

Port of Duqm is close to completion

Starting a survey of economic
establishments in Duqm



Duqm

joining forces to
combat Coronavirus



Floating a bidding for managing,
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We remain optimistic in challenging time

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic marks one of the biggest challenges the world is currently facing due to the almost complete halt of many economic activities as well as the number of infections and deaths putting pressure on healthcare sectors in different countries worldwide. The Sultanate has managed to reduce the impact caused by the pandemic through tireless efforts of various government bodies. These efforts came in response to the decisions issued by the Supreme Committee, concerned with following up the developments of the Coronavirus, formed on March 10, 2020, in accordance with the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) has taken early precautionary measures to combat COVID-19 spread in Duqm and avoid transmission of infection due to the large number of workers in projects operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD), density of workers in their accommodations, and increasing movement of transportation to Duqm. The measures taken by SEZAD in cooperation with the companies and other parties in SEZD have contributed to protect SEZD from this pandemic, as no case of infection is registered in Duqm as of April 30.

On the other hand, SEZAD went ahead with implementing its plan to complete SEZD projects, foremost of which is Port of Duqm, which recorded high completion rates in various construction packages. In April, the contractor handed over the liquid and bulk materials berth, the completion rate at the commercial berth exceeded 90% and last year, SEZAD had received the government berth.

SEZAD also floated a public bidding early this year for developing, managing and operating the Fishing Port, within its keenness to allow the specialised companies to manage this important facility and activate its gains for SEZD in particular and the national economy in general.

At a time when we are optimistic about the decline of the Coronavirus pandemic, we express our profound thanks and appreciation to all those working in the health sector in the Sultanate for their great and commendable efforts and dedication to achieving their lofty mission. We also extend our gratitude to the security authorities that watch over the country and all the employees, companies, and workers in SEZD for their sincere efforts in carrying out their work and their adherence to the decisions and instructions issued by the Supreme Committee, concerned with following up the developments of the Coronavirus. We pray to the Almighty Allah to protect our country and other countries against diseases and pandemics.



Yahya bin Said Al Jabri
General Supervisor



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Economic Affairs and Free
Zones

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Authority at Duqm (SEZAD)

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الدقم
الاقتصادية
Duqm

هيئة المنطقة الاقتصادية الخاصة
Special Economic Zone Authority
سلطنة عُمان
Sultanate of Oman

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Renaissance Village Duqm



Delegation of 7th National Defense batch visits Special Economic Zone at Duqm



Duqm - :

Dr. Ismail Al Balushi:
Duqm embodies the wise vision of Sultan Qaboos to attract local and foreign investments

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) welcomed on 12th of February a delegation of 38 participants at the 7th National Defense batch. The delegation was headed by the Major General Salim bin Musallam bin Ali Qatan, Commandant of the National Defense College (NDC).

This visit came as part of the college's annual programme aimed at familiarising participants with the different strategic projects being developed in the Sultanate, including projects at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

The National Defense College (NDC) was established and its statute was issued according to the Royal Decree No. (2/2013). The College is specialised in strategic studies in the fields of security and defense.

Diversity of investments

In his welcoming note, Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al Balushi, CEO of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), said: "The Special Economic Zone at Duqm stands as among the key achievements of the Blessed Renaissance, started by the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur, May Allah rest his soul in peace. As per His Majesty's Royal Directives, SEZD is marked one of the investment destinations and a cornerstone of the economic diversification plans in the Sultanate."

"SEZAD has endeavored since its establishment in late 2011 to embody the wise vision of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur directing towards attracting local and foreign investments to Duqm. In this regard, the investments of government companies and private corporates in the Zone reached about \$ 14 billion, according to the usufruct contracts signed till the end of last year", Al Balushi commented.

He added that such investments are testament of the various advantages of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) along with the incentives and facilities provided by SEZAD to increase local and foreign investments. This also reflects the Sultanate's security, stability and stimulating business environment offered for investors.

Competitive characteristics

The CEO touched on the competitive characteristics of Duqm that qualify it to be a major trade destination between the East and West. Besides, it is positioned as an integrated industrial complex on international shipping lines, thanks to its geographical location on the Arabian Sea overlooking the Indian Ocean and close to the consumer markets in Asia and Africa.

"Therefore, the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) is working closely, in cooperation with its partners in the Zone, especially the Port of Duqm, to attract local and in-

Investments
are a testament of provided advantages and incentives at the Zone





ternational companies and renowned shipping lines to mark Duqm a main station for its containers targeting countries in the Middle East as well as the African and Asian markets”, the CEO explained.

Well-integrated Zone

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm is distinguished with its diversity of projects and spacious area of (2000) square kilometres, which allowed it to attract various businesses in different economic sectors. The Zone is home for projects specialised in light, medium and heavy industries, petrochemical, fisheries, tourism, commercial, health, education, logistics, and real estate development.

In view of that, Dr. Ismail Al Balushi, CEO of SEZAD commented that SEZAD aims through this diversification of investments to make Duqm an integrated hub of services; a place for living and work, where people of different cultures and backgrounds come together to achieve the objectives of building the Zone and boost its contribution to the national economy.

Key projects

To name key projects in the Zone, Dr. Al Balushi highlighted the currently existing projects stating: “The Port of Duqm is one of the most prominent components of the Zone, which is a multi-purpose port, comprising a commercial berth that brings two container terminals, a station for dry bulk materials, and a multi-use station. The Port also includes a dedicated berth to serve government bodies and another berth for oil industries purposes capable of handling petroleum products for the Duqm Refinery and petrochemical companies, which will be coming up in the near future”.

He pointed out that there are a number of

other major projects supporting investment in the Zone such as Duqm Airport, Drydock for ship repair, Duqm Refinery, Fishing Port, and the oil storage station in Ras Markaz. Other components include a variety of hotel accommodation options, and an integrated road network connecting different investment sectors at Duqm.

Attracting private sector projects

Commenting on the infrastructure at Duqm, Dr. Ismail Al Balushi, CEO of SEZAD stressed that the infrastructure developed by the Government, the investment environment, geographical location of the Zone, and the incentives provided by SEZAD for investors highly contributed to attract many local and international private sector projects to invest in Duqm.

Among these projects are Sebacic Acid, which is extracted from castor oil, Sino-Omani Industrial City, Little India Project, the Omani-Qatari investments (Karwa Project), and many other industrial, commercial, tourist, logistics and real estate development projects.

“In addition, the current academic year also witnessed the inauguration of A'Soud Global School at Duqm, the first international school at Duqm. The Special Economic Zone at Duqm also brings different options of medical services including KIMS Medical Complex and other clinics and pharmacies providing these services to families and residents of Duqm” Al Balushi added.

Visual presentations

During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm, Port of Duqm, Drydock and Emdad Logistics Company. The delegation was also toured around a number of projects in the Zone.



Attracting international shipping lines to mark Duqm a main station for its containers

Investment diversification makes Duqm an integrated hub of services and a place for living and work

Launching new website of SEZAD



**Launching
new
e-services
and releasing
new edition
of Tourism
Map**

Duqm -

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm launched on 4th of March its new website (www.duqm.gov.om) along with other 8 new e-services on its digital portal, available on the website in addition to the e-services presented at SEZAD's Mobile App.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al Balushi, CEO of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) said, "Developing the website comes to keep pace with the rapid growth in the Zone and increasing interest of investors, and to provide all services presented by the One Stop Shop online in a bid to achieve an integrated digital transformation. These e-services have contributed to attract investment to the Zone and facilitate the accessibility to the services provided to investors and SEZAD's customers online".

"This comes in line with the digital transfor-

mation approach, which is one of the necessities for all government and private bodies which believe in the importance of developing and improving its administrative procedures and services as well as facilitating its accessibility to customers." Dr. Al Balushi added.

During event held at SEZAD Headquarter in Duqm and attended by investors and officials from different government and private bodies, the CEO highlighted the importance of the website, stating: "The website is the most prominent platform introducing the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, with over (60) thousand people visit the website from all over the world every year. SEZAD worked on improving its website to keep pace with the aspirations of investors and visitors and to attract investments to Duqm".

SEZAD started its first website in 2012 and in 2014 won the Strategic Award for the Best Arab Government Websites, which translates the high success achieved by the website.





Zahida Al Balushi presenting features of the website

"Reflecting on our belief in the importance to continue improving the services provided on the website, SEZAD worked on developing the website, its services and technical features to facilitate the accessibility to its different sections and interactive services" Dr. Al Balushi remarked.

Social media platforms

Dr. Ismail Al Balushi, CEO of SEZAD, pointed out that "SEZAD has Six (6) social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. All these accounts receive great attention from the public, with over 14,000 thousand followers on Twitter only and the WhatsApp account attracted more than 1,300 subscribers so far. Through these accounts, SEZAD strives to promote Duqm by sharing information with the public and investors, and update them with all SEZAD's news and activities. In fact, SEZAD's accounts witness great interaction with the total interface on Twitter alone reached over two and a half million last year".

Features of the new website

Commenting on the launch of the revamped website, Zahida Al Balushi, Studies and International Cooperation Manager at SEZAD, noted "The website brings new interactive fea-

tures and shares important information about starting a business in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and serves as a guide for business and tourist attractions. In order to meet the demands of its browsers, the website has been divided in terms of content and design into four main sections, covering Duqm as a destination for investment, life, tourism and information about SEZAD".

"The website provides significant information for those willing to invest in Duqm. It has facilitated the process for starting businesses by converting all the services provided by SEZAD into e-services. Moreover, the website includes key information for those planning to visit and live in Duqm including how to reach Duqm, different tourist landmarks and other needs for visitors and residents at Duqm" Zahida explained.

The new version of the website is designed to be user-friendly and responsive with smart phones, in addition to the smooth accessibility to various components and sections of the website. In view of that, it presents the services provided to investors, requirements for establishing a business in Duqm and links of the e-services. The website also introduces the online applying for job opportunities, reflecting on the digital transformation and transparency policy pursued by SEZAD.

Dr. Ismail Al Balushi:
Developing the website comes to keep pace with the rapid growth in Duqm

SEZAD's social media accounts
witness great interaction with total interface on Twitter reached over 2.5 million last year



Demonstrating new e-services

Zahida Al Balushi:
"The website brings new interactive features and shares important information about starting a business in SEZD"

Providing different information about Duqm via the new version of Mobile App



Releasing Tourism Map

Launch of 8 new e-services

SEZAD also launched 8 new services presented at (eoss.duqm.gov.om), which are Consultant Commitment (Pledge), Contractor Commitment (Pledge), Work Authorisation Permit, Work Completion Certificate, New Construction Permit, Renew Construction Permit, Amend Construction Permit and Addition Construction Permit.

In this regard, Mohammed bin Abdulmajeed Al Hooti, Digital Transformation Manager at SEZAD, shed light to SEZAD's plan towards digital transformation and related projects and its role to accelerate and develop the efficiency of all procedures as well as re-engineer them in line with the digital transformation strategy aimed at facilitating procedures for investors.

Al Hooti stated, "Via its digital portal, SEZAD presents a number of e-services including land usufruct application that has been launched recently, building permit, environment and social impacts studies, demarcation, land allocation via navigation systems, project elevation and site plan approval. Investors can log in into the services portal on their mobiles or via emails or electronic authentication by using smart cards represented in the ID card and residence card for non-Omanis living in the Sultanate.

Duqm Mobile App

During the occasion, features of the newly updated Mobile App "Duqm" were highlighted. Issa Al Sumri, Software and System Analyst Section Head at SEZAD, explained, "This App helps its users to obtain required information about the services provided by SEZAD, a display of daily flights to and from Duqm, weather forecast and important daily news about Duqm, as well as reporting on incidents".

