

Expanding main road to be a dual-carriage way with two lanes

SEZAD assigns the development program of Downtown Duqm

Muscat – 18 February 2015

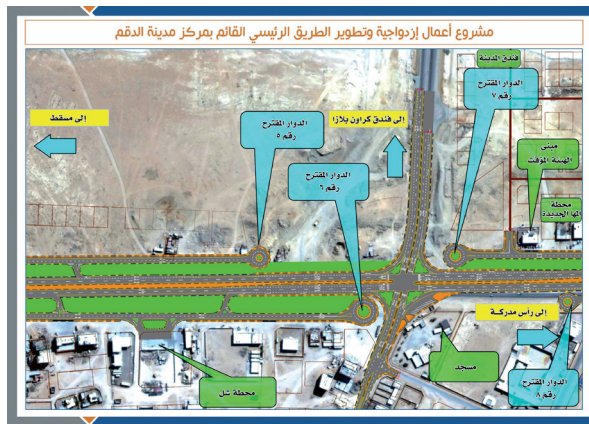
SEZAD's Tenders Committee awarded in its first meeting in 2015 one of the most prominent projects to develop Downtown Duqm consisting of an expansion on the main road. The contractor will commence works in the next few weeks, and the road is expected to be ready in the first quarter of next year.

The project includes expanding the main road to be a dual-carriage way road with two lanes in each direction for 7 kilometers and 11 km length service roads in each side as well as the construction of 12 roundabouts on the service roads and construction of traffic light intersections on the main road.

The project also includes the construction of car parking lots, landscaping, modern irrigation systems, lighting works and the diversion of electricity lines to underground cables. The main road will start at the entrance of Duqm Wilayat passing in front of the Office of H.E. Wali of Duqm and other government institutions, residential areas, commercial stores, and it will end with the road leading to Duqm Regional Airport.

This project aims to improve the urban environment in Duqm that is consistent with the new urban development and to keep up with the projects that are being set up in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm. The project also aims to facilitate the traffic in Duqm and then towards commercial, industrial, and tourism zones.

Urban development is a priority for SEZAD, and the Authority is working to make the area a model integrated economic city that combines between industrial, commercial, tourism and social projects, mixes modernity with authenticity, and provides all the needs of its citizens from different services. The new urban design of Duqm is an opportunity to prepare



To improve the urban environment in Duqm that is consistent with the new urban development and to keep up with the projects.



model cities for coming generations, and it can be considered as the first model of an integrated city in the Sultanate of Oman that gives great attention to urban planning and sustainable development and determines the needs of different sectors from land and the need of the population for services.

Tens of projects are currently being set up in SEZD in different economic sectors, which falls within the Sultanate's efforts to make SEZD one of the pillars of economic diversification and providing employment opportunities. Last year, SEZAD assigned many projects; and signed usufruct agreements with a number of local companies.



Yahya Al Jabri

Banking and financial institutions exempted from registration in the record

Muscat, 8 February

Yahya bin Abdullah bin Said al Jabri, Chairman of the SEZAD issued a decision issuing the SEZD projects registration bylaw, which came into force in February after being published at the Official Gazette.

The bylaw provided one-year grace period for the professional and craft projects from the date of issuing this bylaw to settle their conditions. The bylaw applies for all licensed projects in SEZD. Any project not covered by this bylaw will be governed by the provisions of the Commercial Registration Law issued by the Royal Decree No. 3/74 and its executive bylaw as well as the decisions implementing it.

South al Batinah Governor:

Duqm is a Strategic Project and Important Step towards Diversification of National Income Resources

Musanaa, 23rd Feb 2015

The Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) organized two seminars on 23rd and 24 February at the College of Technology in al Musanaa and OCCI Branch in Sohar.

Sheikh Hilal bin Said al Hajri, Governor of South al Batinah said that SEZD is an important

project in the Sultanate's towards diversification of the sources of national income. He affirmed that Duqm has a special importance of the Sultanate.

He called on businessmen, investors and SME owners to benefit from the business opportunities in the Zone.

(Details in page 2).



SEZAD Urges Private Sector to Explore Business Opportunities in SEZD



Musanaa (23rd February 2015)

Sohar (24th February 2015)

At the two awareness seminars held in South and North al Batinah, the Special Economic Zone Authority in Duqm (SEZAD) called on investors and businessmen to explore the available business opportunities in SEZD.

Ismail bin Ahmed al Balushi, Deputy CEO of SEZAD said that SEZAD is leaving no stone unturned to create the conducive milieu for investment. To this end, we call on the Omani private sector, SMEs and entrepreneurs to benefit from the investment climate, incentives and facilities provided by the Authority to investors.

He added that SEZAD is pursuing

a strategy that aim at enhancing the activities of these enterprises and open the field for growth.

