

*Sayyid Kamil bin Fahad: Al Duqm is a multi-purpose international economic front*

# We invite the private sector to invest in SEZD and to set up different projects

**Duqm – 29 April 2015**

H.H. Sayyid Kamil bin Fahad bin Mahmud Al Said Assistant Secretary General of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs said that Duqm is a multi-purpose international economic front and a central hub in the region given its strategic geopolitical location, which is open to the Arabian Sea.

H.H. added in a press statement after H.H. had inaugurated the second "Al Duqm: Community and Economy" forum, that the development of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) will make it one of the most important economic zones and ports in the Middle East and an integrated economic hub in addition to the several logistics services that it will provide. Additionally, it will be an economic axis on the international level.

H.H. explained that the forum, which was held on April 29, 2015, shows the success of SEZD and the true partnership between the public and the private sectors, in addition to the promising opportunities for entrepreneurs who aim to invest in the projects whether local investors from the Governorate, Omanis from other governorates or expats, along with its role in providing many employment opportunities.

H.H. expressed his



overwhelming pleasure regarding what the forum included from signing a number of agreements between Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) and SMEs. H.H. confirmed that this is the direction sought by the government for the promotion of SMEs in the business market.

H.H. invited the private sector to provide more cooperation to the government, to do its part by investing in SEZD and to set up different projects and develop the local community.



## Al Duqm Forum Discusses Investment Opportunities and the promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility

**Duqm – April 29 2015**

The second "Al Duqm: Community and Economy" forum, which was held on Wednesday, April 29 2014 at Crown Plaza Hotel in Al Duqm, discussed many perspectives and visions which contribute towards promoting companies' performance in the area of corporate social responsibility (CSR). The forum highlighted investment opportunities available to the community of the Governorate of Al Wusta.

The forum witnessed several work-papers from academics, officials and experts from inside and outside of the Sultanate, which fell into two main pillars; Corporate Social Responsibility and the Investment Opportunities at SEZD.



# Al Jabri valued His Majesty directives to achieve economic diversification

## Yahya Al Jabri: The directives of His Majesty is a platform for action for us here at Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD)



**Muscat (9 April 2015)**

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), valued the royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said – May Allah protect him – to expedite the process of laying plans that can achieve economic diversification and the completion of major projects that shall contribute to the welfare of the public and attract more investments to the Sultanate.

H.E. said in a statement to Oman Daily Newspaper “We put the directives of His Majesty as an action platform for

us at SEZAD and we have worked since Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) was established late 2011 to attract local and foreign investments. These efforts have contributed towards diversifying the available investments at SEZD from local and foreign investments.

H.E. stressed that SEZD is now witnessing the implementation of tens of projects that realize His Majesty’s vision for SEZD to be one of the pillars of economic diversification in the Sultanate. He pointed out the big number of agreements, which were recently signed such as the preliminary usufruct agreement that was signed for Sohar Refinery, and many other agreements with companies from the private sector

that aim to set up projects in the industrial, commercial and logistics sectors.

H.E. said that these efforts, have paved the way for the private sector to invest in the Sultanate and has also provided the appropriate environment for these investments. Additionally, these efforts contributed to the stimulation of economic activity in the Governorate of Al Wusta. H.E. expressed his confidence that Special Economic Zone at Duqm will achieve good results in this field and that the desired results of establishing this economic zone to be one of the pillars of economic diversification in the Sultanate and to provide employment opportunities for young Omanis in order to gain experience and skills, will be realized.

## SEZAD signs three Usufruct Agreements with Local Companies



**Duqm – April 29 2015**

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), signed three usufruct agreements with local companies to implement a number of projects in Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

The first usufruct agreement was signed with Oman Line شركة خط عمان, which plans to establish a technical institute that provides training courses in the fields of mechanics, electricity, equipment, shipbuilding, ship maintenance, painting, trade and

fishing through various workshops related to previously mentioned fields. The project will be set up on a land area of 25,895 square meters at an investment cost of two million Omani Rials.

The second usufruct agreement



was signed with Al-Ghalbi International Engineering and Contracting LLC, which intends to implement a tourism project that will include hotel apartments and retail stores, and it will be set up on a land area of 20035 square meters, with an investment cost of 4 million Omani Rials.

The third usufruct agreement was signed with Arab Sea International Company شركة بحر العرب العالمية. The Company aims to set up a tourism project, which will include a Hotel and retail stores. The project will be implemented on a land area of 10700 square meters, with an investment cost of 1.2 million Omani Rials.