Release of new Tourism Map

Besides, the new edition of Duqm Tourism Map was launched as a guide for investors, tourists and residents of Duqm. Ahmed Al Fazari and Najya Al Hajri, GIS Specialists at SEZAD briefed the audience on the map, which demonstrates the master plan of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, the location of the Zone in the world, the different projects within the Zone, Tourist Area, landmarks and archaeological sites in Duqm and distance between Duqm Airport and projects' sites.

The ceremony was concluded by a token of appreciation, presented by Dr. Ismail Al Balushi, CEO of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm, to all employees who contributed to the development of the new website of SEZAD.



Presenting a token of appreciation to employees contributing to developing the new website

CEO of Renaissance Services speaks to :

RO 50 million for the multi-phases expansion project to bring 31 thousand beds

◆ Duqm - Abdulaziz bin Ahmed Al Jahdhami
◆ Reflecting on the increasing demand for the well-furnished range of accommodation options in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, Renaissance Services is expanding its multi-home options, Renaissance Village Duqm. The company is moving forward towards investing around RO 50 Million to build up the next phases of the development. Mr. Stephen Thomas, CEO of Renaissance Services expressed his positive anticipation for the new expansion project which will see the start of construction in the coming few months of this year.



In his interview with Duqm Economist Magazine, Mr. Stephen pointed out: "Looking back to 2012, when the planning for Renaissance Village Duqm started, we have foreseen that Duqm is going to become a major industrial city of the future and there would be an urgent need for accommodation solution. Renaissance is being a market leader in world class workforce accommodation solutions".

More beds and facilities

The CEO of Renaissance Services remarked that "the expansion project is under way at Renaissance Village Duqm to increase the capacity from the current 18,655 beds up to 24,895. The construction works of the expansion is due to kick off in Q2 of 2020. The current phase of the planned expansion will see a capacity increase by up to 6,240 beds, with additional central facilities. Four further expansion phases, adding 12,780 beds more will follow

as demand increases, so the full capacity will reach around 31435 beds upon completion of all phases.

"The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm and the leading companies operating in Duqm recognise safety, quality sleep, nutritious food, good connections with home, on-site medical services and recreation as key principles and basic needs for employees' welfare. Good and safe accommodation would also help attracting professional and skilled Omanis to work in such remote and developing environments. Returning to this call, we are offering a vibrant lifestyle for all whether they like to use the gym, multi-purpose sports hall, swimming pool or football field; or use any of the recreation facilities, barbershop, supermarket or other retail outlets. There is a clinic and good food in all the diners" expressed Mr. Stephen Thomas, CEO of Renaissance Services.

At the Renaissance Village Duqm, employ-

◆◆◆
We have foreseen that Duqm is going to become a major industrial city of the future



◆◆◆
92% occupancy and planning to start the 5-phases expansion this year



The Village offers safety, comfort and on-site medical services for its residents

We are offering a vibrant lifestyle for all with recreation facilities and retail outlets

The village accommodates people from over 59 nationalities with high rate of satisfaction

ees can live in dignity; have good connections with home and other services. "This is why we can offer a lifestyle that is simply not available in a limited worker porta cabin camp, and cheapest rates are \$10 a day all-inclusive" remarked the CEO.

High occupancy

Stressing on the high rate of occupancy, Mr. Stephen Thomas commented, "The current occupancy is 92%, with a remarkable increase comparing to the average occupancy in 2019, reaching 65%. However, post expansion, the occupancy of Renaissance Village Duqm is scheduled to rise up to 95% in 2020, driven by peak activity in the construction of Duqm Refinery. This mirrors the success of our project and reflects the forecast we had before when planned this one- a kind-project in the Sultanate".

Multi-cultural community

"Renaissance Village Duqm receives a lot of visitors every so often, from within and outside the country. Currently, the village accommodates people from more than 59 different nationalities with more than 16,000 individuals. Despite this diversity, we scored 84% of customer satisfaction as per the independent Net Promoter Score (NPS) survey, which has been conducted with our visitors. We usually conduct service delivery feedback sessions with our clients on regular basis as their satisfaction is of high importance to us. Hence we are working on improving the score every year" Mr. Stephen stated.

Competitive rates applicable to all

The renting rates at Renaissance Village

Duqm are very competitive and standardised with being applicable to all types of parties, private or public. Commenting on this, Mr. Stephen said, "Our daily rates are fixed and based on the type of room offered to a customer. The rates are charged as follows: Senior Executive En-suite at OMR 24.620; Single Premium En-suite at OMR 19.230; Single En-suite at 15.380; Two-Per-Room En-suite at OMR 11.540; Three-Per-Room En-suite at OMR 9.615; Six-Per-Room at OMR 4.620 and finally; Eight-Per-Room at OMR 3.860. These rates are all inclusive of 3 meals per day, housekeeping, laundry, Wi-Fi, and access to all recreational facilities. This helps creating opportunities for competing contractors bidding for work in the zone".

A respond to high demand

Renaissance Services intended to develop the expansion project as a respond to the strong belief in Duqm and its future growth in the coming years. "We foresee an increasing sustainable demand for our accommodation solutions as more projects are opened within the SEZD. As our project is for life, we see that the demand in Duqm is going up similar to the cases of other industrial cities in the region e.g. Yanbu and Jubail. Thus, with the Renaissance standards and affordability, we believe that we will continue to be the first choice of the clients" Mr. Stephen attributed.

A record of milestones

Since opened its doors in 2017, Renaissance Village Duqm has been proving to be the accommodation solution of choice for high standards at affordable costs for all clients in





Duqm. To name a few are the Port of Duqm and Drydock, Duqm Refinery, EPC Contractors and their sub-contractors, aviation and logistics companies, military and many others in the list.

In view of that, the development has been receiving acknowledgment and accolades, appreciating the big shift that has made over a short notice. In addition to crossing the occupancy of 15,000 residents, Renaissance Village Duqm recorded more than 2 million man-hours without LTI. Renaissance Village Duqm has also received many recognitions such as 2019 MEED National "Best Residential Project of the year" and "Best Social, Cultural and Heritage Project of the year"; 2019 Al Roya Economic Award for "Best Large Private Sector Project" and 2019 Dossier Construction Infrastructure Award for "Pioneering Accommodation Solutions".

Supporting locals and In-Country Value (ICV)

In regards to the contribution to overall national ICV strategy, Mr. Stephen Thomas advised that staying at Renaissance Village Duqm counts as 100% ICV spend for our customers, because we are an Omani Public Company with individual and institutional Omani investors. "Our company-wide ICV spend is calculated based on three categories, including spend on Omani goods, spend on Omani services and spend on Omani staff. At the overall Renaissance level, the ICV spend in 2018 was 58%. In Duqm itself, we have local SMEs supporting our construction and operating the commercial outlets within the Village. On top of that, we have employees and trainees from the local community who are an ever-growing number of colleagues on our team".

We expect an increasing demand and Renaissance Village is the accommodation solution of choice

The daily rate of rooms as of the date of interview:

Senior Executive En-suite:
OMR 24.620

Single Premium En-suite:
OMR 19.230

Single En-suite:
15.380

Two-Per-Room En-suite:
OMR 11.540

Three-Per-Room En-suite:
OMR 9.615

Six-Per-Room:
OMR 4.620

Eight-Per-Room:
OMR 3.860



These rates are all inclusive:

3 meals per day, housekeeping, laundry, Wi-Fi, and access to all recreational facilities.

Local SMEs are supporting our construction and operating the commercial outlets in the Renaissance Village



Twasil Foundation signs 4 memorandum of cooperation to boost social responsibility in Duqm

Developing social development strategy in cooperation with SQU

Dr. Rahma Al Mahrouqi: striving to achieve integration between the academic and research sector and other sectors

Muscat -

Tawasul Foundation signed on 10th of February a number of agreements and memorandum of cooperation with different organisations to cover social responsibility programmes, entrepreneurship and training for development and employment.

The signing ceremony was attended by His Excellency Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, Chairman of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD).

Social development strategy

The first memorandum of cooperation was signed by Tawasul Foundation and Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) to explore cooperation opportunities in the fields of research, training and development, building human capacities, raising awareness, exchanging knowledge. These opportunities touch on developing and implementing different initiatives related to sustainable community investment, social and economic development at Duqm in particular and Al Wusta Governorate in general. The University will also, in coordination with Tawasul,

work on developing the social development strategy for Tawasul.

In accordance with this memorandum, the two parties will work closely to achieve joint objectives by participating in many activities together, including combined research projects, competences development initiatives, seminars, training sessions, panel and round table discussions, knowledge sharing programmes and other initiatives.

Within the framework of the University's endeavor to achieve the goals, it will act as Tawasul's arm for research and development through the Omani Studies Center at the University. Part of the Center's mission would be conducting research consultations and helping Tawasul to develop certain programmes whenever required.

Integration of academic and research sector

Upon signing the memorandum, Dr. Rahma Al Mahrouqi commented: "Signing this MoU reflects the efforts of both parties to achieve integration between the academic and research sector and other sectors, especially those related to economy, development and sustainability".

"Duqm has become a vital economic zone





with various activities, and contributes a lot towards building a better future for Oman. Sultan Qaboos University is the renowned house of expertise in the Sultanate striving to develop society and share its expertise, cadres and talents that enable society to grow steadily and keep abreast of the latest developments in the fields of technology, science and others. We are pleased that the university is the research arm and the institution that will cooperate with the Tawasul Foundation to conduct the researches for SEZD and build the competences to qualify the cadres working and living in the Zone", added Dr. Al Mahrouqi.

Joint social responsibility programmes

Another cooperation agreement was signed by Tawasul and Oman LNG Development Foundation to focus on implementing joint social responsibility and community service programmes. This agreement comes in line with the interest to create a greater positive social impact on society, exchange expertise and best practices in sustainable CSR projects and benefit from the experience of Oman LNG in training and development with employees concerned about CSR.

Training and qualifying entrepreneurs

The third agreement, signed by Tawasul with Beyond Measure Group, provides training and qualifying opportunities for 15 young male and female entrepreneurs from Duqm and connect them with the supply chain opportunities offered by Tawasul's partners and other corporates in Duqm.

The training opportunities will focus on a number of basic skills in entrepreneurship, requirements of a successful entrepreneur, laws and procedures, which an entrepreneur must be aware of. Further, it will also help familiarising

entrepreneurs with the different corporates in Duqm and its services in addition to marketing, financial management, human resource management, customer service and other areas.

According to the agreement, entrepreneurs, who are on their start-up phase, will be guided to develop their plans. As for those who already own business, they will be supported by giving them direct contracts from the companies operating at Duqm.

Training for employment

The fourth agreement was signed with the International Gulf Institute for training and employing around 50 to 100 young male and female Omanis from Duqm. The participants will be enrolled in a training-for-employment programme, which is based on the job opportunities offered by the companies in Duqm as per their potential requirements. Those corporates are committed to hire the trainees post completing their training.

This programme aims to provide well-qualified cadres for companies operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, increase their Omanisation rate and offer job opportunities in the founding companies of «Tawasul».

The agreements and memorandum were signed on behalf of Tawasul Foundation by Muna bint Said Al Shukaili, CEO of Tawasul Foundation, and Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Post-graduate Studies and Research from Sultan Qaboos University, Khalid bin Abdullah Al Massan, CEO of Oman LNG Development Foundation, Mona Bakhour, Founder & CEO of Beyond Measure Group and on behalf of the International Gulf Institute, Dr. Ahmed Al Farsi, Chairman of Gulf Group for Training and Sustainability.



