



Inaugurating the First Factory for Archaeological Replicas in Egypt and the Middle East



On 27 March, the Minister inaugurated the archaeological replicas factory in Obour City, which is the first of its kind in Egypt and the Middle East. It is established in cooperation with “Kenouz of Egypt for Archaeological replicas” company. The construction work of the factory began about a year and a half ago. The aim of establishing it was to keep pace with the demand of the local and global markets for archaeological replicas, and to contribute in protecting intellectual property rights of the Egyptian antiquities.

It is worth noting that every replica produced at the factory will have a special stamp of approval from the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and a certificate that it is a true copy produced by the Ministry. There will also be a barcode through which information on this piece can be shown in two languages: Arabic and English. The first official sales outlet for these replicas will be opened in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization as of April 4, after the official opening of the museum. Official sales outlets will also be available in all governorates, museums and in the near future.



The Replicas factory has manual and mechanized production units, and an exhibition hall. It employs around 150 experienced artists, restorers and craftsmen, most of them are from the ministry.



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News Highlights

The PM Chairs the Meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Tourism and Antiquities

On 28 March, the Prime Minister chaired the meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Tourism and Antiquities, in the presence of the Minister, and Ministers of Culture, Finance, Local Development, Health and Population, Environment and Civil Aviation, and head of the Military Museums Department, assistant to the Minister of Interior for Tourism, and the Chairman of the Egyptian Tourism Federation. The Committee followed up on the final arrangements for the Pharaohs' Golden Parade scheduled for 3 April 2021. They also reviewed inbound tourism movement to Egypt from January 2020 to February 2021, where the Minister indicated that more than 2 million tourists visited Egypt since the resumption of tourism, from July 2020 to February 2021. During the meeting, it was agreed to continue with the measures taken to support the tourism sector, until 31 October, 2021, in preparation for submitting them to the Cabinet. The Ministerial Committee reviewed the latest developments related to the tourism sector.



Part of the meeting of the Ministerial Committee

...And Holds a Meeting with Saudi Investors.

The Prime Minister held a meeting with Saudi investors. Also present at the meeting were the Minister, Minister of Planning and Economic Development and Chairman of the Tourism Development Authority. During the meeting, the PM affirmed that the government welcomes all those wishing to invest in the Egyptian market and continues to work to attract more foreign direct investments, especially those that boost job opportunities. From their side, Saudi investors presented a report on the current position of their private investments in Egypt, as well as future plans to increase these investments during the coming period.

The Prime Minister visit Historic Cairo

On 13 March, The Prime Minister visited Historic Cairo accompanied by the Minister. This visit aimed to review the details of proposed projects to be implemented for the development of the area, based on presidential mandates to intensify work on projects to revive Historic Cairo to restore its splendour while preserving its monumental buildings and architectural heritage. During the PM's visit, the head of Islamic, Coptic, and Jewish antiquities in the Ministry reviewed the development plan in Fatimid Cairo, which includes Al-Muizz Street, Wekalet El Ghoury, and Al-Khayameya Street.



The PM's visit in Historic Cairo

Egypt Presents its 2021 Action Plan for Safe Tourism at ITB Berlin

The Ministry participated in the ITB Berlin held virtually this year from March 9 to 12 with the participation of travel professionals from across the globe. On 11 March the Minister reassured holidaymakers that safe travels are possible at a time that continues to be defined by the COVID19- pandemic. His remarks came during a presentation of Egypt's comprehensive action plan for safe tourism. At the core of the Ministry's action plan is the drive to protect the health of all residents and visitors, therefore the strict implementation of COVID19- safety and hygiene measures remains a key focus. On 12 March, Vice Minister for Tourism Affairs, participated in a dialogue session titled "Destination Management and Thought Leaders Forum". The CEO of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board held a number of meetings with the German tour operators including TUI, in addition to doing interviews with German Media.

Launching an International Digital Advertising Campaign to Promote the Pharaohs' Golden Parade



The Ministry, launched a major advertising campaign to promote the Pharaohs' Golden Parade on Arab and international social media platforms, that started on 25 March. The campaign focused on the main markets exporting tourism to Egypt. All promotional material and videos for the event were translated into 14 different languages, and posted on the official social media platforms of the Ministry and the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board; Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube in Arab and international markets.

