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Emirates News Agency

## Nahyan opens French Church in Abu Dhabi

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Abu Dhabi, 24 Oct. 2009 (WAM) - The United Arab Emirates will remain a symbol of tolerance, fraternity and equality, regardless of colour, religion or race said H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research.

In a speech made after opening the French Church in Abu Dhabi today, Sheikh Nahyan said the UAE, since its establishment by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, has been hosting people from different nationalities, ethnicities and backgrounds. "They all co-exist in harmony in the UAE, thanks to the country's tolerant policy," he added. Sheikh Nahyan said that President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and General H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces spare no effort in providing care for the religious institutions as they believe in their vital role in supporting the atmosphere of tolerance in the UAE. "The opening of French Church in Abu Dhabi is poised to provide a religious and social atmosphere to its community members." Sheikh Nahyan lauded the efforts made by the Church members who belong to different countries, and their role in strengthening UAE's relations with these countries, including France. "The new church shows the solid foundation and the close-knit fabric nature of our community. The communal harmony, consideration and kindness enabled our country to attract millions of people who work here, enjoy all the rights and contribute in the national development." Pastor Michelle praised in a speech the support given by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and General H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces to building the church in Abu Dhabi "the land of tolerance and brotherhood. For me, Abu Dhabi and the UAE represent 'heart of the world', as they host millions of people from other countries in a perfect harmony that shows its tolerance as a Muslim country," he said.

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