Implementing joint social responsibility and community service programmes

Qualifying entrepreneurs and connect them with supply chain opportunities offered by Tawasul's partners and other corporates in Duqm

Establishing the first private integrated hospital in Duqm



New Complex



Existing KIMS Medical Complex

Iskan to expand the hospital in partnership with KIMS

Bringing new specialties and accommodating 50 beds

Duqm -

Iskan Oman Investment Company SAOC announced last February its plan to expand its KIMS Duqm Medical Complex to be a fully integrated hospital.

In partnership with KIMS Medical Care, the medical centre will be expanded to be home for 50 beds. As well, it will bring new specialties from its expert pool of doctors such as orthopedics, general surgery, internal medicine, ophthalmology, cardiology, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, dental, occupational medicine and physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

KIMS is the only private medical facility located inside the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) and has been providing its services to top industrial companies in Duqm. The Special Economic Zone at Duqm is currently witnessing the development of various projects, including the Duqm Refinery, the China-Oman Industrial Park, and other projects in various economic sectors.

New addition

Engineer Mohammed Abdullah Al Sayegh,

Chairman, Iskan Oman Investment Company SAOC, said: "We at Iskan are bound to make responsible investments, which supports the National economy, thus we are pleased to partner with KIMS in expanding the new hospital in Duqm, which we believe will be a necessary medical service addition due to the increasing population".

"We can see rapid rise in the infrastructure through the completion of major road networks, commercial operations of Duqm Airport, completion of Duqm Port and the Drydock and many other important projects. All this will lead to the growth in Duqm in the long and the development of other complementary services.", he added.

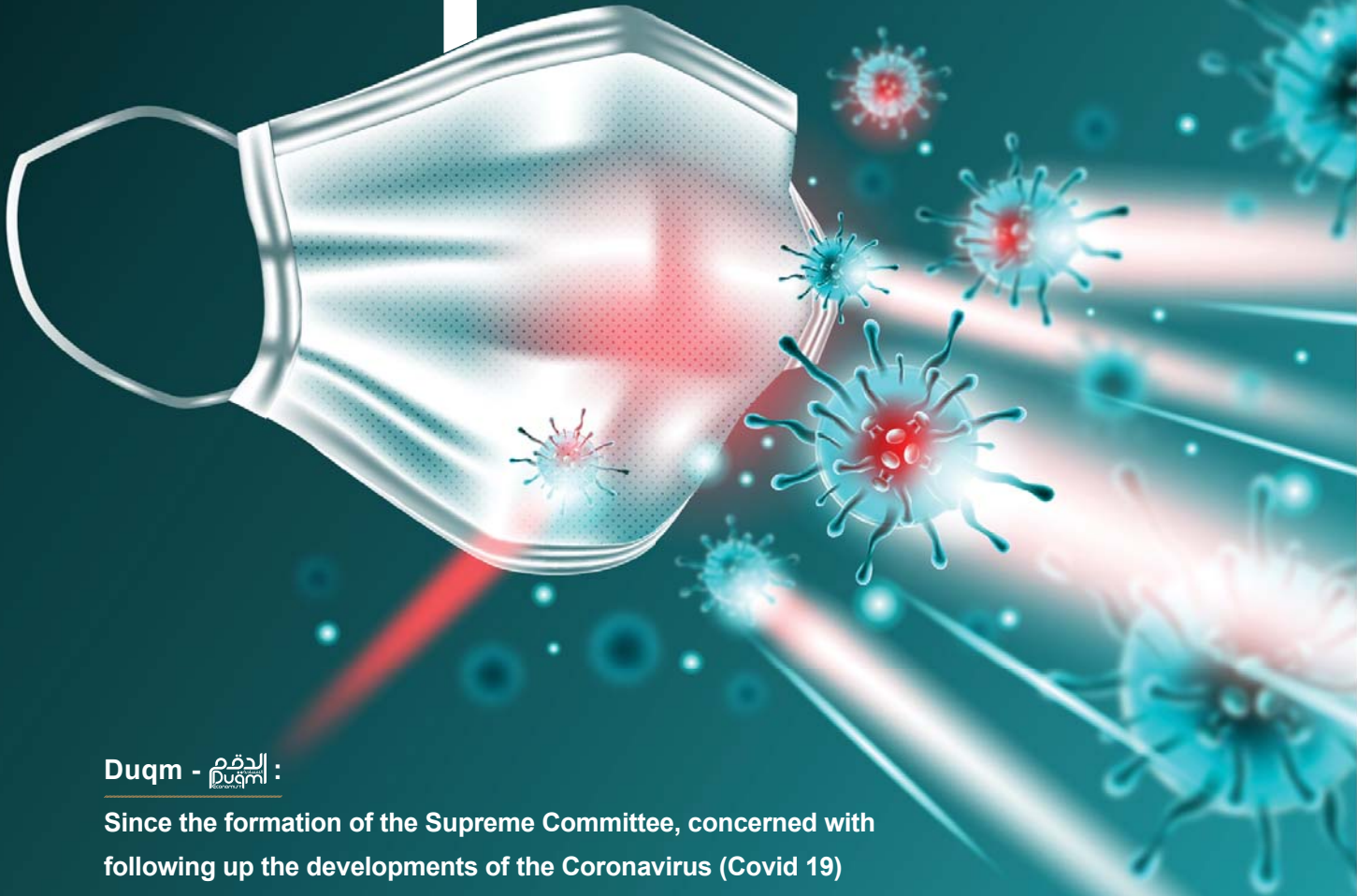
Commenting on the expansion drive, Dr. Mohammed Sahadulla, Group Chairman and Managing Director, KIMS Healthcare Group, said: "Over the past years, KIMS has gained immense popularity in Duqm by providing high quality services through its expert team of medical practitioners".

He added, "Duqm is witnessing an upsurge of industrial activity with a multitude of projects. This has stimulated the social demographics and we can see its population increasing with new families and bachelor settlements coming in. All of them require quality medical services and KIMS is here to serve them with new services."

Iskan Oman Investment Company SAOC is considered one of the leading companies in many economic sectors such as education, real estate and infrastructure projects, and it has a diversified base of shareholders from the Sultanate and Kuwait.

Duqm

Joining forces to combat Coronavirus



Duqm - الدقم :

Since the formation of the Supreme Committee, concerned with following up the developments of the Coronavirus (Covid 19) Pandemic, the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) initiated various precautionary measures to combat the spread of this virus and avoid infection. In this regard, SEZAD worked closely with specialists from the Ministry of Health, other government bodies and companies operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

These measures have double importance in SEZD due to the implementation of major projects in the infrastructure sector, such as Duqm Refinery and its related projects, Port of Duqm, road projects, and other developments. SEZD also has a large number of foreign workforce and intensity in work sites and accommodation let alone the increased movement to Duqm.

SEZAD takes early precautionary measures to combat Coronavirus in Duqm



While checking staff temperature in SEZAD building in Duqm

A team to prepare an Emergency Response Plan

Intensified communication with corporate HSE officials to update them on Supreme Committee's latest decisions

SEZAD-wise procedures

In accordance with the decisions and instructions issued by the Supreme Committee, SEZAD implemented many precautionary measures in SEZD and its headquarters in Duqm and its office in Muscat. Internally staff have been instructed to adhere to health habits, use sterilisers and health tools provided by SEZAD, avoid contact with people, such as handshaking, use modern technologies in holding meetings, and follow up on and abide by the decisions issued by the concerned authorities. It also reduced the number of staff working in offices to 30% in the first stage and encouraged all staff to work from home, following the directions issued by the Supreme Committee.

SEZD-wise procedures

At the level of companies and projects operating in SEZD, many measures have been taken in line with the decisions and instructions issued by the Supreme Committee. SEZAD conveys all decisions, recommendations, and instructions of the Supreme Committee to all projects operating in SEZD via e-mails and field visits, with an emphasis on putting them into effect immediately.

Earlier, SEZAD organised an awareness lecture in cooperation with the Ministry of Health to brief the HSE officials in the com-

panies operating in SEZD on Coronavirus, its transmission, and ways of prevention. SEZAD intensified its communication with the HSE officials in the projects operating in SEZD and provided them with preventive health instructions and Supreme Committee's decisions in this regard via e-mail, WhatsApp group, and phone calls.

SEZAD instructed the projects operating in SEZD to adhere to healthy habits, prevent gatherings and activities inside labour camps and accommodation, reduce crowding in public places, and reduce the number of passengers on buses to half, while going to work or coming back.

To ensure the implementation of the decisions and instructions of the Supreme Committee, teams from SEZAD follow up on the projects' commitment through continuous inspections and take legal measures against each project that violates these decisions or HSE requirements issued by SEZAD. The teams conduct continuous field visits to work sites and labour accommodations in SEZD to check on precautionary measures, speak to companies' officials, and urge them to raise awareness among their employees.

Emergency Response Plan team

On April 2, 2020, SEZAD formed a dedicated team to prepare an Emergency Response

Precautionary measures implemented in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm

Organising an awareness lecture in cooperation with the Ministry of Health to familiarise HSE teams of corporates operating in SEZD about the virus, how it is spread, and ways of protection.



Monitoring the corporates' compliance with the directives and decisions of the Supreme Committee through continuous inspections and taking legal actions against any project proving its violation of these decisions or HSE requirements issued by SEZAD.

Conducting continuous visits to the sites and labour camps in SEZD to make sure all precautionary measures are in place, while speaking to corporates' officials and urge them to promote awareness among their employees.



Communicating all decisions and recommendations of the Supreme Committee concerned with following up the developments of the Coronavirus (Covid 19) to all corporates operating in SEZD via e-mail, and confirm implementing them from the date of effectiveness.



Directing those in charge of permanent labour accommodation, such as Renaissance Village, to adhere to the following instructions:

- To limit the density of labours in dining halls by organising eating or delivering food to rooms, organise dining tables to be far apart.
- Prevent gatherings in courtyards and prayers in front of the mosque and urge labours to remain in their rooms.
- Reduce the number of inmates in the common rooms and accommodate them in other locations as possible.
- Prepare an emergency response plan to isolate confirmed cases in separate places and coordinate with concerned parties to get medical care



Closing customer service halls at the one-stop shops and offering three electronic channels, including: Digital Portal (eoss.duqm.gov.om), WhatsApp at (71144433), and e-mail: (eoss@duqm.gov.om).

Constant communication with HSE teams of corporates operating in SEZD, provide them with precautionary health instructions and update them with decisions of the Supreme Committee in this regard.



Urging corporates to prepare their places to quarantine their employees upon their return from leave for two weeks.

Prepare four places for institutional isolation and medical care for confirmed infected cases.



Applying physical spacing during work

Companies to prevent gatherings and activities inside accommodations and reduce bus passengers

Plan (ERP) to respond to the emergencies arising from the spread of the Coronavirus in SEZD headed by Mahmoud bin Hamoud Al Rawahi, Director General of Control and Compliance at SEZAD and membered by several officials of the companies operating in SEZD.

The tasks of the team include preparing an ERP for emergencies arising from the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the projects operating in SEZD and following up on its implementation in coordination with the concerned authorities.

The decision issued by Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al Balushi, the CEO of SEZAD, authorised the formed team to seek the assistance of those it deems appropriate from the various administrative units of SEZAD and projects operating in SEZD and request data, information and supporting documents from them. It also called on the officials of these units and projects to fully cooperate with the team to enable it to handle the assigned re-

sponsibilities as per this decision.

Circulars to companies

Through all letters and circulars addressed to the companies, SEZAD stressed on the need to take precautionary measures by providing food and labour transfer to and from the accommodation, broadcasting continuous awareness programmes and publications in all languages, setting up an emergency plan to isolate confirmed cases, if any, in separate shelters, and coordinating with the concerned authorities for treatment thereof.