This campaign included media buying to promote this grand event in a number of important markets exporting tourism to Egypt; among these countries are Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Belarus, Ukraine, England, Japan, and the United States of America, Italy, France and Germany. In addition to that a number of international and Arab TV channels will broadcast this event live. The Ministry is also providing live-streaming of the event on its official YouTube channel and that of Experience Egypt. A number of media outlets will also broadcast the live-stream through their YouTube channels.

As part of the final preparations for the Pharaohs' Golden Parade, the Minister held a number of meetings to follow up on the final preparations for this unrivalled event. During these meetings, he reviewed every detail to bring out an event that befits the greatness of our ancestors and the Egyptian civilization.

Foreign Archaeological Missions in Luxor Invite the World to Visit Egypt

The head of the Polish mission working in the Deir el-Bahari, and the head of the French mission working in Al-Madamoud archeological site North of Karnak, invited the world to visit Egypt and discover its unique archaeological treasures in a video they sent from Luxor. The head of the Polish mission spoke in front of the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut in Deir el-Bahari about the temple, its history, and the wonderful inscriptions that adorn its walls, calling on the world to visit the temple and discover its masterpieces. The head of the French mission spoke from Al-Madamoud site North of Karnak, invited the world to visit this Luxor and discover its archaeological treasures.

Launching "Explore Egypt" Campaign from Fayoum

The Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board organized a trip to Fayoum for a number of Egyptian Travel Influencers as part of the "Explore Egypt" campaign. Its aim is to spread tourism and archaeological awareness among Egyptians and showcase touristic destinations in various Egyptian cities and promote domestic tourism.

Organizing Fam Trips to South Sinai for a Number of Egyptian Influencers

The Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board (ETPB) organized this month visits and Fam trips for famous foreign, Egyptian and Arab social media influencers. ETPB organized a visit to South Sinai for a number of Egyptian influencers with between 500k and two million followers on various social media platforms, to raise awareness about touristic destinations and archaeological sites. CEO of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board and Head of the Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities Sector at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, accompanied the influencers on a tour in Sharm El-Sheikh and Saint Catherine.



Influencers in front of Sharm El-Sheikh Museum

A Delegation from Belarus Visits Egypt

The Ministry represented by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board, organized a visit for a delegation from Belarus to Egypt to discuss ways to enhance tourism cooperation between the two countries and attract inbound tourism from Belarus. This delegation included representatives of the Belarusian Ministries of Tourism, Sports, Transport and Aviation. They visited the Pyramids of Giza, and went to Sharm El-Sheikh accompanied by the CEO of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board. They saw the precautionary measures and hygiene safety regulations implemented in hotels in Sharm El-Sheikh. They also visited Sharm El-Sheikh International Hospital. In a related context, the Deputy Minister for Tourism Affairs, received the Ambassador and Consul of Belarus in Cairo and the Belarusian delegation. It is worth mentioning that Belarus is one of the promising tourist markets, which the Ministry is keen to attract more tourists from.

Organizing Visits for the First Trip of the “Youth Train” in Luxor



The “Youth Train” to Luxor was organized in cooperation between the Ministry and the Ministry of Youth and Sports and started its first trip this month. The Ministry organized a number of tours for the youths on the train in many touristic and archaeological sites in Luxor. They visited Karnak Temples, Luxor Temple, Sphinx Avenue, Deir al-Bahari Temple and the West Bank.

The young people participating in the “Youth Train” expressed their happiness with the visits, and described them as amazing.

Spouses of Ambassadors of 20 Countries Visit Old Cairo

On 23 March, the Ministry organized a tour for a delegation of ambassadors’ spouses of 20 foreign countries in Cairo to the Religious Complex in Old Cairo. They visited the Hanging Church, the Church of Abu Serga (one of the spots of the path of the Holy Family Journey in Egypt), the Mosque of Amr Ibn Al-Aas (the first mosque built in Egypt), the Coptic Museum, and Bin Ezra Synagogue.

The spouses of a number of the Egyptian Foreign Minister’s assistants participated in this tour as well. This is part of the Ministry’s plan to promote Egypt and its great ancient civilization.

