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## Bahrain

# 200 ATTEND LAUNCH OF CLUB'S CAMPAIGN

MORE than 200 people attended the launch of a drug awareness campaign held at the Le Royal Meridien Hotel last night.

The long-term drug awareness programme has been organised by the Lions Club of Riffa, which also celebrated its first anniversary during the event.

The event, under the patronage of Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, saw the unveiling of the campaign's logo as well as reasons for and objectives behind the campaign.

Club members and supporters

were also honoured during the event.

The campaign will target the Bahraini society, especially youngsters, through literature which will be distributed at schools, colleges, health centres and during public functions, as well as a 12-minute video production which highlights different types of drugs and the consequences of using them.

The event was attended by Turkish Ambassador Aydemir Erman, Indian Ambassador Rajanikanta Verma, Pakistan Ambassador Muhammad Nasser Mian, UN resident co-ordinator and UNDP resi-

dent representative Dr Faysal Abdel-Gadir, Government officials, dignitaries and club members.

Club president Syed Wahajuddin Ahmed welcomed the guests and outlined the club's objectives as well as some of the programmes it was supporting.

"Less than two years ago, the Lions Club of Riffa was just a dream, a mere aspiration, not because we lacked support but because we wanted to be an association with a purpose," he said.

Mr Ahmed said the club was established with the aim to diversify

and broaden the existing base of social service in Bahrain.

"As we began our journey, we were appalled by the harmful influence of drug abuse on youth. It was therefore necessary to promote greater awareness of the evil effects of drug abuse, primarily as a health hazard with greater emphasis on the younger members of society," said Mr Ahmed.

He said he was aware of the enormity of tasks awaiting them and the challenges the campaign would have to face in order for it to succeed.

"We are darting ahead with comprehensive planning and unswerving

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# AGAINST DRUG USE

dedication, to build on the foundation of today a better society of tomorrow."

Mr Ahmed said the programme "symbolises the vision of the individuals, corporations and institutions who recognise it as a unique opportunity to safeguard our community, protect our children and lead our youth into an era of a safe and healthy social environment".

Ten artists from Bahrain have also donated a painting each for the cause.

Their paintings were auctioned last night and proceeds from their

sales will go toward supporting the campaign.

The artists who donated their paintings for the cause are: Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Abdulrahim Sharif, Abbas Al Moosawi, Ishak Khonji, Jamal Abdulrahim, Dr Mohammed Agag, Nawal Kamal, Rashid Al Oraifi, Abdulla Yousif, Rachel Pope and Ken DeSouza.

The campaign is being supported by the ministries of Cabinet Affairs and Information, Labour and Social Affairs and Health.



■ATTENDANCE ... Mr Al Sho'ala and Under-Secretary Shalkh Ahmed bin Sager Al Khalifa with officials from the Lions Club of Riffa at the event