SEZAD also directed those in charge of permanent labour accommodation, such as Renaissance Village, to limit the density in dining halls by organising eating or delivering food to rooms, organise dining tables to be far apart, prevent gatherings in courtyards, prevent prayers in front of the mosque, urge labours to remain in their rooms, and reduce the number of inmates in the common rooms

Field follow-up visits to work sites



Safety instructions in various languages in locations frequented by workers



Maintaining safe distances at work locations

and accommodate them in other locations as possible.

Educational umbrella for foreign workers

SEZAD has taken a series of awareness-raising measures for the expatriate workforce. The HSE officials in the companies operating in SEZD convey information from the Ministry of Health to workers through posters and publications in different languages in dining rooms, bedrooms, workshops, offices, and transportation means.

They also provide a daily lecture to workers on safety procedures before starting their duties and advise them to follow preventive measures to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus in Duqm.

Organising arrival to SEZD

According to the instructions of the Supreme Committee, SEZAD called on all private sector

establishments in SEZD to take the necessary measures to reduce the number of employees to the minimum to ensure the continuation of basic works and only those whose tasks require attending to the premises.

SEZAD also issued a circular directing all projects operating in SEZD not to allow any other expatriate workers to enter Duqm from other governorates except in exceptional cases and after coordination with SEZAD management to follow the precautionary procedures to deal with these cases such as subjecting them to a 14-day quarantine.

SEZAD has also notified companies to set a specific mechanism for suppliers when receiving and delivering goods and other materials coming to projects so that the driver stays in the vehicle, maintains social distancing as much as possible, does not contact anyone in SEZD, and returns whenever possible rather than stays in SEZD.



Sterilising work locations

Companies to develop an emergency plan to isolate confirmed cases in separate shelters

Series of awareness-raising measures for the expatriate workforce in various languages

Companies not to transfer workers from other governorates to Duqm

Precautionary measures implemented by SEZAD to combat Coronavirus

Staff were instructed to adhere to health habits, use sterilisers and health tools provided by SEZAD



Avoid direct contact, handshaking and other behaviours with people

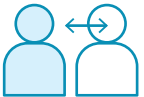


Using modern technologies in holding meetings



Reducing the number of staff working in offices to 30% while others are advised to work from home

Follow up and abide by the decisions issued by the concerned authorities



Using the e-Punch In/Out system instead of the regular Punch In/Out machine

As a precaution to combat Coronavirus in Duqm

Preparing places for institutional isolation and medical care for confirmed cases



Duqm - :

As part of the precautionary measures to address the developments of the Coronavirus (Covid 19) in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD), Dr. Ismail bin Ahmed Al Balushi, CEO of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), confirmed that SEZAD prepared four places for institutional isolation and medical care for any confirmed cases that may arise in Duqm.

The total number of beds in these places is about 1000 beds funded and prepared with the support of companies operating in SEZD and handed over to the Ministry of Health for supervision.

Precautionary quarantine

Some projects operating in SEZD have also prepared their places to quarantine their employees upon their return from leave for two

weeks. The number of beds for the precautionary quarantine in these projects is about 500.

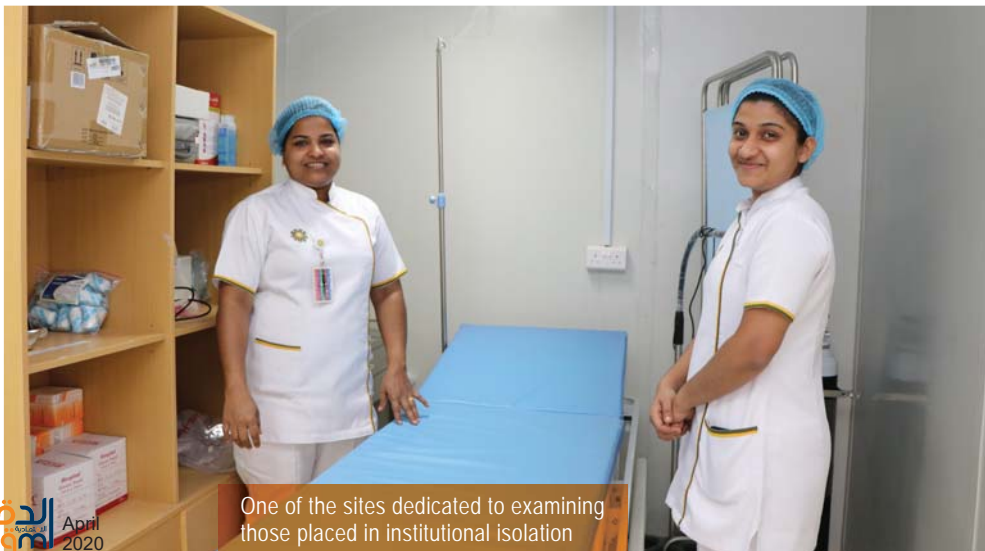
Four locations

The four places are at the accommodation of Renaissance Village in Duqm, the former camp of the Combined Group Contracting Company in Logistics Zone C, the housing complex of Oman Drydock Company, and the Arabian Sea School. The first two sites will be for institutional isolation for the confirmed cases that need medical care provided by the medical clinic in Renaissance Village for the first location and KIMS Hospital funded by the Duqm Refinery for the second location. The third and fourth places are for institutional isolation of the confirmed cases that do not need medical care.

The Renaissance Services Company will provide nutrition to all the people placed in the institutional isolation in the four places.

**Providing
1,000 beds in
institutional
isolation
sites and 500
beds for pre-
cautionary
quarantine**

**Companies
commit their
employees
returning
from leave to
a two-week
precautionary
quarantine**



One of the sites dedicated to examining those placed in institutional isolation

Renaissance Village officials in Duqm:

Sparing no effort to combat Coronavirus



A worker in front of the thermal scanning device in the Renaissance Village before getting inside

Strictly implementing the instructions of the Supreme Committee and SEZAD with the ROP support

Providing necessary medical equipment and an automatic temperature measurement system at 9 locations

Refusal to receive new guests

Duqm - Mohammed Al Shezawi

Adel bin Mubarak Bahwan, Chief Operations Officer of the Renaissance Services Company, confirmed that the company has taken many precautions to avoid the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) in Duqm.

In an interview with Duqm Economist Magazine, Bahwan praised the unrelenting efforts of various sectors to spare SEZD the infection with Coronavirus, such as the Royal Oman Police (ROP) and the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) and the companies that take the Renaissance Village as an accommodation place for their employees.

In the interview, shared also by Mohammed bin Salim Al Hajri, Director of Operations at the Renaissance Village in Duqm, Bahwan indicated that they have applied all instructions and procedures issued by the Supreme Committee on Coronavirus as well as the circulars received from SEZAD. «The company's implementation

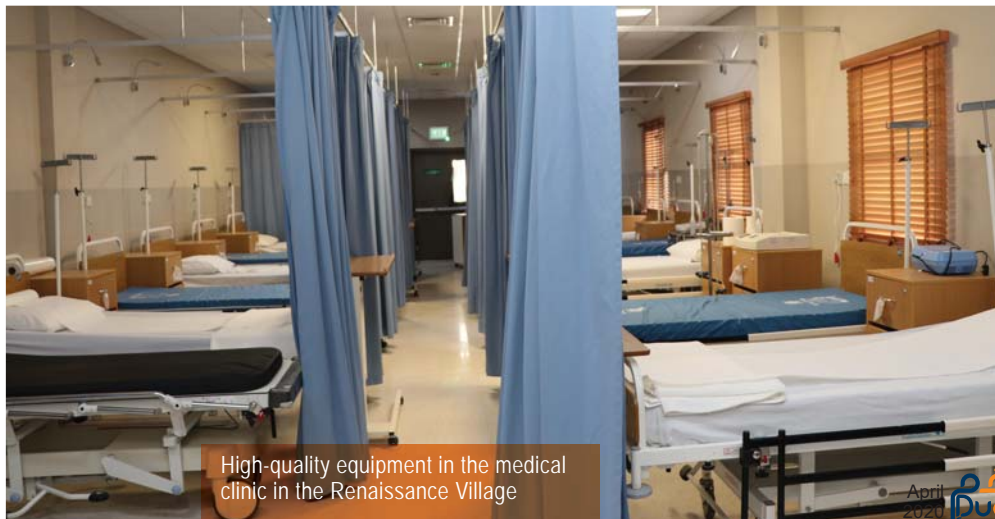
of precautionary measures has contributed to avoiding infection,» asserted Al Hajri.

Not receiving new guests

The Chief Operations Officer of the Renaissance Services Company in Duqm highlighted the measures taken to address this pandemic saying, «Since the formation of the Supreme Committee, we have stopped receiving any new workers and informed the companies of that. Currently, there are less than 14,000 people in the Village, while the number before the crisis was 17200 people. The plan was to have around 20,000 guests in April, but we apologised to the companies and informed them of our decision to stop receiving any more guests.»

Cameras to measure inmates' temperatures

«We have provided surveillance cameras to measure the temperatures of inmates and



High-quality equipment in the medical clinic in the Renaissance Village



Adel Bahwan



Mohammed Al Hajri

employees. These systems are available at the front desk, the medical clinic, and all seven dining halls. No person enters any of these locations before getting their temperature measured and any person whose temperature is high goes immediately to the medical clinic,» asserted Mr. Bahwan.

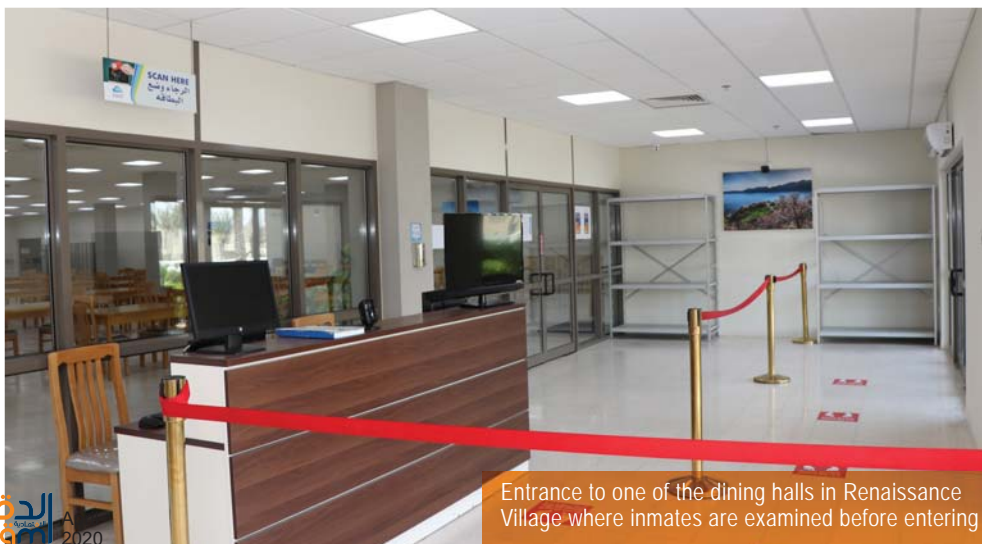
He added that the precautionary and preventive measures also included sterilisation of all locations in the Village, closure of all entertainment halls, playgrounds, and fitness halls, and preventing gatherings in various locations.

Organising entry to dining halls

Regarding the process of entering dining halls, Mohammed bin Salim Al Hajri, Director of Operations at the Renaissance Village in Duqm, said that there are several measures taken in this regard. «In the beginning, there

must be a sufficient safety distance between every two persons and we measure the temperature of every worker before getting into the dining hall by a special system that includes a camera and a computer, indicating whether the temperature is high or not. Inside the hall, the Village employees serve food to the inmates and they do not take food themselves, which requires us to increase the number of company employees serving food. We have also decreased the number of people on the same table to just two and increased serving hours. Besides, we send 8,000 lunch boxes a day to the inmates at their workplaces.»