Giza Pyramids receive Participants of the 31st Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs

On 14 March, the Ministry hosted, more than 120 participants, from more than 40 countries, of the 31st Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, at the Giza Pyramids. They were accompanied by the Minister of Endowments. They visited the Great Pyramid, the panorama and the Sphinx.

The Crew of “Mistral” the French Amphibious Helicopter Team visits the Pyramids, Saqqara and the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir

The Pyramids of Giza, Saqqara and the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir all hosted the crew of “Mistral” the French amphibious helicopter carrier during their visit to Egypt this month, which lasted for five days.

At the Giza Pyramids archeological site, they visited the Great Pyramid, the Panorama area, and the Sphinx. In Saqqara, they visited the Pyramid of Djoser, the Amphitheater and the Serapeum, the Tomb of Mereruca, and the Pyramid of Teti. In the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir, they visited Tutankhamun’s gallery and the museum’s main artifacts such as Narmer’s artifact, the statue of Kaaper, known as the statue of “Sheikh El-Balad”.

The Embassy of Ireland Celebrate its National Day at the Pyramids of Giza



The Irish musician playing in front of the Pyramids

The Embassy of Ireland in Cairo chose the Giza Pyramids to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, Ireland’s National Day. On this day, the embassy released a short movie for a musical performance of Irish heritage played by an Irish musician in front of the Pyramids, in the presence of Ambassador of Ireland in Cairo.

The embassy broadcasted the performance on Irish national television on the 17th of March and on-line addressing 70 million Irish citizens around the world.

Three NFL Players Visit Egypt

Three NFL players chose Egypt to spend their vacation in March enjoying the warm sunny weather and open spaces. Their itinerary in Egypt included visiting the most important tourist and archaeological attractions in Cairo, Giza, Alexandria and Luxor.

The Ambassadors of the Vatican and the European Union Visit Minya

Beni Hassan archeological site in Minya received the ambassador of the Vatican in Cairo and members of the embassy. They visited the tombs of the 16 rulers of the Middle Kingdom, including the tomb of Khiti and the tomb of Khnum Hotep. In a related context, the European Union ambassador in Cairo and an accompanying delegation visited Tuna al-Gabal archeological site in Minya. They visited the tomb of the High Priest Petusiris, the tomb of Isadora and the catacombs of the sacred necropolis for birds and animals.

Egypt in the Spotlight

The Daily Mail: The Great Pyramid and Luxor Temple among 50 most beautiful buildings in the world

According to a photo report published on 18 March on the English Daily Mail website, The Great Pyramid of Giza and Luxor Temple were among the 50 most beautiful buildings in the world. The Great Pyramid ranked at 19, and the Temple of Luxor at 23. The report pointed out that the Great Pyramid of Giza, the only remaining wonder of the ancient world, proved its "scientific beauty". It indicated that it represents an amazing achievement of human strength and design ability.

CNN in Arabic Promotes Port Fouad Salt Mountains, the Valley of the Kings and the Jabal al-Silsila Quarries



Under the title "Like Snow Mountains ... What are These White Mountains in Egypt?", a report published in March on CNN in Arabic showcased Port Fouad's Salt Mountains and compared them to the snow mountains in Europe. The report pointed out that the Salt Mountains have become a tourist attraction for Egyptians to ski on. The website also published during the month two photo reports about Egypt. The first was published on 2 March under the title, "Choosing it was no coincidence ... What is the secret of the last resting place for the Kings of Egypt?". It reviewed the Valley of the Kings in the West Bank of Luxor, and its royal tombs with unique and colorful inscriptions. It highlighted the tomb of King Tutankhamun, and other tombs of great kings such as Ramses III, IV, V, VI and IX. The second report, published on 8 March was titled "A Marvel to look at .. Discover the largest quarries in ancient Egypt". It reviewed the quarries used in ancient Egypt to cut sandstone. It stated that the Jabal al-Silsila area is very rich in sandstone quarries, extending on both sides of the River Nile. Sandstone was used in construction during the New Kingdom, with its temples and statues in Luxor and Karnak. It was also used in the temples of the Greco-Roman period. It indicated that Egypt is full of wonderful historical sites, not known for the public.

