

Morocco

“From Tétouan to Al Regeai”

I enjoyed reading Hanadi Al Marzouq’s article “The Jurassic Justice Park in Al Regeai” where she summarized her experience with the vintage building. Having a previous experience with the same place myself, though a bit different, I would like to have a say in this matter.

Recently, an advertisement from Ministry of Finance fell into my hands in which they were looking to rent an office building on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. The specifications they were looking for matched Burj Abdullah Abdullatif Al Othman, a building in Hawally which is owned by our father’s charitable endowment. We applied just like everybody else, and the reply was a quick approval.

And here our story begins. In short, I received a generous invitation to participate in a meeting with leaders and managers from the Ministry of Justice. I felt among them a sincere desire to develop the ministry’s systems and solve their current issues. I have not seen any idleness on their part. On the contrary, they seemed to be prisoners to crumbling policies and systems that have accumulated over the years and which nobody knows why or where they came from!

In the middle of one meaningless discussion at this meeting, I became lost in thought of past days when I was on a trip to Kingdom of Morocco. I was graciously invited by *Bayt Zakat*—House of Alms—to see first-hand the charitable projects there. During one of the rounds from Marrakesh to Tétouan, in the company of Dr Khaled Al Shatti and my daughter Iman, I was extremely surprised to see the 700 kilometer highway linking the two cities. Its quality was no less than any of the best highways in Europe. I was even more impressed by the fresh colours and cleanliness of the metro in Rabat.