Adel Bahwan and Mohammed Al Hajri expressed their hope that the Sultanate would overcome this pandemic as soon as possible, stressing that the Renaissance Village in Duqm would not spare any effort to avoid infection.



Entrance to one of the dining halls in Renaissance Village where inmates are examined before entering

We expected 20,000 guests in April and reduced the number to less than 14,000

Delivery of 8,000 lunch boxes a day to workplaces

Closure of all entertainment halls and comprehensive sterilisation of various sites

3 electronic channels and a hotline to communicate with investors and clients following closure of OSS in Duqm and Muscat

Channels designed to enhance and maintain services



Muscat - :

In implementation of the decision of the Supreme Committee, Committee concerned with following up the developments of the Coronavirus (Covid 19), regarding the closure of services halls in all public and private institutions starting on March 23, 2020, the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) announced the continuation of providing its services to investors and clients through three electronic channels, namely the digital portal (eoss.duqm.gov.om), WhatsApp on (71144433), and e-mail: (eoss@duqm.gov.om). SEZAD also provided a hotline (24173333) to respond to inquiries from investors and clients of the one-stop shop.

SEZAD promoted these services on social media platforms and on Oman TV, which contributed to enhancing communication between SEZAD and investors.

Duqm Digital Portal

Mohammed bin Abdulmajid Al Houti, Manager of Digital Transformation at SEZAD, said that the e-services provided by SEZAD contributed to enhancing the services provided to investors and clients and continuing them despite the current conditions.

He explained that the services provided through the Duqm Digital Portal include all the services SEZAD provided through the One-



One of the visuals produced to promote social distancing

70 e-services on Duqm Portal and completing 337 applications in one month



Videos produced to introduce new services launched during Coronavirus Pandemic

Stop Shop (OSS) in addition to others launched in the first quarter of 2019. Al Houti indicated that the e-services provided by SEZAD through the Duqm Digital Portal exceed 70.

The most important services provided by SEZAD through the Duqm Digital Portal include land usufruct, commercial registration, labor licenses, visas, customs, environmental services, infrastructure services, sanitation services, booking an online appointment with the marketing and promotion team to mention only a few.

He pointed out that the number of requests processed by SEZAD through the Duqm Digital Portal since the closing of the clients' services halls at the OSS reached 337 until April 23.

Communicate via WhatsApp

Within the framework of the precautionary measures to deal with the COVID-19 developments, SEZAD launched a new channel to communicate with investors and the OSS clients, which is sending inquiries and applying for the various services and investment facilities through WhatsApp on (71144433). Through this service, SEZAD receives questions, suggestions, and inquiries of clients and investors and answer them directly on the same day.

This step came as part of SEZAD strategy



One of the posters produced by SEZAD and released on social media to appreciate efforts of medical team to combat Coronavirus

to enhance communication with all investors from within and outside the Sultanate and provide a communication platform that meets their needs and requirements during working hours.

The WhatsApp service saw a great turnout, and the number of individuals and companies that communicated with SEZAD through this service reached about 200 individual and company until the end of April 2020.

Production of introductory videos

The Media and Awareness Department has promoted the new e-services by producing a number of videos that clarify the procedures followed to obtain SEZAD services provided to investors and clients. All these videos were broadcasted on SEZAD YouTube page and its other accounts on social media platforms (@sezadum). they were also shared on WhatsApp to the 1500 subscribers.

Quick response to requests submitted via WhatsApp and 200 beneficiaries

Videos to promote the services and clarify investor procedures



Workers doing their jobs in the drydock while committed to physical distancing

Oman Drydock takes several precautions to avoid Coronavirus

Duqm - :

In compliance with the decisions of the Supreme Committee on Coronavirus, and to prevent the spread of Coronavirus among employees of Oman Drydock Company, the company, represented by the Department of Health, Safety, Environment, and other related departments, has organised awareness campaigns on avoiding infection with the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The company has also taken several precautionary measures at its worksite and the accommodation of its employees, such as reducing the number of passengers in buses, applying physical distancing in queues, encouraging employees to work on line for some jobs, reducing meetings to a minimum, and avoiding frequent staff moving from their Wilayats to Duqm.

Health procedures

As for health procedures, the company provided sanitisers and masks in offices and all work sites. It takes the temperature for everyone before getting inside the company building. All comers to the company from other governorates must follow the precautionary procedures of the company based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Health. The company also obliges all truck drivers that come to the company's worksite to remain in their trucks to avoid direct contact with workers and request them to depart immediately after the unloading is complete.

The company has allocated a separate building to deal with suspected cases where the company's medical staff follows them up around the clock. The company has also established a method for direct communication between the medical staff and the officials of Duqm Governmental Hospital regarding the most effective way to deal with any epidemiological situation.

Organising awareness campaigns and encouraging employees to work on line

Applying physical distancing in queues and avoiding frequent staff moving to Duqm



Beladi Development finalises set up of first mall in Duqm


Omar Al Totonchi: Duqm is poised to be a major investment hub for private sector



Duqm - Mohammed bin Ahmad AlShezawi



Coming from Yiwu, an active business hub in Zhejiang Province in China, to the Sultanate not to invest in Muscat or Duqm but for seeking an ideal place in an Arab country that has an idiosyncratic culture and civilisation for his family to discover their own identity and practice their Arabic. However, when he settled in Muscat and found numerous investment fields in the Sultanate, he transferred his investments from Yiwu to the Sultanate and kept a small office in Yiwu. It is noteworthy that in 2014, he started the longest train journey to transport containers from Yiwu to Madrid.

In an interview with , Eng. Omar Abdullah Al Totonchi, CEO of Beladi Development Company, commended the unique location of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD), considering it an advantage for the Sultanate and the investors looking for a location that meets their investment ambitions on the route of the international trade.

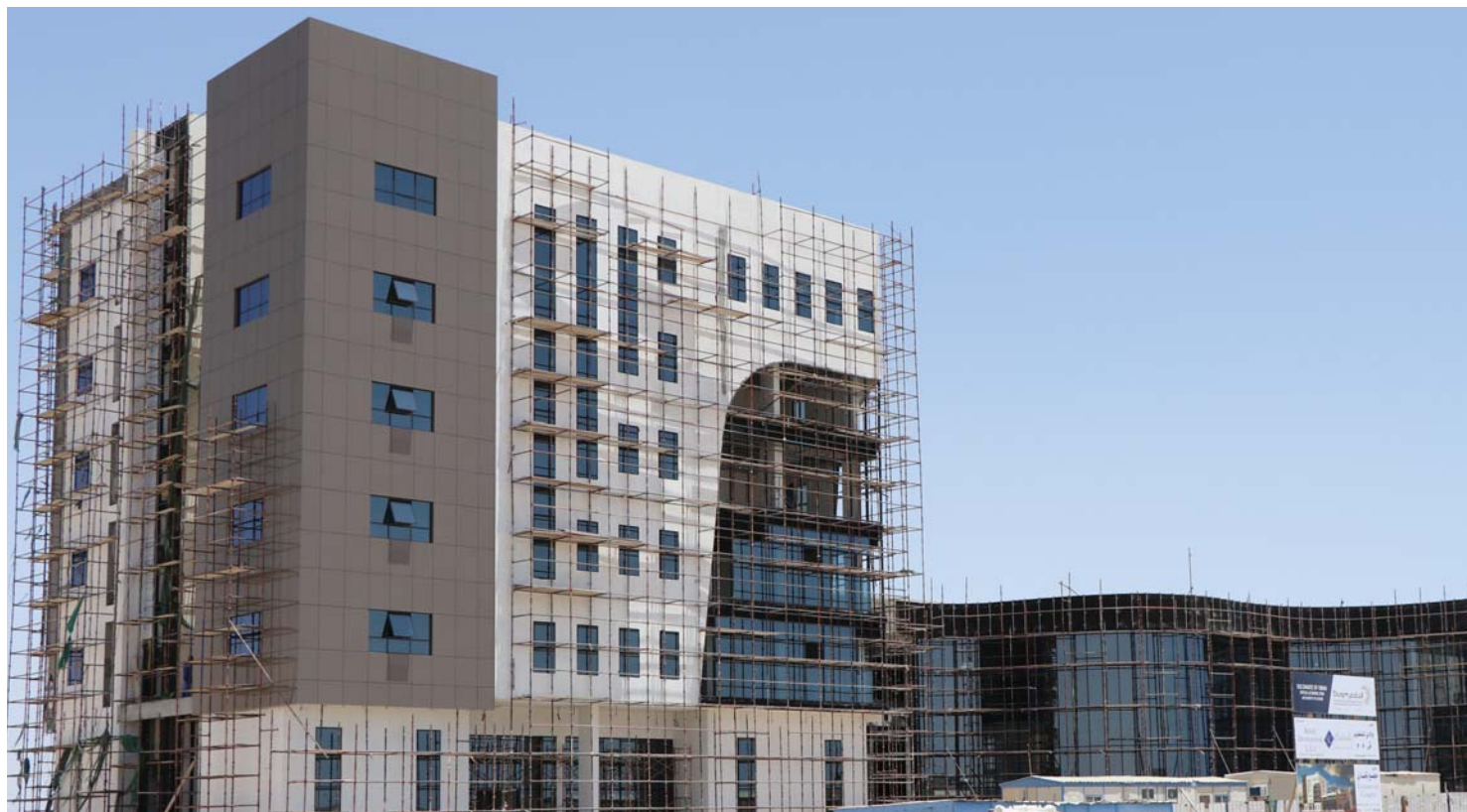
Although the investors' perception of a certain location may change after a while, Al Totonchi's opinion of Duqm has not. He has been optimistic about the future of Duqm and its potentials for the local and foreign private sector. He considers Duqm the top promising economic zone in the Middle East, «Duqm will remain the top investment destination with no competitor,» he asserted.

Leading and promising future

When asked about his confidence, he cited many reasons. «I am confident that Duqm will have a pioneering and promising future. There is a continuous progress in business and private sector projects; infrastructure projects are even ahead of plans. Today's occupancy rates in hotels and flights between Muscat and Duqm confirms that Duqm has grown faster



Duqm is an incomparable destination in the Middle East



Confidence in future of Duqm urged us to upgrade specifications of materials used in construction and finishing

Focus on reducing energy and water consumption in line with «Smart Duqm» vision

than expected. Duqm Refinery with a capacity of 230 thousand barrels per day and a port with a commercial berth that handles 3.5 million TEUs annually render the expected growth of Duqm greater. This will make SEZD a major investment hub for the private sector. These and many other factors make Duqm indicators positive,» added the CEO of Beladi Development Company.

Increasing investments

Since construction began in this mall about two years ago, the Board of Directors of Beladi Development Company have been regularly going between Muscat and Duqm to follow up the construction progress, striving to make it surpass the specifications set by the consultant. «Our confidence in the future of Duqm made us upgrade the specifications of many materials used in construction and finishing, hence the allocations for our investments in the mall that were OMR 2.4 million at the beginning of the project increased,» Omar stated with full confidence.

Supporting "Smart Duqm" vision

«Another factor that made us upgrade construction specifications is our interest to conserve the environment and work in line with «Smart Duqm» vision. We focused on reducing energy and water consumption through using high-spec solid reflective low permeable glass to increase thermal and acoustic insulation thus reducing the overall power consumption of the building. We also used the 'Combo System' technology to isolate the roof completely. This system consists of five layers of different insulation materials sprayed automatically to increase insulation efficiency and reduce heat infiltration into the building. Moreover, we used high-quality thermal insulator in most walls exposed to direct sunlight under layers of aluminum used to cover the building.