**Duqm – April 29, 2015**

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors in Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), announced that SEZAD is studying establishing a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund, in Special

## SEZD Projects Registration Bylaw issued

# Chairman of the Board: We look forward to making Duqm an ideal and stable place to live in

Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD), that will target financing different projects and programs that the community needs. The fund will also promote SEZAD's efforts along with the companies that operate in SEZD to implement quality projects that will have big impact on the different sectors of society.

H.E. said in his speech in the Second AI Duqm: Community and Economy Forum, that Special Economic Zone at Duqm has achieved numerous successes in the last few years and it currently placed on the international investment map due to its competitive advantages and the incentives and facilities it provides for investors. Moreover, its vast area (1745 Square Kilometers) can accommodate various types of investments.

H.E. said, we not only want to attract investments to SEZD, but we look forward to making Duqm, an ideal and stable place to live in for all residents that are expected to increase in numbers in the next few years, which justifies our efforts to attract numerous investments in the tourism and entertainment sectors. Today, hotels in Duqm, provide approximately (500) hotel room, and the availability of 3 and 4 stars hotels provide different options for tourists. Moreover, there are other projects, which the private sector is currently setting up in the fields of tourism and commercial complexes. Additionally, SEZAD intends to build gardens, parks and walking trails at the seaside.

*Tax Exemption Extends to 30 Years Provided the Projects be Registered in SEZAD*

## Defining Regulations for Tax Exemptions in SEZAD

Projects are to submit final income statement to the Secretariat of Taxation for every tax year

**Duqm – April 26, 2015**

H.E. Yahya bin Said bin Abdullah Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board in Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) issued a decision defining the regulations of tax exemptions in SEZAD.

The Decision, which entered into force on (April 26, 2015), defined the conditions to be provided in projects eligible for tax exemptions. These conditions include that the projects be registered in the Commercial Register in SEZAD, in accordance with the provisions of Projects Registration Regulations issued by SEZAD, and to be licensed to practice one of the specified activities in accordance with the provisions of the regulations of organizing the investment environment issued by SEZAD, and to adhere to practicing the licensed activities within the borders of SEZD, in addition to adhering to the Omanization percentage specified by SEZAD.

According to these conditions, projects will be exempted from taxes for a period of (30) calendar years or the period of lease contract or the usufruct agreement

whichever ends earlier. The tax exemption shall start from the time of starting the activity, and all the legal requirements are met to be granted the exemption. The exemption may be renewed as per the terms shown in these regulations. This exemption does not apply to banks, financial institutions, insurance and reinsurance companies, and telecommunications services companies, and land transport services companies unless registered with SEZAD and doing their businesses permanently inside SEZD. The tax exemption is limited to the income generated by the projects from the licensed activities inside SEZD only and the income generated by businesses carried out outside the borders of SEZD.

The decision provided that exempted projects shall submit their final income statement to the Secretariat General of Taxation in the Ministry of Finance for each tax year. This shall be done using the applicable forms and according to the provisions of the income tax law and its executive regulations, and the tax due to this final income statement is not payable, provided it has met all the provided requirements to be granted the exemption.

## SEZAD participates in the Scientific Festival in Sultan Qaboos University

**Muscat – April 19, 2015**

Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) took part in the Scientific Festival which was conducted under the theme "Com-minds to monetize" which was held in Sultan Qaboos University, under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Abdullah bin Mohamed Al Saedi, Minister of Legal Affairs.

This participation aimed to introduce to the students to the various characteristics of Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) and the different facilities it provides to attract different projects.

SEZAD's corner witnessed a significant attention from visitors and participants. The festival included more than 50 innovative projects from the various science departments from the Faculty of Science.

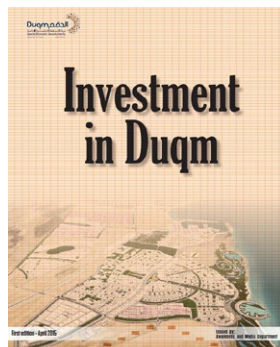


## Issuing the English Edition of "Investing in Duqm" Booklet

**Muscat – April 28, 2015**

The Awareness and Information Department in cooperation with the One-Stop Shop and the Department of International Studies and Cooperation, has issued the English edition of "Investing in Duqm" Booklet.

