WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR OF LARNAKA Mr. ANDREA VYRA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 13th MEDITERRANEAN FOLKLORE DANCE FESTIVAL IN LARNAKA

"Culture is a movement, not a state. It is a journey, not a port ".
Arnold J. Toynbee, 1889-1975, British historian

Indeed, culture is a journey without which, the identity of peoples, their traditions and customs cannot be determined.

Every year, a festival of high importance is hosted in our in our city. Being held for 13 consecutive years, the festival has become an institution and has earned the love and appreciation of not only Larnaca's people but of the whole of Cyprus. I am referring to the very successful Mediterranean Folk Dance Festival that is organized by the Cultural Heritage Association of Nicosia in cooperation with Larnaka Municipality.

It is about the commingling of cultures with live music and musicians, a synthesis of colours and original traditional costumes. It is an institution that fosters mutual interaction and cultural exchange, it is a matter educating culture. It is a tangible expression of culture in a globalizing world, through which the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue shall be the main objectives for heritage, dialogue between religions, education and youth.

This festival is the product of the desire and love of the friends of the traditional dances. They give people the opportunity to meet and coexist through music and dance from other countries.

I warmly congratulate the President of the Cultural Heritage Association of Nicosia Mrs. Rea Madella Ioannidou and all Members of the Board and I wish them all the best.

Thank you.

Andreas Vyras
Mayor of Larnaka