«We also reduced power consumption through using an LED lighting system in all facilities. The revised design also includes building a special basin to collect ablution and air conditioners water and treat them for



Editor-in-Chief (Right) and CEO of Beladi Development in front of the building



reuse in watering the green areas surrounding the building for maximising water use,» elaborated Eng. Al Totonchi.

Beladi and SEZAD

Reflecting on his evaluation of the services provided by the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) to make the project a success, he smiled while describing the relationship as successful. «Beladi Development Company highly appreciates the continuous support and great cooperation of SEZAD staff and the efforts made by the Directorate General of Investors Services to overcome the obstacles facing investors. Their great support and vigorous follow-up have had a great impact on overcoming many difficulties and challenges during work.

«We also thank the Directorate General of Planning and Engineering Affairs for its continuous support and provision of facilities. We

cannot miss the efforts made by the Urban Planning Department and its interest in the finest project details from the colours used for the facades of the building to the specifications of the materials used for the outer covering. The coordination between our company team and urban planning staff has led to the selection of external colours and designs that are in line with SEZD developed environment while preserving the Omani characteristics,» stated Eng. Omar Al Totonchi.

New business

At the end of the interview, the CEO of Beladi Development Company expressed his aspiration that Beladi Business Center, the proposed name for the mall, would enrich the business life in Duqm, provide a new type of commercial activities not available in SEZD, and integrate its services with the nearby Hasad Mall.

Beladi Business Center introduces a new type of business activities



Restaurants Hall under construction

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project:

Shopping Mall

Area:

6000sqm

Built up Area:

7220 sqm

Building (B)

Offices Complex

Consists of:

Ground Floor + 5 Floors

Area:

3450 sqm

Building includes:

Open area

Can be used as:

Bank or Showroom

Other Floors:

**Commercial offices
Integrated business centres**

Building (A):

Food Court

Consists of:

2 Floors

Accommodates:

350 people

Open Area:

600 sqm

Ground Floor:

- Specious area for restaurants and coffee shops.
- Common dining hall for 350 people.
- Open areas for small outlets.

First Floor:

- Shops
- Storage spaces
- Open spaces for showrooms
- Prayer rooms

Misbah Qutb
An Egyptian writer specialised in
economic affairs
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SALT AND SUGAR CITIES

Cities of Salt is a famous novel by Abdul Rahman Munif, but I do not know if any author perhaps intends to publish a novel called Sugar Cities, sooner or later. The title is a kind of interaction with the popular use of the two opposites: sugar versus salt, concerning the paradox of general culture that began years ago to understand the meaning of warnings of the danger of the two whites, i.e. salt and sugar. On the other hand, people associate the evil, cruel, or bad with salt and everything sweet, good, and joyful with sugar. The salt here represents the sea or ocean that overlooks the port, city port, or port city, while sugar signifies the rich quality of life open to the cities created through their ports.

Years ago, I visited Dhofar Governorate and stood at night off the Arabian Sea, enjoying the view from the shore of the hotel where I stayed. The waves, sea dread, the magic of its mystery, and its majestic silence interrupted now and then by the susurrus of waves embracing the beach. This combination recalled a majestic presence of history on the calm slate of my mind. I felt pity for those who took to the sea one day to transport to East Africa during the far ages, to western China, India, Malaysia, Singapore, and others, with their trade, religion, language, and cultural heritage. Then, while defying the strong urge to take a sip of its water, I felt that the sea took a break from its salinity and that it can only now be fresh.

That moment brought back to my mind the relationship of cities with the seas. I remembered, for example, that I know very well the high value of Sharm El-Sheikh, the most important global resort now, and how I like to spend longer days in Alexandria or Port Said, a preference shared by a large percentage of the people of the villages and the elderly. Port cities with history such as Alexandria or even if relatively recent, such as Port Said, established in 1859 in parallel with the beginning of digging the Suez Canal, make you feel a kind of defiance with the sea with all its might and intensity of its secrets, the defiance of the human waves with profound civilised social action and sea waves.

Alexandria partly excels, but Port Said also has a long history before and after Islam, commercially, militarily, and navally, leading to its establishment - with a long period of the fishing profession for centuries - and history continues therein and with it. The first thing established there was the lighthouse, which guides for a span of 20 miles. Both of them have a port that also has a history. Sometimes, ports emerge and then cities follow or both can emerge in parallel. The relationship between them can also take other forms.

An old idea was that a vital port cannot emerge accord-

ing to the criteria, strength, and quality of ports unless this is concomitant with a city of strong presence and influence. The port is an unlimited meeting point and cultural, and utilitarian attachment. Ports never seem alike even if they are in the same classification. The multi-functional integrated port is only built against a backdrop of a great idea and a unique location.

If I look at the Port of Duqm in the Sultanate of Oman, I would say it reminds us of Port Said: extended history, firm roots, time fluctuations, and sober stability despite the long distance between the Port and the major cities, the same element in the two ports, with the background of the fishing villages and fishermen. The strange thing is that Port Said is now undergoing an important moment of revisiting to its former position in line with the developments, and therefore it is about to be another city when the East Port Said Port hub that opens directly to the Mediterranean and connects to the Suez Canal completes. The bottom line here is that every port city must remain vigilant and ready for its future. Duqm will disclose its secrets more after all its stages are complete; it is open from now to tomorrow. Cessation leads to shrinkage even if the location is strategic. Paul Kennedy once told me that geography moves to the ports of Asia and Singapore, so do not stop be fixated to the argument of the importance of the location. The geography that moves right can be a pendulum and turn left. It depends on what you do and what you plan.

The strong cultural, urban, civilisational, and tourist presence in the formation of the port city is of importance in granting the port and human beings the practical and moral weight so they defy the sea and the unknown, as I mentioned earlier. It makes the port a beacon of life, a special experience, and a situation. Otherwise, the important ports would become just a harbour or medium for a long journey. It is right that Singapore, with its famous ports, gains its weight from the professional ingenuity in logistic services, but the city is half rich in civilised history due to the mixing of Islamic and Arabic with Indian, Chinese, and Malayan. Otherwise, it could be surpassed by another port one day. This is a second lesson. It remains to add that the ports have become small cities in their new globalised edition. Any port established today will never dispense with the existence of areas for long storage, assembly, packaging and manufacturing according to its nature and role. In the middle of marketing the port, you promote these activities and the city because the unity between the port and its surroundings is organic.

It is noteworthy that the Egyptian singer, Afaf Radi, that has an operatic voice once sang, «All lies in the ports» and she was right.



Port of Duqm is close to completion

Liquid and bulk materials berth

Duqm - :

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) announced the full completion of the liquid and bulk materials berth, which was received from the contractor in April 2020.

This achievement has been made possible while

works in the other packages are progressing exceedingly well. The commercial berth is almost 90% completed and the government berth is fully completed and received last year, while the other packages are witnessing continuous progress aiming to full completion of this mega project soon.

Duqm Economist Magazine is dedicating a full profile featuring Port of Duqm in the coming issue of the magazine.



Panoramic view of the commercial berth and drydock

April 2020 



Liquid and bulk materials berth is received and commercial berth is 90% complete

Next issue features a full profile on Port of Duqm



Port of Duqm gates at the third package



One of the completed buildings in the second package



Several works being performed at the commercial berth yards

Port of Duqm receives the world largest crawler crane





Duqm - :

The Chinese leading specialist heavy lifting and transportation contractor, SINOPEC Heavy Lifting & Transportation Co. successfully utilised its owned XGC88000 for lifting capacity of 4000 tonnes to finalise the lifting job at Duqm Refinery. The lifted equipment is Diesel Hydrogenation Reactor, weighting 808 tonnes with length of 45.7m and 5.9m in diameter.

This successful event of lifting create a record in Oman construction industry by operating one of the world largest crawler crane.

The XGC88000 arrived at the Port of Duqm on February 25, 2020. This is the first time for the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) to receive such kind of equipments, which is regarded the world largest crawler crane.

On the occasion of XGC88000 first lifting show in Oman, SINOPEC Heavy Lifting & Transportation Co. expresses its willingness to participate in the developments being established in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and China-Oman cooperative projects in deep. It is keen to promote the in-depth and diversified cooperation between China and Oman in the field of energy industry and contribute to the economic development of Oman.



**Successful
lifting of Die-
sel Hydroge-
nation Reac-
tor at Duqm
Refinery**

**Reactor
weighs 808
tonnes and
about 45.7
metre long**

Tristar Group expands business at the Port of Duqm



During signing ceremony

Group CEO:
Port of Duqm provides us with the perfect platform to expand our services across the GCC and beyond

Leasing
11,000 square metres to build warehouses with an open yard for future expansion

Muscat -

The Tristar Group has signed a lease agreement with the Port of Duqm to acquire over 11,000 square metres of logistic land in the Port. The area will comprise covered warehouses of 3,048 square metres with a capacity of 5,000 pallet positions and an open yard for future expansion. The logistics warehouse project will offer 3PL and 4PL services.

Upon the signing ceremony, Eugene Mayne, Group CEO of Tristar said: "The expansion of our presence in Oman to Duqm further strengthens our value proposition as we continue to serve the future requirements of our international oil and gas customers as well as major local companies, with the highest level of operational and international safety standards. We constantly seek to build partnerships through which we can expand our service offering to our customers across the GCC and beyond, and the Port of Duqm provides us with the perfect platform to do so."

Port of Duqm Standing High

Reggy Vermeulen, CEO of Port of Duqm, pointed out: "We are committed to offer continuous support to Tristar Group in setting up its facility in Duqm and aims to continue giving the best customer experience and value offerings to its clients globally and locally. By attracting such leading logistic service provider to our logistics area, we aim to confirm Port of Duqm's position as the centre of excellence serving the oil and gas industry in the Sultanate of Oman and beyond."

Tristar established its presence in Muscat in 2002 and is now a key transporter for major international and local oil and gas companies. It operates across 20 countries within 3 continents, offering end to end fuel logistics solutions to blue-chip clients including international and national oil companies and international NGOs. Its integrated energy logistics platform spans road and maritime transportation, specialised warehousing, fuel farms, commercial aviation refueling and remote fuel supply operations.



One of the stores in the logistics area of Duqm Port

Port of Duqm succeeds the operation in carrying out unloading and handling of giant cargo ships



Duqm - :

The Port of Duqm succeeded during the first quarter of this year to receiving and handling a number of cargo and giant ships that have anchored on the commercial berth.


On the first of February, the port carried out the unloading of a cargo that came from Sohar Port, which is 9 storage tanks of liquefied petroleum gas storage tanks belonging to the Duqm Refinery project, and its unloaded these nine tanks from the barge and transported them in 3 different shipments. Its heights ranged from 11 metres to 72 metres.

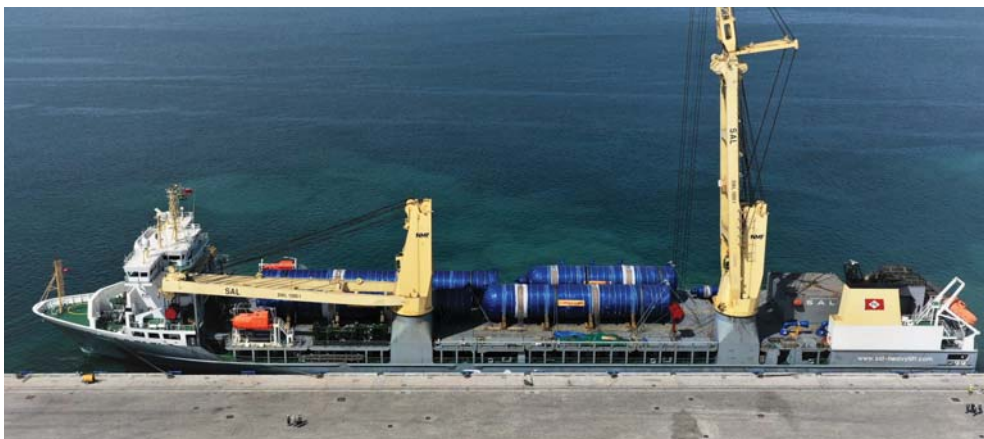
On February 21, the Port of Duqm received the giant cargo ship (MV LONE) coming from the Republic of India, which carried out a landing operation that is considered the largest of its kind in the history of the port's dealings with large shipments, which are equipment and


pumps affiliated to the Duqm Refinery project consisting of 11 units of reactors ranging in weight from 450 tonnes to 1130 Tonnes and lengths between 4 to 36 metres and a height ranging from 3 to 7 metres which are conical equipment intended for refinery purposes.

