



Speech of His Excellency Major General/ Khaled Fouda, Governor of South Sinai

At the outset of the opening ceremony, His Excellency Major General/ Khaled Fouda, Governor of South Sinai delivered a speech welcoming the Forum attendants in South Sinai; the sacred land located in the city of peace which is the whole world focus of attraction. His Excellency further expressed his gratitude for the generous invitation to attend such a distinguished Forum with a galaxy of professors, scientists and experts in fertilizer trade and industry; wishing the Forum all success and the achievement of related specified objectives.

His Excellency then presented in his speech the history of establishing this touristic governorate at the end of 1979; being one of the most vital areas in Egypt not only for its strategic importance but also for being abundant with natural resources. Hence, such a status has made the governorate a significant economic foundation for different industries, including inter alia fertilizer industry, which depends on a number of raw materials already enriching South Sinai governorate, important of which natural gas, phosphate ...etc.

It has been mentioned that South Sinai is characterized by a vast area, amounting to 31 thousand kilometers, most of which are arable desert lands. Therefore, the governorate, during

its different development phases, paid due concern to the agricultural development, bearing in mind the fact that most of the studies conducted have proved that South Sinai is enjoying arable soil, in most of its areas, in order to plant different kinds of vegetables, fruits and grains. To illustrate, many successful experiments were held in Mount Sinai, Nuweibaa, Saint Catherine and other areas proving the previously stated fact. For instance, beet seeds were grown in Saint Catherine, wheat in Ras Sudr together with wood forests. His Excellency added saying that *Jatropha* plant was grown, in wood forests, using treated sewage water; there are plans for expanding *Jatropha* planting so as to use extracted oil from such as fuel. Moreover, Jojoba plant was planted, the oil of which is used in manufacturing medical and cosmetic products.

In the framework of the State general policy, aiming at expanding land reclamation and desert cultivation, the Governorate is considering importance to sand arable lands especially in areas with underground water. His Excellency also mentioned that the governorate is planning for the establishment of a fertilizer factory in the industrial city of Abo Zanima so as to produce different kinds of fertilizers that assist in raising soil fertility in South Sinai and contribute in increasing the growing of oil, field and fodder crops.