

Allocution de
Son Altesse Royale la Princesse Lalla Salma
Présidente de la Fondation Lalla Salma Prévention et Traitement des Cancers

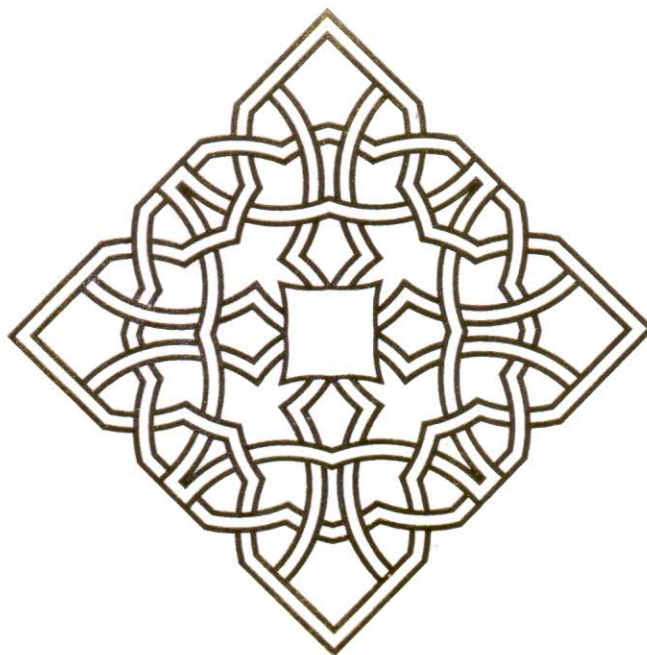
au Gala caritatif pour la construction d'un
Centre d'oncologie à Beni Mellal

Address by
Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Salma
President of the Lalla Salma Foundation for Cancer Prevention and Treatment

at the Charity Gala for the construction of an
Oncology Center in Beni Mellal

Alocución de
Su Alteza Real la Princesa Lalla Salma
Presidenta de la Fundación Lalla Salma Prevención y Tratamiento de los Cánceres

en la Gala caritativa para la construcción de un
Centro de oncología en Beni Mellal



Marrakech 03 octobre 2015
Marrakech, October 3rd, 2015
Marrakech, 3 de octubre de 2015

Praise be to God

May peace and blessings be upon
the Prophet, His Kith and Kin

**Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I should like to express my heartfelt thanks to His Majesty King Mohammed VI - may God assist him - for caring so deeply for our Foundation. Had it not been for His Majesty's generous support, none of the Foundation's achievements would have seen the light of day.

It is His Majesty who has given me and the Foundation I am honored to chair his support, offered guidance and encouragement from the very beginning, and generously provided all kinds of assistance.

From the outset, His Majesty the King's trust has been the driving force motivating the staff to keep up their good work in order to achieve the Foundation's lofty social and humanitarian objectives.

**Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

How can I thank you? How can I express the sincere gratitude I am feeling at this very moment?

The fact that you have accepted the invitation and the fact that you have come here in large numbers and from different walks of life are a clear indication that there is still much goodness in the world, that the gateway to generosity will never be closed so long as there are big-hearted people like you.

I therefore wish to thank each and every one of you. It is thanks to people like you that dreams come true.

**Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Gala events have many things in common. This one, however, is special. It is an event that embodies munificence, generosity, solidarity, hope and fraternity: munificence of the soul, generosity of the heart, solidarity in doing good, hope for a better tomorrow and fraternity among people.

Today, in the midst of sweeping developments around the world that can easily lead to pessimism and despair, we consider that this event stands for hope: hope for the future, hope for humanity, hope for life.

But is hope - alone - enough?

Personally, I firmly believe that the hope emanating from this blessed gathering can help confront any disease.

I also believe that when hope is combined with hard work and generosity, life is given a second chance.

It is true that cancer knows no boundaries. But it is also true that our resolve - by the grace of the Almighty - is boundless.

Our gathering today has brought together a fine group of people from all continents and walks of life in pursuit of the highest goals and the loftiest ideals.

We are seeking to build an oncology center in Beni Mellal. Our hope is that many patients will be cured there and that it will bring happiness to their loved ones and to the inhabitants of the region.

Thanks to your efforts and good will, this hospital will help mothers recover and be reunited, once again, with their children; it will enable fathers to cater, once again, for family needs, and it will help children return to a normal life, in pursuit of a brighter future.

I do not think I will ever forget Mrs. Ikram, who received the treatment she needed and who went back to her three children who would otherwise have been orphaned. Nor will I forget Youssef, 15, who recovered from cancer thanks to the treatment he received and who passed his Baccalaureate exam with flying colors.

These people, and the many others like them whom we hope to cure, increase our resolve to strive harder in order to achieve our objectives and to uphold our undying motto, namely respect for human dignity.

At first glance, my Foundation seeks to help patients but, in actual fact, when taking a closer look and checking on patients, one is surprised to see that the reality is different.

It is the patients themselves who make me realize the loftiness of the humanitarian mission I am involved in.

With your permission, I would like to consider you as members of the Foundation. We are indeed proud to contribute - each according to his or her means and skills - to saving lives. This is in keeping with the words of the Almighty: *"and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people"*.

**Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I hope this gala event will give you an opportunity to explore the rich, time-honored Moroccan heritage - be it culinary art, painting, sculpture, music or design, while here in this magnificent palace with its rich architecture.

I also hope Morocco, which is known for its hospitality and for the generosity of its people, has lived up to its reputation on this particular occasion.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who have worked behind the scenes to ensure the success of the Foundation's projects and who have helped organize this event. Dr. Rachid Bakkali, Ms. Maria Bennani, Brice, Bruno and Yanick Aleno deserve a special mention.

I would also like to pay tribute to Mrs. Chirac and Mrs. Ouattara for their encouragement.

From this moment on, the Foundation I am honored to chair will consider that it has been entrusted with the mission of conveying all this good will, confidence and unparalleled generosity to all patients, to make them happy and to keep the flame of hope alight.

It is indeed gratifying to see so many generous and caring people from all over the world, guided by compassion and benevolence, gathered here to help patients they do not know. Their only connection with them is humanism, the desire to do good deeds and the wish to alleviate the suffering of fellow human beings who hope to make a full recovery.

The patients' families and the Foundation's staff join me in expressing our sincere thanks and gratitude for your support.

Let us join hands and commit to achieving our goals, by the grace of the Almighty.

Thank you.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.