

UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Sunday said that "education will remain a priority and our path to the future". In a message ahead of the UAE's 48th National Day, Sheikh Khalifa said that next year's federal budget has allocated a large proportion to funding federal schools and development projects. In a statement to Nation Shield, the UAE Armed Forces' magazine, cited by state news agency WAM, he said that the UAE Cabinet issued a resolution to establish an education support fund. He noted that the government views Emiratisation "as a true measure for success", but added: "By Emiratisation, we do not mean the mechanism for employing nationals, but rather a tool for enabling." "This year, we accomplished a monumental achievement with the arrival of the first Emirati astronaut to the International Space Station. What Hazza Al Mansoori achieved represents the first phase of the UAE's ambitious space programme for the next 100 years, which aims to enhance the country's stature as a global platform for space research and projects, to support sustainable development," he said. "Dear esteemed citizens, "The past year has been dedicated to all areas of social development, as more than half of the federal budget's resources have been allocated to fund community development and social benefit programmes to achieve excellence in priority sectors, most notably healthcare, education, creating a safe and coherent community, justice, sustainable infrastructure, and a diverse knowledge-based economy. Sheikh Khalifa also highlighted the achievements of UAE astronaut Hazza Al Mansoori, the first Emirati to visit the International Space Station. "My sons and daughters, "Our country is steadily striding towards a brighter future, driven by gratitude to the founding fathers, loyalty to the leadership, adherence to the Islamic and Arabic values and identity." "The federal government began, in coordination with local governments, to implement an ambitious plan to build thousands of housing units around the country. It has also adopted the "National Strategy for Quality of Life 2031," which aims to create a more coherent community." "Dear esteemed citizens, "In the UAE, economic growth indicators, although very important, have never been measured by the amount of success made in the goods produced or services offered, but by the quality of life and the added value offered." "My sons and daughters, "You have achieved the goals of the initiative we launched to mark 2019 as the 'Year of Tolerance'. The UAE leader also said that success would not be measured in economic growth, although very important, but by the quality of life and the added value offered. He also referenced the security of the UAE, saying it is a key measure for economic and social development. "There is no development without sustainable security, without the rule of law and without respect for human rights," he added. "Our goal is to make our country the best and most secure place for all community members," his message said.