

VISION 2030

by Vision 2030 Vision 2030

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Introduction

The success of a nation is dependent mainly on the vision it has for its future. The vision is a target that the state aims to achieve at the end of a certain period. It is where we want to be. In this case the vision is designed based on the strong pillars that hold the nation together. The effort towards achieving the nation's vision is not for the government alone but for the people as a whole. This study will lay a foundation on the overall vision of Saudi Arabia, it will then go ahead to highlight the key economic milestones that the nation has made as it approaches the year 2030 (Low, 2012)

Vision 2030 in General (Literature Review)

For Saudi Arabia, the motivation behind its vision 2030 is based on five factors. First, its belief as a region ⁴as the heart of both the Arab and Islamic world. The belief in Allah, establishes a strong pillar with recognition that he has placed the necessary resources for advancement of the land. With it being the location of the two greatest Mosques and also the direction towards which prayers are made, it stands out as an added advantage.

Secondly, the state is determined to be a place in which global development takes place. With the nation having great investment abilities, it is easy to attract investors and harness economic resources for its growth. The third factor is its location. Saudi Arabia is located at the center of the three great states, that is, Africa, Asia and Europe. Its location between the major marine waterways makes it a center through which trade happens, and a place that connects various regions in the world promoting globalization. The fourth factor is that the nation is rich in natural resources that are beneficial to economic growth. Not only does the nation have oil that it depends of for energy, it also has gold and other minerals. Finally, the nation depends on the ambition of its people. "The younger generation form the greater part of the nation that is focused in ensuring that the nation gets to the desired vision." (Low, 2012)

Generally, the vision of the nation is aimed at reinforcing and diversifying the capabilities of the economy by turning them into major strengths of the economy. This will include transformation of the key production companies within the nation to be global while coming up

with ways to produce what they import from outside within the country. For instance, there is focus in production of the military weapons within the nation as a way of promoting growth and also maximizing creation of job opportunities for its people. The nation also aims at digitalization as a way of saving time through doing away with bureaucracy and increasing efficiency. In digitalization, it aims to improve transparency and accountability mainly in government agencies which will help keep in check and ensure that the government delivers its promise to the people. One of the Custodians of the Holy Mosques in the past asked the nationals to make plans for the future of the nation and work towards fulfilling its aspirations. In this case the people work basing on his words as an order (Kinninmont et al, 2017)

The aim of the vision is not based on short-term goals such as creation of employment opportunities, it is based on a long term goal of creating opportunities for the citizens and working towards helping the citizens achieve their long-term goals and ambition. It focuses on creation of a sustainable environment for the long-term future. The citizens are determined not to rest until the nation achieves its dream of being a leader in provision of opportunities through its education system and the high quality of services in both the social, economic and health sector.

The people are committed in ensuring that the government provides world class services that meet the needs of its citizens efficiently and effectively. They are committed in united effort in building unlocking the hidden potentials and talents within its young people, building a better country, and full filling the prosperity dream. This will be achieved by ensuring that the nation has a high bargaining power in the economic market and leads in the closing of deals within the market. "The belief of the people is that they have the resources that are required for achieving whatever they purpose to achieve." (Ramady, 2018)

The vision will be for a robust, firm and thriving economy with open opportunities for all people within the nation. The vision is for an inclusive economy governed by Islamic laws which are moderated for the bettering of the economy. The vision is for the economy to allow people who are qualified from other states to come into the nation and work with the people to achieve the overall dreams of growth of the nation. It is for provision of better opportunities that in investment in the private sector with its key strengths in terms of its location, it being the heart of the Arabs and Islam and its natural resources. The vision is for improvement of the business environment to create sustainable opportunities for growth of the economy and the advancement

of the dreams of the people within the nation. The vision is dependent on cooperation of all the people within the state in ensuring that it is successful (Kinninmont et al, 2017)

Research question

The vision of the nation is divided into three themes, a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious Nation. All these are wrapped up partly in the economic vision of the nation and that is where this study focuses. It answers the question: “How has Saudi Arabia transitioned towards achieving the goal of economic growth?”

Methodology

The methodology of the study will be both Qualitative and quantitative. Using findings from world organizations such as the international monetary funds in terms of the statistics as well as commentaries from world economic organizations.

Economic Growth (Results and Discussions)

The focus of the vision was in creation of equal opportunities in the economy. This it would achieve by developing an education system which trains the citizens by equipping them with the skills that are required within the market, and helps them to make the correct choices when it comes to selection of their career. The vision was also aimed to empower the small and medium enterprises to help them in their formation stage and nurturing them so that they can contribute up to seventy percent of the economy’s GDP. It also was to focus on the maximization of the available resources within the economy to ensure they are used effectively and efficiently in promotion of growth for the economy. Maximization of use of resources would include privatization of the company’s within the nation to increase chances of investment. It would also focus on launching in the promising investing sectors such as renewable energy and industrial equipment. Improving the mining sector and the renewable energy market, localizing the industries for defense, making the energy sector competitive and finally ensuring that the business environment is improved and competitive to attract the best investment decisions and promote the general growth in the economic sector. “As at now the nation has achieved a considerable growth.” (Ramady, 2018)

From the world's economic outlook report of the IMF by 2017, the nation was categorized among the emerging market economies, a grouping which sees it competing with the greatest world economies such as China and India. Based on its GDP the country reported the highest GDP ever for it as a nation in 2014 and this was mostly contributed by its increased investment in Oil as a source of growth in the economy. The nation has already shifted from solely depending on oil as a source of income and has put in effort to see that it localizes other industries within the economy such as the defense industry. It has also privatized some public services such as transportation which has led to an improved growth in the economy. The government, announced plans in 2016 to eliminate the deficit of the nation by 2020, this was culminated by the approval of the fiscal balance program which introduces new fiscal measures in terms of value added tax as well as provided a check for the government expenditure to ensure that the government did not overspend but used the available resources efficiently. The government structure has also been redesigned so far to include twelve major visions of development of the economy of Saudi Arabia.

The government has worked to ensure that the nation is open to foreign investment in the recent years. The growth in its business environment has seen the nation ranks among the top nations with a conducive business environment taking the ninety second position from the overall one hundred and ninety positions. The business environment in the region has led to increased foreign direct investments over the years in 2016, the nation received over 7.5 billion dollars from foreign direct investment.

The nation is the leading producers of oil in the world. By the end of 2016 financial year, the nation recorded reserves of up to fifteen percent of the world's total reserves of crude oil. It also is a home to natural gas reserves of up to four percent in the world market. Although the total production of oil per day generally reduced in 2017, the country still leads as the largest producer of oil in the world, with Saudi Aramco as the biggest company within the nation that controls oil production. The nation is among the five countries in the world that founded the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting countries. This means it is involved in making economic oil export decisions in the world.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while nations may have a vision and fail to work towards the same, it is commendable to note that as Saudi Arabia approaches 2030, it has already made progressive steps towards achieving its economic goals. It is worth noting that the economy of the country has progressed towards being the top in the world. With a stable economy in place, we are sure that without doubt, the other two aspects of its vision are achievable. “Come 2030, there is a chance that the nation would have achieved more than it intended only if the people stay focused to the nation’s vision.” (Kinninmont et al, 2017)

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