The vessel MV Da Hua, operated by Gold Star Line, arrived the Port of Duqm on mid-March where a successful operation was carried out at the port terminal, loading pressure vessels for a project in Iraq which were produced by ELCO International Engineering Co. LLC, a leading company in the heavy engineering and fabrication sector operating from Nizwa.

The Port of Duqm Company confirmed its complete readiness to receive and handle such loads and goods, using its technical and human capabilities to carry out landing and handling operations in a manner that ensures achieving the highest rate of performance and efficiency.


**Receiving
9 storage
tanks of LPG
belonging
to the Duqm
Refinery
project**




**The port
confirms
its ability
to handle a
shipment of
11 units of
reactors with
weights of
up to 1130
tonnes**



INTEGRATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND PORTS

Seaports are a major part of the national economy, especially when the country is an ancient maritime state like the Sultanate of Oman by virtue of its history, geography, reality, and future. The importance of these factors increases when considering the unique geographical location of the Sultanate on the Arabian Sea, the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Gulf, adjacent to the global sea route between the Far East, Southeast Asia and Australia on the one hand and the Middle East and Europe on the other.

Competitiveness represents a pivotal concept for the functioning and success of a seaport at the national, regional or international level, given that the port's competitiveness with other ports appears in the form of its success or failure to achieve its goals and thus survival and continuity. Therefore, in this regard, it is important to devise a competitive strategy for the port to attain a better competitive position than that of the competing ports to achieve its goals. Hence, the vision of the port as a guide for the development of a planning process that determines the parameters and frameworks of this strategy, so that the operation of the port serves the national economy.

Based on the port's vision, its mission is formulated to define clearly the nature and characteristics of its activity, operations, or services, determine the targeted customers that the port seeks to meet their requirements, and set the policies of the senior management of the port in managing the port's material and human resources. This should be in a way that supports its competitive ability and maximises its value from the viewpoint of customers, shareholders, society, with whom the port should work in an integrated manner in the service of the national economy.

Successful global ports have always relied on having a comprehensive vision through which the port links to the sectors of the national economy. This takes place through defining a local, regional, and global hinterland(s), which the port serves. The growth of productive and economic activities in this hinterland(s) would then be at the forefront of the factors to increase the movement of transport, handling, storage

and warehousing at the port.

This takes another dimension in the light of the diversity of methods used in the shipment of goods, transportation, and the application of the concepts of international multimodal transport, comprehensive distribution, logistics, and supply chains. These factors emerged in line with the high turnaround of the industrial and commercial structures towards economies of scale characterised by the production of huge flows of homogeneous goods under standardised production.

The global trend has led to a concentration of production and distribution to which the economies of scale contributed through the transport process resulting in a significant decrease in transportation costs. Benefiting from the potential of labour division internationally, production was divided into highly specialised units. At the same time, a higher capital cost and the need to reduce inventory, it was necessary to achieve an optimal flow of goods movement to achieve zero stock and arrive on time. In this way, the matrices of origin / final destination of goods flows are more widespread and complicated than before.

Here emerged the role of the seaport in terms of achieving a high performance for cargo transportation and handling with the provision of logistics and value-added services.

The success of the seaport now stems from the availability of a high comparative advantage: in productivity of the services associated with goods handling or the provision of value-added services or a combination of both. The comparative advantage in cargo handling services mainly relates to two elements, namely cost and time, which relate to the economies of scale. The more expansions in the infrastructure of the port and the equipment associated with it, the greater the sizes of the ships, and the less the cost of transportation and handling per unit of transported cargo, especially for container cargo and bulk goods, which represent the highest percentage of the cargo handled in most seaports in the world.

In the context of the current development of the global economy, the role of the seaport has increased because in most modern international commercial transactions, the seller is not the maker of the commodity, nor the buyer of the commodity is the final consumer. Intermediaries work between the seller and the buyer within the framework of a meticulous system of production

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and commodity flows so that they form part of the multiple distribution channels through which goods and transports move from the manufacturer or the producer to the final consumer. This underscores the port's role as a major link in the international and regional transportation system through the integration of its business, activities, and services with the industrial, agricultural, export, import, assembly, and distribution activities in the area adjacent to the port, called hinterland.

The Rotterdam Port is one of the largest international ports and it is the first port in Europe. The port operates under the management and supervision of the Rotterdam Municipal Port Management, which provides its infrastructure and major facilities, such as berths, yards, stores, and warehouses. The port management leases them to companies under long-term contracts at fixed prices.

The private sector prepares and implements the superstructure, such as machinery, equipment, and cranes necessary for handling cargo and containers. These administrative directions resulted in a proven operational and marketing success for the port, making it the preferred port for the major and global European companies, and a destination for major international shipping lines.

Many logistic centres throughout the Netherlands integrate with those areas in and around the port. About 1500 logistics centres integrate with the port, most of which are «free locations» which interact with the customs administration in an integrated manner. The customs administration allows them under specific guarantees to obtain a license to carry out some of the basic tasks of the customs administration to allow the customs procedure to be complete quickly and with high accuracy allowing the movement of cargo and containers to flow without any procedural obstacles to and from the country and neighboring countries. This allows transportation and freight movement to the highest degree of efficiency and performance.

The huge growth in the quantities of goods and the number of containers handled in the Rotterdam Port was the locomotive that allowed job opportunities in large numbers in addition to more value-added services. The various plans for developing the Rotterdam Port relied on the following principles:

- Providing huge areas of land required for cargo and container handling terminals.

- Providing the modern infrastructure, either for the port or for networks linking with the port.
- Providing value-added services for goods passing through Rotterdam «transit».
- Establishing industrial zones inside the port.

Thus, the Rotterdam Port is a global example we can learn from its successful experience in achieving integration with the other economic activities of all kinds and sectors within the port and in the hinterland. The port includes a major industrial zone that has many factories in different fields. In petrochemicals only, there are factories of more than 20 international companies with branches in the port's industrial zone. They transport most of their chemicals to all parts of the Netherlands and neighbouring European countries through the pipelines that extend as a dense network for the transportation of crude oil, oil products, and chemicals, as well as export to all over the world through specialised ships and tankers.

In the same framework, there are many iron and steel factories on the North Sea Channel near Amsterdam, based on the imported iron ore. Eindhoven is the headquarters of the electronics and electrical appliances while other factories produce passenger cars, transport cars, small commercial aircraft, and industrial machinery.

Food industries are in throughout the country and food industries that use agricultural and dairy products for which the Netherlands is famous, as well as many chemical industries for the production of medicines, fertilisers, paints, plastics, synthetic rubber, and the textile industry of cotton, wool, and synthetic exported through the Rotterdam Port to all parts of the world. This is evident in more than 29 thousand ships that visited the port in 2018 and the handling of 469 million tonnes in the same year, including 14.5 million TEUs. The port gained 707 Million euros from handling in the same year.

As we look at these global experiences, we hope that our seaports in the Sultanate of Oman will progress and prosper further and contribute to achieving the desired goals, including attracting investments, opening new fields and economic activities, generating income and creating job opportunities, and contributing to the growth and development of the national economy towards overall progress and prosperity.

Hassad 1 ..A new icon joins the projects in Duqm

Yousef Al Balushi: Duqm is a real estate investment destination that incentivises developer and our experience is successful



Duqm - Saleh Al Mamari

'Hassad 1' is a new architectural icon in the exhibition zone added to the map of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) on an area exceeding 15,000 square metres on Sultan Qaboos Road in Duqm and located nearby the headquarters of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD).

To know more about this new project, we met with Yousef bin Ali bin Sulaiman Al Balushi, an investment specialist in the Hassad Investment Fund, who indicated that SEZD is a current incentivising investment destination for economists and developer and has a promising future.



We succeeded in marketing the project and have satisfactory demand

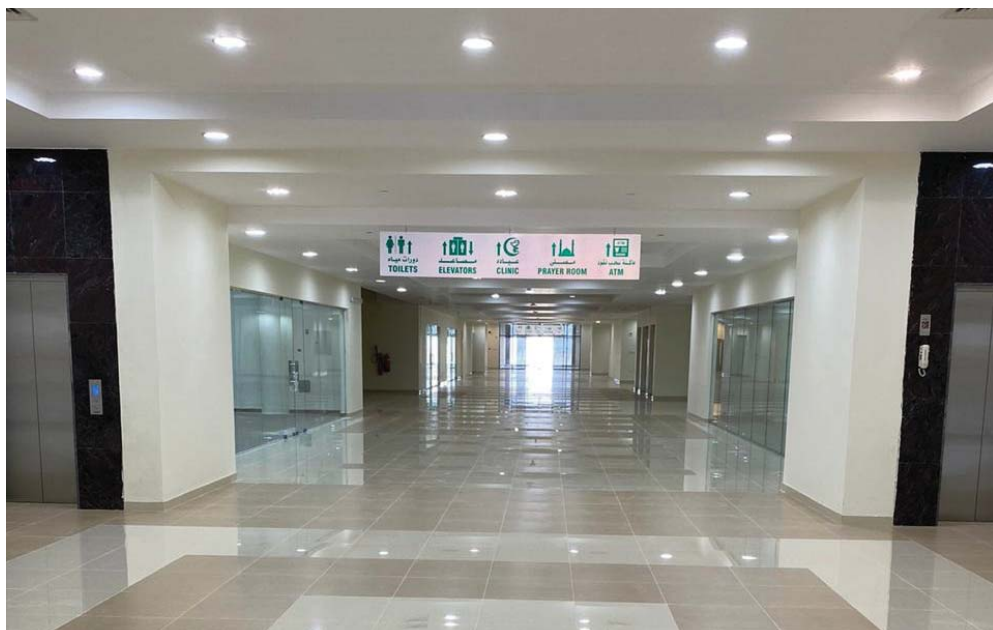
«Today, after the completion of the Hassad Investment Fund project, we can say that we have negotiated the leasing of more than three-quarters of the project, which is promising for a project that is yet incomplete. We are confident that SEZD has available opportunities from which Omanis can benefit,» asserted Al Balushi.

Hassad Building (1) Details

«The usufruct land area is more than 15,000 square metres while the built-up area

is 38,000 square metres. The project includes approximately 270 parking spaces and the building has five floors, the second, third, and fourth dedicated for rent apartments. It has 72 apartments, of which 42 are two-room and a sitting room, and 30 are smaller apartments,» explained Al Balushi.

«The ground and first floors include several public facilities and services usable as clinics, pharmacies, trade fairs, bank branches, and offices, as well as a business centre, a multi-purpose hall, a gymnasium (for men and women),



We invite Omani investment funds to explore the opportunities and facilities in SEZD



and an exhibition space of 1,700 metres for a hypermarket,» added the investment specialist in the Hassad Investment Fund.

Success beyond expectations

Al Balushi described the Fund's experience in Duqm is successful and beyond expectations. «Our experience in investing in SEZD is distinctive and successful, as this project has a large and continuous demand. We have received many requests to reserve apartments, shops, offices, etc., which helps us to better understand the SEZD market and the volume of demand for it. This indicates a promising and increasing growth.»