“During last year, we have signed MoU with the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (PASMED) to regularize the allocation of industrial and commercial land plots for investment by SMEs through land usufruct agreements, he furthered”

While addressing the gathering, he said that SEZAD provides scores of competitive edges and incentives that qualify it to become a region logistic and marine hub for the GCC region. The vast area of the zone, which stretches over 1745 km, provides room for various investments in the different sectors.

Each of the two seminars included two

presentations. The first presentation by Lobna al Khanji, Promotion and Investment Specialist in SEZAD highlighted the several benefits for investors in the Zone. At her presentation, she also covered the services provided by the one stop shop, which is the main gateway for investment in Duqm. The portal provides investors with many facilities and services.

At the second presentation, Eng. Hussain al Zadjali, Building Projects Officer at SEZAD gave an overview on the projects that will be implemented in the Zone. He pointed out that the government pumped major investments in the infrastructure projects to ensure providing investors with excellent facilities and amenities that make their investment experiences attractive and effective.

Eng Hamoud al Saadi: Duqm has the potentials to become an international hub for businesses

Musanaa (23rd Feb. 2015)

Eng Hamoud bin Salem al Saadi , Chairman of OCCI Branch In South al Batinah affirmed the importance of this seminar in raising awareness of businessmen and women in the Governorate of the available business opportunities in Duqm as well as the projects witnessed by the region.

While addressing the gathering at the seminar he said that the establishment of industrial and economic zone in the Sultanate showcases the Sultanate’s constant interest in creating business and investment friendly environment that attracts local and foreign investments that can contribute to the growth of our national economy. He added that SEZD is qualified to be a world hub for heavy industries.

He also pointed out that these projects aim at diversifying sources of national economy, reduce reliance on oil and enhancing the industrial base.

‘If we want to remain immune from oil prices fluctuation, we should secure as many sources of income as we can to meet the needs of the comprehensive development process’, he concluded.



Ali al Badi: SEZAD and Industrial Areas Living Examples of H.M the Sultan Vision

Sohar (24th Feb. 2015)

Sheikh Ali bin Musalam al Badi, member of OCC branch in North al Batinah and Chairman of the Economic Committee said that the establishment of SEZD and other industrial areas and ports in the different parts of the Sultanate are living example of H.M the Sultan far-sighted vision. He pointed out that the aim behind the establishment of this zone is to find alternatives sources of income and create a logistic hub that will surely enhance the development process in al Wusta Governorate and ensure balanced development among the Sultanate’s governorates.

At this speech, he stressed the importance of this seminar in raising awareness of the available investment opportunities’ in the Sultanate. He hoped that the efforts done at SEZD will start yielding fruits soon and contribute to diversifying the sources of national economy.



One-Year Grace Period for Projects in Duqm

SEZD Projects Registration Bylaw issued

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The bylaw provided one-year grace period for the professional and craft projects from the date of issuing this bylaw to settle their conditions. The bylaw applies for all licensed projects in SEZD. Any project not covered by this bylaw will be governed by the provisions of the Commercial Registration Law issued by the Royal Decree No. 3/74 and its executive bylaw as well as the decisions implementing it.

As per the bylaw, a department titled 'Commercial Registration Department' will be in charge of processing the commercial registration in the Zone. It will also handle the application for registration and the records of the projects that have been deleted. The categories that should register at this Register include the traders whose principal business is located in the Zone, the commercial companies whose main offices are located in the Zone, the branches of companies located outside the Zone, either inside or outside the Sultanate.

For a company to register, it should have one of the following legal forms; partnership company, partnership, joint or limited liability companies.

The insurance and reinsurance companies, banks, financial institutions, communication service and land transport



A commercial registration department is established ..

Banking and financial institutions exempted from registration in the record

provider as well as other projects whose businesses go beyond SEZD boundaries are exempted from such registration.

Those having professional licenses from the respective authorities are also exempted from registration subject that they are not companies or branches or agencies for any other enterprise.

Farmers, fishermen or those doing small land or marine transportation services against humble fees are also exempted from such registration.

SEZAD Chairman may exempt small traders and craftsmen from registration requirement as per the circumstances he deems appropriate.

The registration, valid for five years, should be renewed at least 30 days before the expiry date subject to meeting the requirements and payment of fees.

SEZAD takes part at the development projects exhibition in Muscat Festival



Muscat 15th Feb. 2015

The SEZAD took part at the development projects' exhibition, which was held at Al Amerat Public Park 12th -14th February on the sidelines of Muscat Festival.

The exhibition was opened by Sheikh Yahya bin Suleiman al Nadabi, Wali of Al Amerat in the presence of Younis bin Sakhi al Balushi, Director General of Muscat Municipality in Al Amerat and Head of the Al Amerat Events Committee as well as number of officials at Muscat Municipality.

SEZAD representative gave an overview on SEZD and the underway projects. They also distributed a number of publications and booklets to the visitors of the exhibition. SEZAD corner included also some pictures, maps and brochures on the Zone.