The Guardian: The Mosque and Madrassa of Sultan Barquq Among the 10 Virtual Tours of Spectacular Buildings Around the World

The Guardian chose the Mosque and Madrassa of Sultan Barquq among the 10 virtual tours of spectacular buildings around the world. The website posted a photo of them and the link for this virtual visit which was among many in the #ExperienceEgyptFromHome campaign launched by the Ministry last April. It recommended to its readers to watch this visit. It also wrote a summary of the history of the Mosque and the Madrasa and its architectural and artistic components.

Travel Pulse and eTurbonews Choose Egypt As One of the World's Best Destinations to Travel to Now

In March, The American website "Travel Pulse", which specializes in tourism and aviation, published a report titled "Which Popular World Destination Can American Travelers Visit Right Now?", saying that Egypt is among the 20 most important tourist destinations in the world ready to receive the American tourists now. The report indicated that the destinations that have been selected are considered among the preferred destinations that welcome American tourists and that they implement hygiene safety regulations.

The "eTurbonews" website, which also specializes in tourism and travel, published a short video titled "International Open Destinations During the Covid 19 Pandemic", where Egypt ranked second among the five tourist destinations that were among the first to receive tourists during the COVID19- pandemic.

Archaeological Discoveries

Discovering Mud Brick Buildings and Others Carved into Rocks in Bahariya Oasis

During its third season, the Norwegian-French archaeological mission working in Qasr Al-Agouz in Bahariya Oasis revealed this month a number of buildings made of basalt stone, carved into rocks and buildings constructed of mud bricks, which date back to between the fourth and seventh centuries AD. The discovery included the remains of three churches and some monks' clauses, and the walls bear scribes and symbols bearing Coptic inscriptions. This discovery is very important because it provides insights on how buildings were constructed in this period and gives an understanding of the formation of the first monastic congregations in Egypt in this region.



Part of the discovery

Archaeological Awareness and Training

The Ministry Organized Awareness Trips for School and University Students and Medical Staff

In line with the "Know Your Country" initiative launched by the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board (ETPB) last December to promote domestic tourism and raise touristic and archaeological awareness among citizens, the ETPB, organized 5 awareness trips for a number of school and university students and medical staff to Aswan, Fayoum, Cairo, Port Said and Alexandria this March. In a related context, and in line with this initiative, ETPB, organized a number of awareness seminars for citizens of all age groups.

Inaugurations and Visits

Opening the Second Point in the Project of Developing the Path of the Holy Family in Kafr El-Sheikh

The Minister, the Minister of Local Development, and Governor of Kafr El-Sheikh, inaugurated on 22 March, the second point in the project of developing the path of the Holy Family Journey to Egypt in Kafr El-Sheikh governorate after the completion of its development project.

... The Development Project of Tel Basta in Sharkia

The Minister, Minister of Local Development, and Governor of Sharkia opened the development project of the Tel Basta site in Sharkia Governorate, one of the eastern points on the path of the Holy Family Journey in Egypt. It includes the well that the Holy Family passed by, which is located in the middle of an archaeological site. The Minister also inaugurated an exhibition for Egyptian Heritage.



During the opening of the development project of Tel Basta

...And a New Hotel in Magawish Village, Hurghada

In March, The Minister and the Minister of the Public Business Sector inaugurated a new hotel in “Magawish”, Hurghada, in the Red Sea Governorate, in the presence of the Red Sea Governor, a number of ambassadors, and the Holding Company for Tourism and Hotels. The inaugurating of this hotel comes as one of the development projects for this village which is owned by the “Misr Tourism” Company.

Meeting with Taba Tourism Investors

During his visit to Taba to attend the event organized by South Sinai Governorate to celebrate the 32nd anniversary of the return of Taba to Egypt, the Minister, met with a group of Taba investors, to listen to the problems facing them and their proposals to develop tourism in the city. They also discussed mechanisms to promote the city and attract domestic tourism.

...And A Delegation of Italian Tour Operators and Travel Agents

The Minister, met in Sharm El-Sheikh Museum, with a delegation of 140 people representing more than 20 major Italian tour operators and travel agents, as well as a number of representatives of the Italian press and media. The delegation came to Sharm El-Sheikh to see the precautionary measures and hygiene safety regulations implemented in hotel, museums and archaeological sites in the city. The CEO of the ETPB, held a meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, with the Italian delegation. They discussed proposals and mechanisms to promote Egyptian tourism in Italy. They also discussed co-marketing initiatives, in addition to organizing Fam Trips and workshops.

