Speech for 20th Anniversary.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you all to this 20th anniversary celebrations of your Indicaa.

Before I begin, I must talk about the very second Indican – Valiyakath Ummer Abbas. We lost him to God this year. Having joined Indicaa in just a month after I landed today 20 years ago, for years together Abbas relentlessly served Indicaa as we grew from strength to strength. Many of you have not seen the days when we used to communicate with our colleagues using pagers. I do not recollect any pager call of mine to Abbas for which he took more than a minute to respond irrespective of where he was. I could call him at any time of the day or night (if I had to) and I had the confidence that he would do his job smilingly, whatsoever. For years, to me personally, he was like my man Friday. For the company he handled millions and millions of dirhams in cash and never ever did even a fil go missing – such was his commitment and integrity. I personally miss him a lot and I can say on behalf of all Indicans that we have lost a very valuable colleague.

Abbas left for his heavenly abode on 1st of August this year leaving behind his wife, two daughters and a son. One thing I am sure of is that, when Abbas would have closed his eyes for the very last time, he must have departed in peace, knowing that Indicaa would always be there to look after his family the way he looked after us.

On that note, we wish to announce a grant of rupees 10 lakhs for his family. We hope the bank interest on this corpus will take care of his family’s monthly expenses and the corpus will help in the marriage of his daughters. We will also provide employment for his son as and when he is ready and willing, and if required, we will provide further assistance in any form that we can to his family so that Abbas’s soul can rest in peace forever.

I now request all of you to please observe a two minute silence to remember Abbas and pray for his soul to rest in peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, 2013 was a very challenging year. Global markets were extremely volatile due to violent fluctuations in currencies. Indian markets especially, have remained subdued for most of the second half of 2013. Nonetheless, Indicaa, known for its out-of-the-box thinking, has managed to achieve a volume of 830,000 tons and we have also maintained a turnover of more than 1 billion dirhams for another year. All this is due to the hard work and commitment of Team Indicaa.

On this auspicious occasion of Indicaa turning 20 years old, we are pleased to announce an across-the-board bonus of 1 month’s salary to all Indicans.

20 years is a long time for any organization and to build from nothing and to grow from scratch is a big achievement for any person. Today, Indicaa commands global recognition in the
recyclables trade. Pursuit of excellence has been our main philosophy. Aided by our honesty, integrity and a clean image in doing business, Indicaa has today become a force to reckon with. My personal idol is Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who, in the last 20 years that I have witnessed, has turned Dubai from a small desert city into a bustling metropolis known across the globe for so many good reasons. Most importantly, it is a place which any expat will be proud to call home. Sheikh Mohammed’s out-of-the-box thinking and his own pursuit of excellence has always inspired me to do something similar for Indicaa in whatever little way I can.

Often, I have been asked as to what Indicaa’s biggest strength is, and I always have one impromptu reply: Indicans. To all Indicans, old and new, I have only one piece of advice: an army is only as good as the soldiers it has. A cricket team can only perform to the best of its strengths if all eleven players play together and in unity, and each player performs to his best. As a trading organization, we do not have assets like machinery or equipment, and the only asset that we have is our people. I am extremely proud of Team Indicaa and I can say wholeheartedly that we have the best human resource base that any organization of our size and stature can have.

To those who are new to Indicaa, please remember that this is your family, your company and it is up to you to take it forward to the new peaks that it deserves.

Before I conclude, I want to say that the road ahead will be challenging, as volatility will continue to rule the global economy. I remember a few lines from this old Hindi song: “Ruk jaana nahin, tu kahin haarke; kaaton pe chal kar milenge saaye bahar ke.”

I have to thank my wife for the immense pillar of support she has been. She has stood by me through thick and thin, through all my travels and travails, and I thank her greatly for that. In fact, I should be thanking all the wives of Indicans who have withstood their husbands’ travels, hard work and long working hours. The background support provided by all Mrs. Indicans has been so very valuable that I have no words to record my appreciation for it. While you are not entitled to gold bars, your contribution is worth more than diamonds!

Thank You.