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*And*

**THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC LEADERSHIP**

*PRESENT*

*Nurturing Democracy in an Islamic  
Setting: The Case of Morocco  
[Bold Royal Reforming Initiatives]*

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# The Location: North Africa

## MAP OF NORTH AFRICA



# KING MOHAMED VI

## A YOUNG MODEL FOR ROYAL ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP



Meknès, Bab el-Mansour, le 19 octobre.

- **“As far as religious affairs are concerned, we must remain committed to our single historical source of reference, namely the Sunni Maliki rite, to which the entire nation unanimously adheres”**
- **In this respect, I want to ensure that relevant ‘Ijtihad’ efforts are pursued to keep abreast of modern times.**

- **“We have reached the stage of finalizing and launching a comprehensive, multi-faceted and integrated strategy which means so much to me.**
- **It is a three-part plan designed to overhaul and revamp the domain of religious affairs in order to shield Morocco against the perils of extremism and terrorism.**
- **It is also meant to preserve the distinctive Moroccan identity, which is characterized by moderation and tolerance**

# **The Restructuring of the Ministry for ‘Waqf’ and Religious Affairs.**

**The Promulgation of a Dahir (Royal decree) setting up two directorates:**

- one for traditional education,**
- and the other in charge of mosques.**

**The Ministry of Islamic affairs should be represented by regional delegates to be appointed and entrusted with the running of Islamic affairs locally and in accordance with modern management methods.**

**Reviving the ‘waqf’ institution and rationalizing its policies so that it may go on fulfilling the objectives for which it was legally established, as well as carrying out its social solidarity mission, as it continues to develop and grow, thanks to the generosity of benefactors.**

**The aim is to ascertain that places of worship are financed in a transparent, legal and sustainable manner.**



- **I have stamped with the Royal seal the Dahirs (Royal decrees) appointing members of the ‘Ulema’ Councils, in their new composition.**
- **I have asked the minister for ‘waqf’ and religious affairs to officially install these councils: Composed of learned persons known for their loyalty to the sacred institutions of the nation as well as for their erudition as religious scholars and their open-minded attitude to modern times.**
- **The Ulema Councils are expected to adopt a close-proximity approach in managing religious affairs across the country.**

- **I urge their members to listen to the citizens, especially young people, and to protect their faith and minds against those who have strayed and those who distort the truth.**
- **I also want the membership of these Councils to include women well-versed in religious matters. We would thus be doing justice to women and treating them on an equal footing with men.**

**To shield the domain of religion from the influence of some intruders acting outside the legal institutional framework, I have asked the Higher Council of Ulema to submit to me, as Amir al Muminin and President of the Council, 'fatwas' on events and matters with religious implications, lest others resort to expedient ploys or seek to spread confusion and chaos**

- **I have instructed the government to give the matter ( of sound Islamic education and modern scientific training) careful thought and to take the measures needed to rationalize, modernize and harmonize Islamic education, and to provide sound training in all the Islamic subjects, within a unified national education system.**
- **Just as important is the need to modernize traditional schools, to safeguard the Koranic school system and to preserve it from misuse or deviation which might impair the Moroccan identity.**
- **Training programs and branches have also been planned to allow students enrolled in this system to join the national education scheme. Rather than inculcating narrow-mindedness, we shall be fostering open attitudes towards other cultures.**

- **The aim of all these measures is not simply to provide our country with a well-thought-out, integrated strategy to help it meet all challenges in the domain of religion.**
- **We also want to contribute, in a rational and purposeful way, to redressing the image of Islam, which has been tarnished by vicious campaigns, triggered off by the extremism of villains and the hideous acts of senseless aggressors indulging in terrorism.**

- **I shall remain at the forefront of the struggle against all destructive currents that are alien to our society, which remains unwaveringly committed to the moderation and purity of Islam.**
- **This commitment applies to all Moroccans, including my loyal subjects who live abroad.**

**These were quotations from the  
speech addressed by His  
Majesty King Mohammed VI of  
Morocco to the “Higher  
Council” and the “Provincial  
Councils” of ‘Oulemas  
(Scholars)**

**[Friday, April 30, 2004]**

# Paper Presentation

1. The Historical Backgrounds of the Moroccan Constitutional Monarchy
2. The Constitutional Evolution
3. The Constitutional Institutions
4. The Political Arena
5. The Impact of Islamic Values
6. The Functioning of the System