

## **Egypt that I have in Mind**

Industry men who live the current era in the industrial and economic revival in Egypt can never ignore the limited myopic short-sighted vision that they usually encountered in international conferences and various international arenas.

That vision used to see Egypt only in the image of a sleeping beauty lying out there at the Northern coast of the African continent above a 5000 years civilization and holding one-third of all global antiquities.

Despite the limited validity of this concept, it represents truly modern Egypt as it is seen in reality and as we see it as sons of Egypt. Egypt in fact is a very special and rare case that could hardly resemble or match any other.

Egypt which lies to the North of the African continent is now representing the bright model for the promising future of this continent the way the civilized world wishes to see it become.

Yet the propagated idea about the 5000 years civilization does not represent in reality anything except the limited history for the discovery of the Pharaonic writing which is much shorter in terms of time compared to the real ancient Egyptian civilization that dates back 15000 years in a civilization that preceded the whole world emerging on the banks of this great River Nile made by the old Egyptian to become an eternal valuable heritage for the whole world.

It is also known that the unexcavated and unrevealed Egyptian antiquities that lie beneath the Egyptian land is estimated to be more than three times what has been found so far.

Egypt also has a role that can never be ignored in developing the Arabic language throughout the ages with the impact of the creations of its intellectuals and writers.

The Egyptian innovation into the Arabic language was a resource for enriching this language on the cultural and artistic level in particular for all the Arabic speaking society.

Egypt also is unique with its geographical position that lies over both Africa and Asia together. So any person can pass the Suez Canal and move from a continent to another by only covering a distance of 100 meters only.

The Suez Canal is no doubt another miracle established by the Egyptian human being in this modern time for the benefit for all humanity without distinction or discrimination.

The genius aspect of the Suez Canal arises from the fact that it has been dug in an era where there were no electricity or internal combustion machines yet.

The Egyptians used the only available things at that time which is the human power, and they had tools not exceeding one axe in one hand and a bucket in the other.

As it is known in the construction engineering, digging into sand without modern equipment is not much better than digging into water. Therefore the Suez Canal is nothing but another new pyramid built by the modern Egyptian human being to serve the whole world.

Egypt also has its unique role as a source of human resources that fulfill the needs of other Arab countries providing teachers, engineers, law men,

legislators, lawyers, judges, doctors as well as trained and untrained labor force.

Many people might not notice that Egypt in its modern history till the end of the 1950s was administrating a huge financial stock market that ranked fifth on the global level. Egypt used to possess great reserves of financial and gold assets kept in the banks of England.

Therefore, the famous economic analyst, Beat Hanson, said in the early 1960s that the Egyptian economy is about to witness a breakthrough and a leap forward to join the economies of the shining countries.

This came before anybody hears of the ancient tigers and their programs on economic reform.

Still in the early eighties the image was totally different from the previous situation because Egypt was already exhausted and its economy was burdened as well as its resources and all its creative and positive aspects because of the wars Egypt had to fight.

The young men of this nation went into a long dark tunnel that kept the potential of Egypt locked up and kept the hopes about the future chattered to every direction.

Because of this situation, one of the economic analysts described the Egyptian economy at that stage as a very complex and entangled thread that can never be straightened back again because of the contradiction of the economic proposed solutions with the social and political dimensions which would lead at the end towards an explosive situation.

Facing all these modern global changes, Egypt witnessed the emergence of two schools of economic thought. Both had their credibility and considerable relative way and both were supported by a huge segment of the Egyptian society including politicians, decision makers, statesmen, economists, writers, intellectuals, NGOs and businessmen.

The first economic school adopted an internal vision that aims at slow development supported by a close vision towards the social dimension and bearing into consideration the huge volume of the public sector activity in the national plan with more reservation against speedy and rapid change.

The second economic school adopted a more liberal line of economic reform calling for launching the free market economy potential as a methodology for changing the economy.

President Mubarak had his own historical vision where his brave political decision was to direct the economic sail of Egypt towards an integrated economy and setting programs for economic restructure in the way that would qualify Egypt to deal with the global variables and enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This vision actually shifted Egypt towards the economic situation that we witness now.

There is no doubt that we are now witnessing a new economic map that would signal to us that it is possible to catch up with everything that we missed before after passing the gate of opening to the world and launching the creative potentials of the people in all fields and directing all that to invest in every corner.

There is no secret now that the State policy is aiming at launching a comprehensive plan for reform on various axes, and in particular in the field of taxation reform democratic reform release of freedoms as well as legislative, educational, economic, social and structural reform. The reform also tackles all State cadres and stands against corruption and bureaucracy with more close and intensive attention to providing the enabling climate for industrial development and investment.

This all would in turn lead to improving the economic performance and launching the economic indicators in a growing ascending way till the point where we reach the advanced state of Egypt that we all aim for.

If the order of priorities is putting economic progress at a top level in order to lead this scheme, it would not be a mistake because economic advancement is the request of every nation and it is the one that will assure its policies a relatively stronger weight on the international arena.