at YR 4,976 million.

Implementing the Strategic Plan and Reinforcing Security Deployment

In January 1995, MOI prepared a security strategy to match the accelerating economic and social transformation. This strategy aimed for the expansion and presence of police services in all 332 districts of the country. The implementation of the first phase of the security deployment plan started in 2002, with the establishment of 13 security regions in Shabwa, Marib and Al-Jouf Governorates. In the second phase, security services were deployed in 126 districts and 70 security and traffic police outposts were set up covering most governorates. In the third phase, security personnel assigned for the security deployment were given specialized training, and 14 security regions were set up and the remaining security and traffic monitoring

outposts were completed. In the fourth phase, the MOI seeks to implement comprehensive expansion in the area of specialized police services in all governorates, such as on foot patrol police, tourism police, investigations, traffic and anti terrorism and drug control.

The Central Security Forces also witnessed broad developments and modernization in terms of equipment and methods and means of preparing, training and rehabilitating personnel. Several batches for specialist units and anti-terror squads were graduated. They were also provided with modern equipment and machines enabling them to carry out their special and exceptional missions under all circumstances.

Deployment of Police Services and Simplifying Procedures

The recent period witnessed following up on the process of modernizing work methods in all authorities and departments falling under MOI, such as the Passports, Immigration and Citizenship Authority, the Civil Status Authority, the Prison Authority, in addition to the newly established Coast Guards Authority. Work commenced with the automated issuance of passports six years ago, which has been expanded to eight branches operating with the automated system. In addition, there are eight embassies using the system and connected with the Headquarters by means of networking. MOI also introduced a computerized monitoring system for arrival and departure traffic in the airports, seaports and overland inlets, which is also linked to Headquarters.

MOI was adamant in taking advantage of the information communication and information technology applications in the various activities, including issuance of personal identification cards of the citizens. The number of branches applying the system at the governorate level is 10 branches by year end 2004, all of which are connected directly with the Headquarters through the supported network linkage. In 2003, the project to introduce the fingerprint, civil register and national number systems was inaugurated. The purpose is to establish a national data base, which will be useful in elections and referenda.

During the past period, a large number of buildings designed to serve as correction facilities were completed. This has been in light of considering the provision of better services to inmates, who are completing their penal sentences. These facilities are in the Governorates of Al-Dhalia'a, Amran, Shabwa, and Sa'ada. In addition, most of the prison buildings and correction facilities were renovated and auxiliary buildings were constructed in some governorates. The Central Prison in the Capital Secretariat was supplied with electronic surveillance systems, in addition to equipping the carpentry and cinder block making shops. Equipment for operating the clinic of the prison was provided. In addition, four contingency jails in the Capital Secretariat were built. Prisoners were categorized in groups, according to age and by type of crime. Instruments and means for leisure and for engaging in some sports were provided, besides opening a library for reading. A batch of graduates from the Police Personnel School, who were specialized to work in central prisons, was distributed to work in several governorates, which reflected positively in the services of penal facilities.

The National De-mining Program

Planting mines in Yemen dates back to more than 40 years. Mines were implanted during the different phases of conflict and wars including the outbreak of the Yemeni Revolution on 26 September 1962, when the enemies of the Revolution tried to purge the Revolution. During that period, land mines were implanted in the northern governorates, especially in Marib, Al-Jouf, Sana'a, Hajjah, Amran and Sa'ada. The second period extended from 1979 to 1983, and resulted from the conflict between the two parts of Yemen. Mines were implanted in Ibb, al-Dhali'a, Al-Beidha, Dhamar, Ta'ez and Al-Hodeida. The third period was in 1994 during the War for the Defense of Unity. The Secessionists implanted mines in the Governorates of Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Al-Dhali'a, Hadhramaut, Shabwa and Al-Mahara. Thus, all governorates are threatened by mines, with the exception of Al-Mahweet Governorate.

A National De-mining Committee under the supervision of the Prime Minister was established in June 1998 through the Prime Minister's Decree No. 46. The Chairman of the Committee is assisted by a number of advisory committees, each of these committees is responsible for one of the main components of the National De-mining Programme. The National De-mining Strategy set out the main components of the National Programme in the removal of mines, the collection and disposal of unexploded ordnance. The Programme aims to implement government plans and strategies for dealing with land mines and cleaning Yemeni territory from all mines, including addressing the bodily injuries, psychological effects, and the environmental impacts of these mines. The programme assists, rehabilitates and integrates the victims and the adversely affected into economic and social life. It spreads awareness and educates people on the hazards of mines and unexploded ordnance. It also rebuilds the damaged areas and turns them over to the local authorities. The Programme also aims to comply with the international commitments on mines, considering that Yemen is party to the Ottawa Convention for Destruction and Prohibition of the Use, Storage, Production and Transport of All Personal Mines.

The Survey of the First Level of the Impact of Mines started in 1999 and ended in 2000. An area of 145,000 m² was cleansed by the end of 2004. As a result, 478 personal mines, 791 anti-tank mines and 722,000 unexploded artillery were destroyed. The Committee gave compensation, carried out the required surgery to the victims of the mines and undertook awareness raising activities in the field, targeting 790,000 inhabitants of the affected areas.

