

ALN  **AFRICA INVESTMENT**
CONFERENCE | 7 - 8 NOV 2018 | DUBAI



SPEECH BY

His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan
Minister for Tolerance, United Arab Emirates

Your Excellency Dr. Diarra, Dr. Mills, Esteemed Ambassadors, Mr. Anjarwalla, Distinguished Speakers and Guests, Members and Clients of the Africa Legal Network, Potential Investors, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I take great pleasure in welcoming all of you to Dubai and the United Arab Emirates. I am especially pleased that you share a common interest in investing and undertaking business in Africa. I and many others of the nine and a half million people living and working in the UAE share that interest as well. This conference will strengthen our common interest.

Led by the extraordinary polymath Dr. Diarra, the senior management team at the Africa Legal Network has arranged a challenging and informative program that addresses vital issues. This is the fifth Africa Legal Network International Investment Conference, and this year's program exceeds the scope and immediacy of its predecessors. An incredibly strong international assembly of seventy-two talented and experienced experts will speak during this conference. They will offer priceless knowledge to all participants. I am confident that you will all conclude this conference better prepared to deal with the many matters that affect investing and undertaking business in Africa.

We are all indebted to the vision and persistence of Anjarwalla, Collins, & Haidermota in supporting the Africa Legal Network. In 2004 the earlier firm of Anjarwalla and Khanna in Nairobi, Kenya, recognized the need for professional, timely, and efficient commercial legal services for clients on a regional basis and therefore established an association of law firms in East Africa. MMAKS Advocates of Uganda and ADEPT Chambers of Tanzania joined Anjarwalla and Khanna as the first members of the group. Now with a presence in sixteen African countries, an associate firm in South Africa, and a regional office here in Dubai, the Africa Legal Network is a powerful force for development, well-being, and prosperity in the world's second largest continent. We are not at all surprised that the Africa Legal Awards recently presented ALN with the African Network / Alliance of the Year award. It is a well-deserved honor.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Whether or not this is your first visit to Dubai, you are likely to be impressed by the incredible infrastructure that surrounds you. Even those of us who live here marvel at what has been accomplished in just a few short decades. In Dubai and the United Arab Emirates, we have been blessed by wise leadership. Our founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, was determined to transform the UAE for the benefit of his people.

Because we are celebrating the centennial of his birth in this Year of Zayed, we have been reflecting on his achievements and his ideals. I am particularly impressed by his perspective on development. Quoting his words:

Progress and renaissance are not to be measured by reinforced concrete structures, but rather by building [the] human being and providing citizens with everything that [allows them to] live in happiness and [have a] decent life.

As you entrepreneurs and developers realize your projects in Africa, I urge you to consider how you can positively influence the lives of people through your work. This is not only

humane, it is good business. A happy, educated, healthy and safe population is a solid foundation for successful long-term investment and growth. Sheikh Zayed believed this, and invested accordingly in the people of the United Arab Emirates.

His successor, our President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahayan shares that belief and continues to invest wisely in the people of the UAE. In the President's own words (and I quote):

The UAE is...among the major countries of the world in spreading the culture of peace, dialogue, the delivery of foreign aid, the mitigation of impact of disasters and meeting the requirements of the vulnerable.

Investors in Africa today will distinguish themselves by operating in that same spirit. Although the bottom line cannot be ignored, the welfare of the people must always be considered. The many countries of Africa are too familiar with the effects of colonialism, corruption, and conflict. The people of Africa deserve investments in tolerance, compassion, and dialogue—investments that you all can provide.

I am aware that such investments require vision, patience, persistence, and immense understanding. Perhaps these investments need inspiration as well. I believe that you will experience that inspiration tonight when you have the exciting privilege of hearing the music of Sauti Sol. Their songs express the confidence, pride, and optimism of a continent rich in its cultural diversity and human resources.

I wish you all an informative, productive, and profitable conference.

And in wishing you all well in this ALN Investment Conference, I close with these poignant Sauti Sol lyrics:

**There's no place I'd rather be.
I want to live and die in Africa.**

Thank you.