



# QATAR IN CUBA

أبشروا بالعز والخير  
قيم من حمد

Embassy of the State of Qatar-Havana

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## From the Ambassador

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to introduce the first edition of our newsletter *Qatar in Cuba*. The purpose of this publication is to effectively disseminate up-to-date information on bilateral relations between the State of Qatar and the Republic of Cuba. This newspaper is itself an example of such relations, which are in good shape and, more importantly, they are in a continuous process of development and strengthening thanks to the will of the leaders of both countries. For this issue, we include highly relevant topics for us, such as the meeting with the Cuban authorities, the opening in Havana of the representative office of the Qatar National Bank—the largest

financial institution in Africa and the Middle East, and details about the hospital with Cuban staff in Dukhan. Finally, we would like to highlight in the *Upcoming Events* section, the celebration of our National Day, on December 18th which is a most significant date for the Qatari people. To commemorate this day, the embassy has organized, at its headquarters, an activity with a marked environmental focus –in tune with the SDGs, to be performed by 35 Cuban children and the musician Osmeel Francis, from “Cubanos en la Red”. We hope you enjoy the newsletter, as we do. Continue reading –and expect more!



H.E. Rashid Mairza Al-Mulla,  
Ambassador of the State of Qatar in Cuba.

QATAR INTERNATIONAL

### Qatar Urges Cooperation between All States to Advance Goals of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Last October 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, the State of Qatar stated that the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims at peoples all over the world. The Qatari government said it was a comprehensive framework for efforts to promote world peace, eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and ensure that no one is left behind. It also stressed that in order to advance the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda, all States should cooperate, and abstain from any actions that might

harm Member States or influence solidarity among them. The State of Qatar added that, in spite of the challenges, would continue its development efforts according to Qatar National Vision 2030, and strive to overcome the consequences of the siege imposed by some neighboring countries. It concluded by ratifying Qatar’s firm commitment to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of all mankind.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1. Words from the Ambassador
- 1 / 2. Qatar International
- 2 / 3. Qatar & Cuba

- 3. Culture
- 4. Environment / Upcoming Events
- 4. Contact Details



## Qatar Delivers Medical Aid to Somalia

A military plane, affiliated to the Emiri Air Force, was dispatched to Mogadishu with medical aid shortly after the African nation suffered the worst terrorist attack in its history.

The truck bomb explosion slightly wounded HE the Charge d' Affaires and severely damaged the building of the Qatari embassy.

The medical assistance included a team of doctors and nurses of the Qatar International Search and Rescue Group, in addition to two tons of medicines and medical supplies, to treat

*“The truck bomb explosion slightly wounded HE the Qatari Charge d' Affaires”.*

people injured in the bombing that hit the centre of the capital on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

After arrival in Mogadishu, the plane transported 27 injured Somalis along with their 27 companions to the Sudanese capital Khartoum for treatment.

More than 300 people were killed in the terrorist attack, among them, senior civil servants, five paramedic volunteers and a journalist, but most were ordinary people.



Medical aid rushed to stricken Somalia after bombing.

### QATAR & CUBA

## Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs Meets H.E. Ambassador of Qatar



H.E. Rashid Mairza Al-Mulla and the Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodriguez.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister, Bruno Rodriguez, met with H.E. Rashid Mairza Al-Mulla.

They talked on the bilateral relations, which are based on mutual respect and consensus in foreign policy, and about the current Gulf crisis, which started in May 2017.

The Cuban Minister referred to his recent visit to Doha, which was positive and productive. He also thanked H.H The Emir father for his participation in the funeral of his friend, the late Fidel

Castro, and the speech given on this occasion.

Other topics of interest were the promotion of international peace and security as well as the defense of the right to self-determination. The use of dialogue as a means to negotiate and solve conflicts was emphasised.

By the end of the meeting, the Cuban Foreign Minister welcomed the visit of the Qatari Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to the Republic of Cuba.

## Qatar National Bank (QNB) Will Open an Office in Havana

*“The Gulf’s largest listed lender, QNB, will open a representative office in Havana”.*

The Gulf’s largest listed lender, Qatar National Bank (QNB), will open a representative office in Havana, becoming the first bank from the rich energy-exporting countries of the Gulf to do so. Government-controlled QNB has obtained regulatory approvals needed to open the office, in line with its strategy of expanding in selected countries.