Meetings

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of the ETPB

On 29 March the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board was held, headed by the Minister. The Minister started by congratulating the members of the Board on the 40th anniversary of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board, which was established in March 1981. The meeting reviewed the cooperation with the Ministry of Local Development, and the opening of 3 points on the path of the Holy Family after their development in Sakha, Kafr El Sheikh; Tal Basta, Sharkia and Samannoud, Gharbia. The CEO of the ETPB reviewed the promotional plan directed to the Arab market. He also talked about the ETPB’s plan to host foreign, Arab and Egyptian travel bloggers and influencers. He added that the “Discover Egypt” campaign was launched from March 20 to the first week of April to enhance tourism and archaeological awareness of citizens and promote domestic tourism.

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council for Antiquities

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities was held on 30 March, and chaired by the Minister. During the meeting, a number of important issues were discussed to promote and support domestic tourism and raise the archaeological and tourism awareness among Egyptians. The Board decided to extend granting Egyptians discounts on entry tickets to archaeological sites and museums open for visits until mid-May 2021.

Meeting the Minister of Transportation

The Minister and the Minister of Transportation met with chairman of the Tourism and Civil Aviation Committee in the Parliament, the president of the Egyptian Tourism Federation, as well as Travel and tourism agents, the president of the South Sinai Investors Association, and a number of tourism investors. They discussed restarting the ferry between Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh, upgrading cafeterias on overnight trains between Cairo, Luxor and Aswan; in addition to re-operation of long Nile cruises and optimizing the use of the Egyptian Center for Safe Driving which is affiliated to the Egyptian Tourism Federation.

...And the Minister of State for Immigration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs

The Minister held a meeting with the Minister of State for Immigration and Egyptian Expatriate Affairs. They discussed preparing special programs for Egyptian expatriates to visit touristic and archaeological sites and museums in Egypt, and coordinate with them to promote Egyptian destinations.



Part of the meeting with the Minister of Immigration

A Meeting with the Minister of Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Minister held a meeting via video conference with his Saudi counterpart. They exchanged views on the current issues of tourism, especially in the Middle East. The Saudi Minister invited the Minister to attend the meeting of the Middle East Committee of the World Tourism Organization, held in Riyadh next April. The Minister invited his Saudi counterpart to attend the Pharaohs' Golden Parade.

Meeting the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Conakry

The Minister, received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea Conakry, during his official visit to Egypt, this month. They discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and how they can benefit from Egyptian experiences in the fields of tourism and antiquities.

Strengthening Cooperation Between Egypt and Colombia

The Minister received the Ambassador of Colombia in Cairo, they discussed organizing promotional programs for tourist destinations in the two countries, and "Fam Trips" for representatives of the media, bloggers and influencers. It was also agreed to organize a meetings between major tour operators and travel agents in Colombia and officials at the Ministry and the Egyptian Tourism Federation. They also agreed to air the promotional films of the Ministry on Colombian television.

Discussing a Project to Develop Tourism Services at Qaitbay Citadel

The Minister received, Governor of Alexandria. They discussed a project to develop tourism services at the Qaitbay Citadel and its surrounding area to improve the visitors' experience. They also discussed the visual identity project, which the governorate will start implementing during the coming period.

The Vice Minister Meets President and Founder of "United Serbia" Party

The Vice Minister for Tourism Affairs, met the president and founder of the "United Serbia" party, and member of the Serbian Parliament and the ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in Cairo. They discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Egypt and Serbia in the field of tourism and organizing student trips to the Red Sea, Luxor and Aswan.

Miscellaneous News

The Artifacts of the “Secrets of Sunken Egypt” Return to Egypt

The artifacts that participated in the exhibition “Secrets of Sunken Egypt” returned to Egypt on 15 March, after the end of their tour in a major cities of the United States of America, and a number of European countries, namely France, the United Kingdom and Switzerland. The exhibition was a great success in all the cities where it was held. It displayed a number of sunken Egyptian artifacts that were discovered under water in the Mediterranean Sea in Alexandria.