The booklet, which consists of (25) pages aims to clarify the procedures and requirements of investing



in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) and the benefits, incentives and facilities provided by Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) to investors.

The booklet includes an introduction to SEZD and the idea behind establishing SEZAD and its terms of reference and SEZD authorities. The booklet also explains the One-Stop Shop system and SEZAD's efforts to promote SMEs.



*Entrepreneurs in Ad Dakhiliyah Governorate and Ad Dhahirah Governorate review investment opportunities available at SEZD*

# Ismail Al Balushi: We focus on promoting SEZD inside and outside of the Sultanate and encourage local and foreign investments

Ibri – April 13, 2015

Nizwa – April 14, 2015

Entrepreneurs in the Governorates of Ad Dakhiliyah and Ad Dhahirah were exposed over two days to the available investment opportunities in Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) through two seminars organized by Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) in cooperation with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The two seminars were held in the Wilayats of Ibri and Nizwa.

Deputy CEO of SEZAD, Ismail al Balushi, confirmed that SEZAD is working to translate the wise vision of the Sultanate to diversify the sources of national income to reality by working towards attracting local and foreign investments to SEZD. He explained that this shall reap many gains for the national economy, and it will contribute to providing employment opportunities to young Omanis where they will gain many skills and experiences.

Al Balushi said that SEZAD has worked

towards translating these targets through a number of mechanisms including preparing the legal and legislative frameworks that regulate SEZAD and regulate granting many incentives, benefits and facilities to investors. Additionally, SEZAD focuses on promoting SEZD inside and outside of the Sultanate and encourages local and foreign investments equally. SEZAD in the same time follows up on the implementation of many projects and investments in SEZD, and discusses the challenges it faces and the needed facilities in order to achieve the main objectives of establishing SEZD. Al Balushi said that SEZAD hopes, through the support of different governmental agencies and through creating partnerships with local and foreign investors, to achieve these objectives and targets.

He pointed out in his speech the services provided by the One-Stop Shop to investors, and said that we consider the One-Stop Shop the gateway of investment in SEZD, and that the One-Stop Shop was established in order to provide the best services to investors. These services include: providing necessary and

required information and data to investors, provide guidance and advice about the available investment opportunities in SEZD and the procedures of investment. The One-Stop Shop provides other services including Commercial Registration, issuance of usufruct permits, and usufruct contracts registration, issuance of municipal and environmental license, in addition to commencement of activity licenses including industrial, tourism, and mining licenses, in addition to other services. Moreover, in order to provide more facilities to investors, two offices for the One-Stop Shop were established one in Muscat and the other in Al Duqm.

The two seminars included two presentations; the first presentation was made by Lubna Al Khanjia, promotion and investment specialist in SEZAD. This presentation dealt with the available investment opportunities in SEZD.

The Second Presentation was presented by Eng. Husain Al Zadjali Building Projects Officer in SEZAD, and dealt with the projects that are being set up at SEZD.

## Ali Al Kalbani: informative seminars contribute to the local investment of capitals

Ibri – April 13, 2015

Ali Al Kalbani, Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry branch in the Governorate of Ad Dhahirah, stressed the importance of this seminar in terms of informing entrepreneurs about the available investment opportunities at SEZD, pointing out that such seminars contribute to the local investment of capitals.

In his speech during the seminar, he said that the Sultanate owns and can offer lots of investment opportunities, stressing the importance of promoting such opportunities. He indicated that OCCI Branch in the Governorate of Ad Dhahirah has many programs and events that aim to promote the investment and trade activity in addition to the tourism sector in the Governorate.



## Ibrahim Al Nabhani: a promising future for SEZD in the formulation of the economic map of the Sultanate

Nizwa – April 14, 2015

Sheikh Ibrahim bin Said Al Nabhani, Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry branch in the Governorate of Ad Dakhiliyah said that this seminar reflects the government's efforts to encourage local investment and exploit available opportunities, pointing out that the Sultanate aims to develop Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) according to a strategic vision that focuses on attracting investments, establishing projects and providing services and logistic facilities for the improvement of the economic position of the Sultanate and the diversification of sources of national income as well as to provide more employment opportunities for citizens and for the development of Al Wusta Governorate.

He expressed, in his speech during the seminar, his confidence that SEZD will have a promising future role in the formulation of the economic map of the Sultanate because of the attractive incentives and promising investment opportunities it provides as a part of the comprehensive plan that was prepared for the development of the city of Al Duqm whether in SEZD or in other zones.