Foreign banks have been reluctant to enter Cuba, to a large extent, because of the risk of being found in violation of U.S. economic sanctions; however, in March 2016, as part of a U.S. opening to Cuba, new business possibilities have been opened up.

QNB has a presence in over 30 countries across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.





H.H. Father Emir, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani with the Cuban Minister of Public Health, Roberto Morales and the CEO, Phil Lowen.

## Cuban Doctors in Qatar: An Oasis in the Desert

A Cuban hospital started its operations in Qatar after it was formally opened by the Father Emir Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani and the Cuban Health Minister, Roberto Morales.

According to Qatari media, the Cuban Hospital is a modern therapeutic facility designed to meet the needs of the growing population of the western region of Qatar.

The staff is composed of more than 450 medical professionals provided by the Caribbean island, including doctors, nurses and specialists in the fields of rehabilitation, dentistry, pathology, bio-

medicine and radiology. The CEO, Mr. Lowen, has said they are planning to further expand the range of orthopedic, plastic surgery, and specialist dental services in 2018.

The hospital, located in Dukhan and under the umbrella of the Hamad Medical Corporation, is the outcome of joint efforts to develop the different fields of co-operation since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. It also shows the exchange of views between the governments of Qatar and Cuba.

## Qatari Diar & Cuba: Building a Sustainable Future

Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Co. and the Republic of Cuba signed a Memorandum of Agreement to develop luxury hotels in the Caribbean island. Qatari Diar – established in December 2004 to support Qatar’s growing economy – creates distinguished property developments, enhanced with local, cultural and lifestyle experiences to attract tourism and new residents, generating sustainable and tangible socio-economic benefits.

*“Gran Paraiso JV is among a number of Qatari Diar projects in the Americas”.*

Gran Paraiso, the joint venture company, is among a number of Qatari Diar projects in the Americas, and it is planning to build luxury hotels with its complementary tourist facilities. It will also feature world-class amenities such as, a spa and fitness center. The development will be complimented by retail facilities.



CULTURE



Maestro Leo Brouwer and Isabelle Hernández, producer of the event.

## Leo Brouwer & Qatar: Sharing a Passion for Music

*“Local countertenors together with countertenors from different parts of the world performed on several stages in the capital”.*

The Embassy of the State of Qatar sponsored the most recent World Festival of Countertenors held in Havana and organized by Leo Brouwer Office.

Honoring this particular male voice, the Festival aimed to promote all kinds of quality music.

Local countertenors together with countertenors from different parts of the world performed on several stages in the capital. Conferences and master classes were also held. Founded by Maestro Leo Brouwer in 1962, the Office supports and organizes a wide range of cultural activities throughout Cuba.

## ENVIRONMENT



## Sustainable Living in Qatar

For five years, Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC) has been launching its 'No Paper Day Qatar' campaign to engage the wider community in environmentally-friendly practices and raise awareness of the importance of sustainability. Several companies and businesses, mainly from Qatar's private sector, have taken part in the campaign,

which focused this year on helping people realize the tangible impact their actions can make on the environment.

The annual event was established by QGBC to encourage Qatar's companies, institutions, schools and individuals to find ways of reducing paper consumption, which will contribute to a sustainable future. The initiative also serves as a celebration of Qatar's efforts to successfully reduce its waste output.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## Qatar National Day (QND) Is Coming!

Qatar National Day is celebrated every December 18<sup>th</sup> on the occasion of the anniversary of the accession of Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Al-Thani, the Founder of the State of Qatar, to the rule of the country. On this day, also known as Founder's Day, Qatari people reflect on the principles – truth, justice, friendship and brotherhood – on which Qatar was founded and remember the values of generosity, loyalty, responsibility and sacrifice which are key to Qatar's success today.

Since most of the public are given the day off from school and work, thousands of locals, expats and visitors gather to witness the shows, the parade, and the spectacular festivities. **Happy National Day, Qatar!**



## Raising Awareness on the SDGs



High school students will expand their knowledge on the SDGs aided by Osmel Francis ("Cubanos en la Red").

As many of us know, a successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. Since young people have traditionally played a critical role as they have acted as major agents of change, the embassy has organized an activity with a markedly environmental focus, which will involve 35 Cuban children and musician Osmel Francis of "Cubanos en la Red".

The event will take place on December 14<sup>th</sup> and it aims to expand the students' knowledge on the SDGs, as well as encourage them to share what they learn with others.

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