Repatriating a Bronze Artifact of the Goddess “Bastet”

In line with the efforts of the diplomatic missions and the Ministry to repatriate Egyptian antiquities smuggled abroad, the Egyptian ambassador to Canada received on 9 March a bronze artifact of the Goddess “Bastet” belonging to the ancient Egyptian civilization. This came as a result of joint efforts and close cooperation between the Egyptian Embassy in Canada and the Ministry on the one hand, and the concerned Canadian authorities on the other side.



The statue of Bastet

The Dome of Sultan Qaytbay Registered as Islamic Antiquities

In March the Ministry registered the copper dome of the collection of Sultan Qaytbay in the list of Islamic, Coptic and Jewish antiquities after the approval of the Permanent Committee for Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities, and the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. This dome is made of copper and is carried on four columns, below which there are two pieces of stone bearing antiquities Feet attributed to the Prophet Muhammad.

Lighting Up Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi in Taba to Celebrate the National Day of South Sinai

To celebrate the 32nd anniversary of the National Day of South Sinai on 16 March, the Ministry lit-up the Citadel of Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi on Pharaoh’s Island in Taba. It was built to be a strong point to protect the land and sea routes between Egypt, the Levant and the Higaz.

The Ministry Participates in “Earth Hour”

Om 27 March, the Ministry participated in the annual global event “Earth Hour” by turning off the lights for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30, in 42 archeological sites and museums in 16 governorates, to contribute to the global movement of Earth Hour. it is a symbol of commitment to the planet. This was in coordination with the Ministry of Environment.



The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Museum

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization was held on 15 March, chaired by the Minister. The board approved fees for different types of photography in the museum similar to those of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. During the meeting, the Minister directed that the museum provides free guided tours to Egyptian visitors and school trips inside the Central Exhibition Hall of the Museum of after its opening. In the context of promoting the museum, the board agreed to allow representatives of the Egyptian, Arab and international media to shoot for free inside the Central Hall for two days after the opening.

Launching the Official Website and an Online Ticketing Platform...and Giving a 50% Discount on Entry Tickets for 2 weeks.

On 30 March, the Museum launched its official website and an online platform for booking tickets. As part of the Ministry’s plan to promote the Museum, the Minister agreed to grant a 50% reduction on entry ticket prices to Egyptians and forigners for a period of two weeks, from 4 to 17 April 2021, to visit the Central hall. Visitors will be allowed to visit the Royal Mummies Hall, starting April 18, which coincides with World Heritage Day.

Appointing Two Executive Vice Presidents for the Museum for the First Time

The Prime Minister issued a decree appointing two executive Vice Presidents for the Museum, for the first time. The decree included appointing an Executive Vice President of the museum's authority for archaeological affairs, and another for management and operation, for a period of one year or until the date of reaching the legal age of retirement, whichever comes first.



The Grand Egyptian Museum

Choosing the Alliance that Will Provide and Operate Services in the Museum

The Board of Directors of the Museum Authority approved in its last session, headed by the Minister, the name of the coalition that won the provision and operation of services in the museum, based on the decision of the decision committee and the expert committee established by a decree of the Prime Minister. It is worth noting that in mid- 2018, the GEM Authority announced an international proposal to apply for providing and operating services. 8 international alliances presented proposals. The work of the technical committees resulted in the selection of three alliances. After that, the evaluation stages were completed which resulted in the selection of two alliances. Several sessions were held with them to reach the best financial and technical offer. The work of the Decision Committee and the Committee of Experts and the long negotiations resulted in choosing the alliance of "Hassan Allam", which includes Egyptian, English, French and Emirati companies, with experiences in the fields of business administration, marketing, hospitality, promotion, quality, and occupational health and safety.

