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PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT DISCUSS NATIONAL ISSUES

■ President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, yesterday discussed national issues that concern Emirati citizens and the nation.

WAM

UAE banks to aid rain-hit businesses

Loan repayments to be deferred if proof of damage furnished

DUBAI

BY MANOJ NAIR
Business Editor

UAE banks will offer a loan deferment lifeline to rain-affected businesses and individuals, provided 'genuine' proof is furnished by those who are, said Abdulaziz Al Ghurair, Chairman of UAE Banks Federation, (UBF), the sole representative and unified voice of the UAE banks.

UAE-based lenders and insurance companies have seen a flurry of claims related to the rains and the damages brought on by it, and while the institutions are still in the midst of processing these, they have begun granting approvals for loan deferments.

"There is no point in asking a business that's been affected and not operating to keep making payments. Just show us the proof - what we don't want to see is anyone trying to take advantage," said Al Ghurair, when speaking at UBF-run press conference at Mashreq Bank's Dubai headquarters.

Banking sources add that with the widely expected rush of loan deferment requests in recent days, clients have been sending in pictorial evidence of damages sustained by their vehicles after the deluge.

The highest number of claims to date have been for deferring auto loans, bankers add.

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Dubai rolls out 200 projects to lift well-being

HAMDAN: CARING FOR PEOPLE REMAINS KEY OBJECTIVE OF EMIRATE'S PROGRESS

DUBAI

BY FAISAL MASUDI
Assistant Editor

A new strategy encompassing 200 projects that aim to turn Dubai into one of the world's best cities to live in was unveiled yesterday.

Under the directives of His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Dubai Quality of Life Strategy 2033 was approved by Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council.

Ultimate goal

Shaikh Hamdan stressed that caring for people remains the cornerstone of Dubai's sustainable development strategies. The well-being of individuals is the ultimate objective of development plans and the primary criterion for the success of government programmes, he said.

"We have today approved the Dubai Quality of Life Strategy 2033 as part of our efforts to raise our global standing in the economy as well as in the areas of innovation and well-being. The vibrancy and cultural diversity of our society are key to our development journey," Shaikh Hamdan added.

"The Dubai Quality of Life Strategy encompasses over 200 projects, initiatives, and plans. Our objective is to establish Dubai as one of the world's best cities in terms of wellbeing, offer every resident a healthy, active, and enjoyable lifestyle, build a society that takes pride in its identity and cultural diversity, and offer the highest quality of leisure and entertainment."

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Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

NATION

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