



Speech by Nasos Ktorides Announcement – “Heroes Park”

“My beloved Pappou!” I said. “Give me a command!”

“Reach as far as you can, my child.”

This voice of the deep, the dark, came as though from the cavernous throat of the earth. My grandfather’s voice touched the very root of my mind, but my heart was not shaken.

“Pappou!”, I cried more loudly now, “Give me a more difficult, more Cretan command.”

And all of a sudden, as I uttered it, a flame cut through the air. The invincible ancestor disappeared from my eyes, with hair knotted like sprigs of thyme, while all that remained at the summit of Sinai was an upright voice, full of command in the shaking wind:

“Reach as far as you cannot!”

My dear friends, the conventional and easy solutions that have brought us to where we are today are not enough to secure our prosperity for today or tomorrow.

Now more than ever, Kazantzakis’s command, to “reach as far as you cannot”, should inspire and energize our plans: as individuals, as a society, and as a state.

We need to think big: not how to enrich ourselves but how to enrich the world; not with money but with the quality of our efforts; not only for this generation but for the next.



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Three months ago, from this place of scholarship and research, we launched the “Action for Energy” initiative, with the award of a doctoral fellowship. We promised that this would be only the beginning.

Today we are fulfilling our commitment to Cypriot society with another creative work of love and imagination.

The University of Cyprus and the philanthropic not-for-profit Athanasios Ktorides Foundation are in the process of developing a photovoltaic park with a capacity of 10 MW in a space that belongs to the University in Aglantzia.

It is the largest and most significant solar energy project in Cyprus, and for that reason it is of national importance for the country. A notable feature of the park will be its ability to meet the energy needs of a population at least as large as Aglantzia, with zero carbon emissions!

At a time when solutions are being sought to make Cyprus independent of polluting and costly fuels, harnessing the wealth bequeathed to us by nature is more than necessary for our prosperity. It is vital to the health and happiness of us and our children.

The cost of creating the park is estimated at 14 million euros and will be entirely financed by the Athanasios Ktorides Foundation as part of our mission to offer affection to our fellow man and to the natural environment.



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Quantum Energy, a Cypriot organization involved in power generation and focusing on renewable sources in south-east Europe, will provide the expertise and ensure the integrity of the project.

It is an ambitious project with a very touching, human dimension. It is dedicated to lives of the thirteen heroes lost on July 11, 2011. The “Heroes Photovoltaic Park”, as it is to be called, will be a living monument to love and altruism. As the distinguished Dean of the University of Cyprus will report in more detail, the profits of the park will be made available for the continuous promotion of study and research, especially when this research is undertaken by the children of the heroes who gave their lives for our lives.

The first step in the implementation of “Heroes Photovoltaic Park” is expected to be the final approval of the United Nations for the use of the land, since it is in the buffer zone. We invite the competent authorities of the state to embrace this initiative so that the process can promote the rapid realization of this wonderful initiative.

My dear friends, with this project we are dare to presume that Cyprus can “reach as far as it cannot”. As Cypriots we have the imagination, courage and above all the moral authority to excel in even more spectacular ways.

I thank the Dean and the University of Cyprus from the bottom of my heart for their effective and active support.