Placing the first Artifacts of King Tutankhamun's Treasures in Their Halls



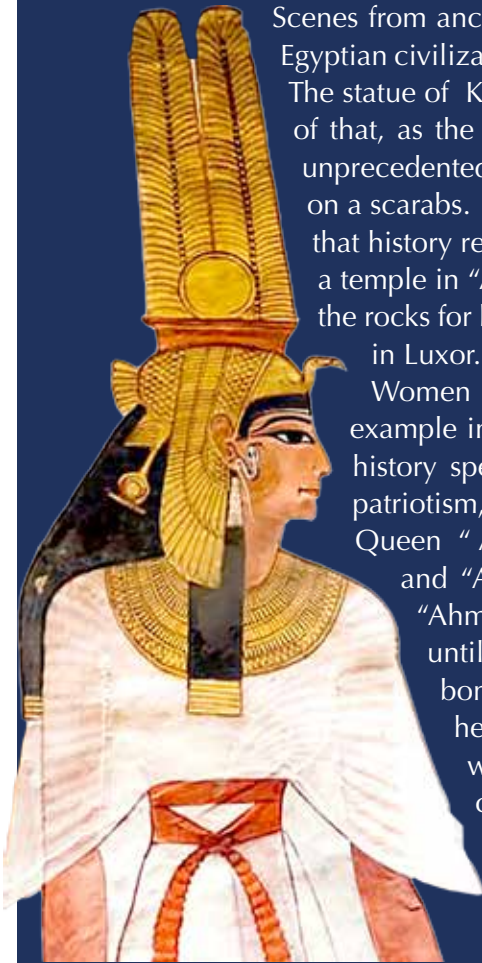
During the restoration work of the shrine of Tutankhamun



The Minister overseeing the hall of Tutankhamun

The Minister visited the Museum on 7 March to follow up on the progress of work. He was accompanied by the supervisor of the Museum project and the surrounding area, the Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and the Assistant Minister for Archaeological Affairs in the museum. The Minister oversaw archaeologists and restorers placing the first artifacts of King Tutankhamun's treasures in their exhibition halls amid strict security measures. In a related context, The Museum received the fourth shrine of King Tutankhamun from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir. It is made of gilded wood and is part of the display scenario of the halls of the treasures of the Boy King. It is considered one of the largest artifacts that have been transferred from King Tut's treasures so far to the museum. The shrine was restored and assembled inside its show case on 18 March.

Women in Ancient Egypt



A scene of Queen Nefertari from her tomb in the Valley of the Queens

Scenes from ancient Egypt tell us all about the value and role of women in the Ancient Egyptian civilization. A woman was considered a man's equal, his support and backbone. The statue of King "Amenhotep III" and his wife Queen "Tiye", is a great manifestation of that, as the Ancient Egyptian sculptor portrayed them as equal in size and, in an unprecedented gesture, King "Amenhotep III" recorded the event of his marriage to her on a scarabs. The Love story of King "Ramesses II" and his wife, "Nefertari", was one that history recorded. She was the beautiful queen, beloved to his heart, and he built a temple in "Abu Simbel" just for her, next to his great temple, and carved a tomb in the rocks for her, and it is one of the most beautiful tombs in the Valley of the Queens in Luxor.

Women in Ancient Egypt were achievers, carving their names in history. For example in the liberation war against "Hyksos", led by the king "Seqenenretaa II", history speaks of his mother, "Teti -Shery", who taught him the principles of patriotism, and she bore the title "The mother of the first martyr" in this war.

Queen " Ahhotep", a strong queen and mother of the two great kings, "Kamose", and "Ahmose", who completed the conquest and expulsion of the Hyksos.

"Ahmose" ascended the throne at a young age, "Ahhotep", reigned as regent until he was of age. Ancient Egyptian artists showcased the strong family bonds with their arts, like in the paired statue of Princess "Nefrt", beside her husband, "Re-Hotep". The statue of the dwarf "Seneb" and his wife, with their children, also confirms the value of women and how they were considered men's equal.

Women had a major role in the succession of the royal throne, as the royal bloodlines were inherited through the woman, not man. The Ancient Egyptian literature tells us of the great role of women in the family, the wise "Ani" from the 16th century BC, asked one of the sons, to be grateful to his mother as she was the one who took care of him, saying "give your mother doubled amount of the bread, as she carried you, when you were a child".

The woman was the lady of her house, and her neighbors called her, "Set-Per", and her husband called her " Merit", which means the beloved one. The wise man, "Ptah-hotep", advised husbands, saying, " Love your wife, and treat her with what she deserves, and fills her stomach, cover her back, and scent her skin with the ointment".

To celebrate International Women's Day (8 March) and Mother's Day (21 March), the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir chose a statue of Maya, the nursing mother and baby sitter of King Tutankhamun, to be the piece of the month, and displayed in its main entrance hall. Manial Palace Museum organized an art exhibition to highlight the artwork of women artists.

Dr.Mamdouh Farouq
Director of Imhotep Museum,Saqqara



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