The Programme enjoys external support, which had an impact on the success of the activities of the National Committee and the latter's ability to implement its annual plans and programs. The leading countries providing support to the Programme are the United States of America, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Japan, Great Britain, Germany, Canada, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden and the United Nations. A National De-mining Training Center was set up in Aden to provide the staff needed for the Programme in most operational aspects. These include surveying, cleansing and exploding the mines. The Center has proven to be highly efficient in preparing the staff with the qualifications, holding 29 training courses, which targeted 1,170 trainees. Eight de-mining squadrons graduated from the center. The government is seeking to turn the center into a regional center, in view of Yemen's being a pioneer in de-mining in the region.

Yemen and the War on Terror

The Republic of Yemen adopted a democratic pluralistic approach based on consultation and adherence to the pillars of Islamic Shari'ah and national values. Accordingly, the way was paved for all the political currents, organizations and parties to come out and express themselves. The political leadership was very adamant to remove all causes of political violence which Yemen used to experience. However, despite this, it was obvious that Yemen was a target for terrorist groups, without any justifications except misunderstanding religious teachings. This has been the case, since the incident involving the kidnapping of tourists in Abyan in 1998 and the subsequent terrorist and violence events in Yemen.

Some Yemeni governorates were exposed to several bomb attacks that aimed to disrupt and hit the general security, stability and peace, as well as damage the national economy. These terrorist acts left the most felt damage to the stability, security and general peace, and was adversely reflected on the reputation of Yemen and on development and investment in general. Yemen has also been subject of campaigns to tarnish its image. Measures and arrangements to confront these acts cost the public treasury additional burdens, translated in means to reinforce security deployment and the increase of military and security campaigns. In addition, thousands of troops were recruited; a Coast Guard Force was developed for protecting ships. Moreover, special security forces were set up for the protection of oil fields and oil companies operating in Yemen. Strict procedures were also applied against Yemeni travelers, especially those heading for the United States and Europe. Yemenis are increasingly subjected to strict measures and members of Yemeni communities overseas have been arrested.

The terrorist acts caused the heaviest toll on the economy, resulting in adverse effects on economic development in general. Most affected has been the tourism sector. Tourism revenues were at their lowest level up to 2001. Environmentally, the bomb attack against the French tanker "Limburg" led to an environmental disaster along 130 km of coastline in Hadhramaut. This resulted from the spill of 150,000 barrels of crude oil. The pollution spread to other beaches and areas under the effects of the winds that drifted the oil spill, thus threatening the marine life in general and hampering the livelihood of thousands of fishermen. The losses to Yemen arising from this incident were estimated at around \$ 16 million, notwithstanding the reduced fish exports due to pollution. Shipping traffic was affected in the various Yemeni ports after the bomb attack, especially the Container Port of Aden. Some companies and capital holders refrained from implementing the projects they have registered or from entering into new investments.

The banking sector was also subjected to a big economic shock and heavy losses that multiplied after the "Limburg" bombing incident, due to damaged political and economic reputation of Yemen. This was reflected in declining emigrant remittances which have been also exposed to exceptional procedures and strict investigations by the monetary authorities in most countries.

Confronting Terrorism and Adopting Means of Dialogue

The government undertook swift efforts to confront terrorism and stood up strongly against terrorism, especially after the 11th of September 2001 incidents. The government looked into the terrorism acts analyzing its causes and symptoms, and identifying ways to eliminate terrorism. The government adopted a policy of combating terrorism based on the following pillars:

- Conduct dialogue to uproot intellectual basis of extremism and terrorism;
- Undertake necessary arrangements to prevent crimes before they occur, and pursue the perpetrators thereof and present them to justice;
- Solve the economic problems, which are exploited to carry out acts of terror;
- Coordinate regionally and internationally to combat terrorism, in accordance with the Constitution, the effective laws and the legitimate decrees of the international community and the international treaties to which Yemen is party.

The Committee for Dialogue was established, and it started work by listing the conceptual differences that extremists seem to grasp, and considering the conceptual references and jurisprudential opinions that extremists base their beliefs on. An agenda for dialogue was also prepared, including exertion of maximum efforts to prepare and carry out a conceptual review of the topics of dialogue. In addition, the Committee highlighted rules and behavioral guidelines for conducting the dialogue and the arguments against extremism that needs to be prepared to achieve the desired goal. However, the most significant results of this dialogue have been:

- Eliminating violence, extremism and terrorism in all its forms and images;
- Ensuring obedience to leaders in charge of affairs and adherence to the Constitution and effective laws, which prohibit any party from having military formations or include members who are part of such formations;
- Preservation of the security and stability of the Republic of Yemen and staying away from all acts that violate the country's security and stability;
- Respect for the rights of non-Moslems, which includes the inviolability of their blood, property and bodies;
- Prohibition of attacking embassies and interests of countries tied to the Republic of Yemen by treaties, as long as these treaties are valid. Permission to enter a country is considered a safe passage until the permit is cancelled by the responsible authority.

The Guarantees and Benefits of the Dialogue

Yemen has been the sole country adopting dialogue in confronting terrorism. Dialogue gained approval from all, after it faced apprehension domestically and externally due to the release of those involved in the dialogue with no criminal cases. The fear arose that Dialogue might be just a means for obtaining freedom from arrest. However, many benefits have been realized through the Dialogue initiative, most important have been protecting the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the effective laws. This opened a door of hope for those who are interested in returning to the straight path. It has also corrected misconceptions on Islam and removed bloody confrontations between extremists and the security forces; helping impose security and stability. Yemen has not experienced any significant terrorism incident since December 2002.

