

New Suez Canal Is Egypt's 'Gift for Humanity'

At the Aug. 6 ceremony in Ismailia opening the New Suez Canal, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi delivered a historic address, which we excerpt below, as published by the Egyptian State Information Service:

"With God's blessings, I, Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi, President of Egypt, give permission for the operation of the New Suez Canal. . . . Within one year, Egyptians exerted a great effort to offer to the world and to Egypt a gift for humanity, for development, for building and for construction. . . .

"Egypt is a great country and has a civilization of 7,000 years. I want to say that Egypt throughout these years has provided values, principles and ethics, which were in harmony with the heavenly religions and did not contradict them. Today, Egypt is offering a new gift for humanity," el-Sisi said, pointing out that that gift is no greater than what the ancient Egyptians proffered, but it was accomplished in only one year.

"Work did not take place in normal circumstances, and these circumstances still exist, and we are fighting them and we will defeat them. Evil was trying to harm Egypt and the Egyptians, and to halt its development.

"Egypt during this year stood against the most dangerous terrorist threat that would burn the world if it could. . . . It was the Egyptians who confronted these thoughts, to show the tolerance and the real image of Islam and Muslims. History will record that Egypt took on its shoulders the responsibility for renewing the religious discourse to make it consistent with the modern age."

El-Sisi called these groups "the groups of evil," who "are trying to harm Egypt and Egyptians and hinder the country's march of progress. . . .

"The New Suez Canal is one step of thousands of



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President el-Sisi addresses the ceremony unveiling the New Suez Canal, in Ismailia, Egypt, August 6.

steps which we all are required to take," he said, and that no one can harm the Egyptian people as long as they are one hand and united.

"We, the Egyptians, promised the world to provide the gift, and we have kept our promise and accomplished the project in a record time," he said.

He continued, "The launch of navigation in the new waterway that was accomplished in a record time surpasses the achievement of economic or political goals, as it highlights a humane goal that achieves dignity, justice and stability to the Egyptian people in a modern and democratic country."

"The development of the canal region is aimed at establishing a global economic zone which comprises a number of ports, new cities, and logistics and trade centers which will help achieve higher rates of trade exchange between Egypt and the whole world."

El-Sisi also outlined that a package of projects has been launched to establish a national road network, reclaim one million feddans of land, and establish new cities.

"I assure you that the Egyptian state is determined to move forward with social and political reform to achieve the aspirations of its sons," he told his fellow Egyptians.