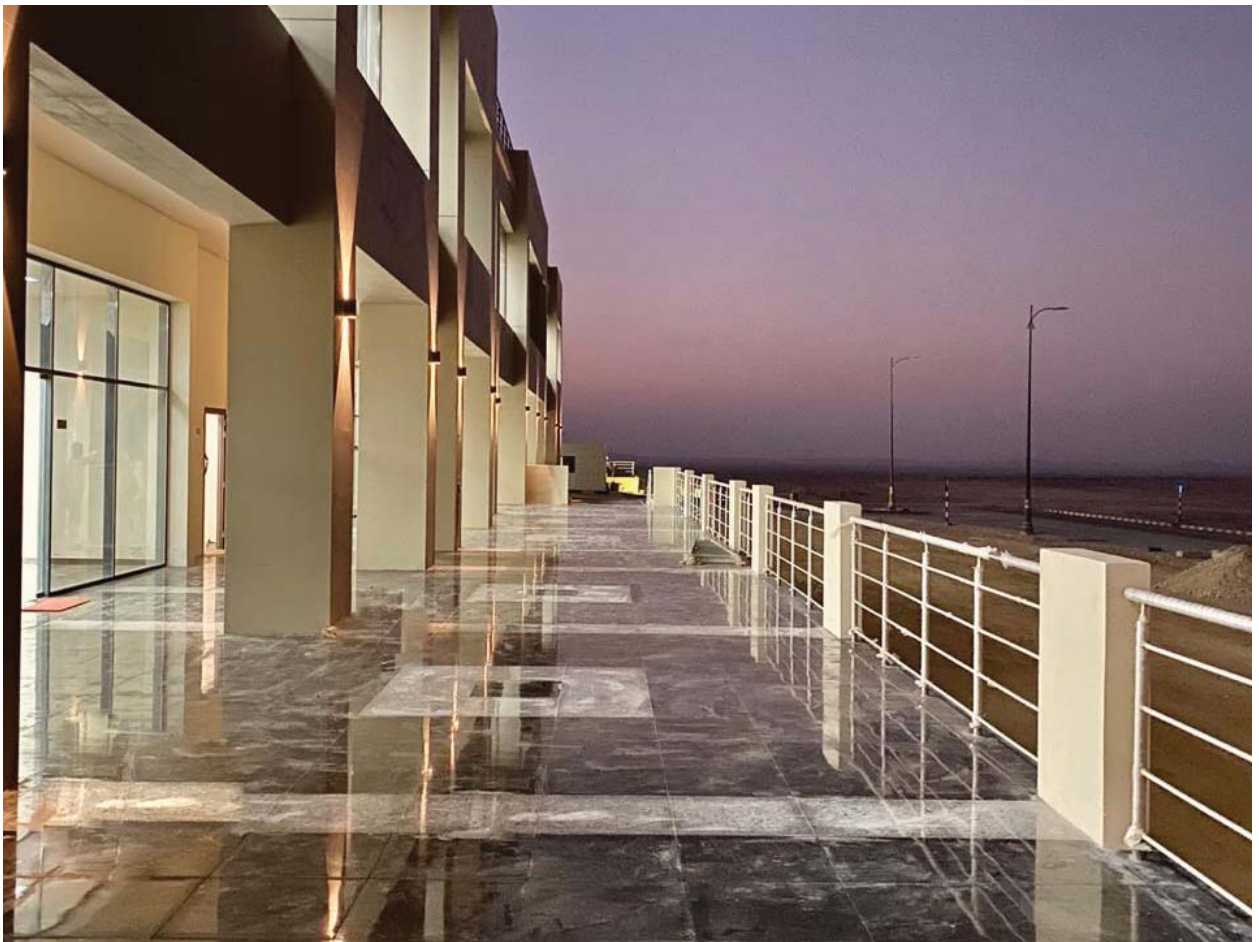
Al Balushi expressed his hope for the suc-

cess of SEZD and the real estate and investment projects therein calling on the Omani investment funds to see the opportunities and facilities in SEZD and ease of business and facilitation procedures by SEZAD, its electronic services, and its responsive and cooperative staff.

It is noteworthy that Hassad Investment Fund is a government-owned development fund that aims to support development and investment projects, which do not conflict with the goals and interests of other government bodies. The Fund has development contributions, notably in Muscat, Salalah, Sohar, and Duqm. It also has contributions with many service companies.

Allocating 72 apartments for rent and providing multiple spaces for offices, banks, pharmacies, and clinics

The complex is ready for use by large hypermarkets



SEZAD floats a bidding for managing, developing and operating the Fishing Port



The Port is 10-metre deep and directly connected to the Fisheries Industrial Zone

Creating an added value to the fisheries sector and promoting economic diversification are key objectives

Duqm -

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) floated on 22nd of January a bidding for developing, managing and operating the Fishing Port and related investment projects, located at the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

SEZAD has invited the local and international companies to participate in the bidding of this project. The bidding's scope of work includes developing, managing and operating the Fishing Port at Duqm, as well as investing in the lands located at the port area.

The Fishing Port at Duqm is the largest of its-kind port in the Sultanate with 10-metre depth, 3.3-km long two water breakers, a 1.3-km fixed dock, and 6 floating anchors. In

addition, the port includes an area allocated for tourism purposes that are associated with the port as well as paved roads connecting the port to the Fisheries Industrial Zone and other projects within the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).


Developing the Fishing Port project is aimed to take advantage of the prime location of the Fishing Port and the stock of fisheries at the Wilayat of Duqm. Furthermore, this strategic project is distinguished by its outstanding infrastructure including the water breakers, the waterfront and depth of the port, and the Fisheries Industrial Complex. Therefore, the Fishing Port will play a key role towards diversification of the income resources, providing job opportunities for Omanis, promoting the re-export sector, transferring modern technology and creating an added value to the fisheries sector in SEZD.



Factories at the Fisheries Industrial Zone



Senior Emergency Management and Decision Making Workshop at Duqm

Duqm -  :

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) hosted on February 26 - 27 the Senior Emergency Management and Decision Making Workshop at the Headquarter in Duqm. The workshop is organised by the National Committee for Civil Defense in cooperation with SEZAD and the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) in the United Kingdom.

The objective of the 2-day workshop was to refresh the understanding of the emergency management concept and to highlight the collective and individual roles of concerned authorities. It also aimed to familiarise decision-makers with the challenges and strategies relevant to emergency management.

A number of sessions were held over the 2 days, highlighting various aspects including review of the processes and challenges of obtaining, evaluating and making sense of information amidst uncertainty. Additionally, the participants reviewed the processes for evaluating the pos-



sible courses of action and their consequences as a basis for the decision on the preferred course of action. During the workshop, different real case studies and potential scenarios were discussed in order to consider the associated media and public information operations.

The participants were also introduced to the Ten Principles used to achieve successful emergency management, in order to be familiarised with best practices in this aspect, as well as to benefit from national and international experiences in dealing with various emergencies and major accidents.



Familiarising decision-makers with the challenges and strategies relevant to emergency management

Review of the processes and challenges of obtaining, evaluating and making sense of information amidst uncertainty

Park Inn Duqm brings more hotel rooms to meet the increasing demand

Cluster General Manager of Park Inn by Radisson Hotels in Oman speaks to **الدوقم** :

Expansion of economic projects has a direct impact on hospitality business and increases demand



Occupancy rate in 2019 reached 70% and expecting the bar to go higher this year

Developing hotel's facilities and converting the 2-bedroom units into 1-bedroom

We received customers from over 50 different nationalities from all around the world last year

Interviewed by Abdulaziz Al Jahdhami

Park Inn by Radisson Hotel & Residence Duqm kicked off the year 2020 with a positive sign reflected in the commendable demand to hotel rooms. This comes as a consequent to the overall 5% growth in occupancy rate in 2019 comparing to 2018. The yearly growing records indicate the urgent need for more hotels in Duqm to serve its prospective growth as a promising investment and economic destination.

Promising occupancy rate

Speaking to Duqm Economist Magazine, Michael Kuhn, Cluster General Manager of Park Inn by Radisson Hotels in Oman, stated that the occupancy rate in 2019 reached 70% while this year we are expecting the bar to go even higher. Starting the first quarter of 2020 with a 25% occupancy increase comparing to the same period in 2019 is a great indication



Michael Kuhn

of a promising year ahead. "In view of that, we are currently working on developing the next phase for the Park Inn by Radisson Hotel & Residence Duqm. This phase will bring more hotel rooms as some of the 2-bedroom units will be converted into 1-bedroom due to the high demand to such residences. We have





planned this in consideration to the type of visitors coming to Duqm, whom mostly are corporate guests coming for business”.

“The expansion of economic and investment projects in Duqm is undoubtedly having a direct impact on hospitality business. This mirrors that most of our customers are coming for business or investors interested in Duqm. However, there are others who pass by Duqm on their way to Salalah coming from Muscat or vice versa and stay for a couple of nights. In 2019, we received customers from over 50 different nationalities from all around the world. It is really great to have people from such a big number!” he added.

New tourist experiences

As Duqm is a thriving investment, tourism and economic hub in the Sultanate, “We are striving to keep pace with potential demand and interests of tourists, business people and families coming to Duqm. Through our new plans, we would be attracting more people to visit Duqm, appreciate its fascinating beauty, explore business opportunities and enjoy their stay as well. We are working on different recreational packages for our visitors and tourists to show them the various tourism, natural and archaeological sightseeing in Duqm”, explained Michael.

A part of the stay at the Park Inn by Radisson Hotel & Residence in Duqm, we are planning to introduce new leisure experiences

to visitors including whale watching and sea tours activities, to name a few. Besides, with its cool weather all around the year, a number of watersports and wind surfing events will be conducted to attract wind surfing enthusiasts from around the world to experience Duqm. The list of options, we are working on, include other recreational and tourism activities as well targeting tourists and visitors of different age groups and interests. Hopefully, such activities would be ready to be experienced during the summer time” expressed Michael.

Giving back to community and environment

Michael Kuhn, Cluster General Manager of Park Inn by Radisson Hotels in Oman pointed out, “Throughout all our group business, we operate under the strategy of a responsible business. Reflecting on our belief in the importance of giving back to the community, we are collaborating with local tour operators and SMEs in the day-to-day operations. As well, we partner with them in the new various recreational activities, which we are planning to start in the coming months. Moreover, as environment is our concern too, this year, we have started the regular beach clean-up campaigns, where our employees take part in cleaning the hotel beach. In addition, our global chain is working on being environmentally certified as a green key with focus on saving water and power consumption”.

Presenting recreational packages for visitors and tourists to show them tourism, natural and archaeological sightseeings in Duqm

Wind surfing is one of the watersports to be introduced during this year



Duqm Quarries begins the second phase of its plan



Ali Al Zadjali:
We expect increasing company's revenues and gains for local community and national economy



Providing more than 10 products to meet the needs of SEZD projects

Duqm - :

Duqm Quarries Company has started the implementation of the second phase of its plan to provide new products to keep pace with the growth in investment projects and infrastructure projects in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

Eng. Ali bin Abdullah Al Zadjali, CEO of Duqm Quarries Company, indicated that the second phase includes the installation of an automatic crusher with a production capacity of 250 tonnes per hour as a first phase, explaining that the new products of more 10 would meet the needs of companies and provide them with the appropriate quantities.

In a statement to Duqm Economist Magazine, Al Zadjali added that the commercial production of the new crusher would start in



Ali Al Zadjali



Control Room



mid-May 2020, stressing that the new products were not previously available in SEZD. «Companies used to procure them from outside SEZD. The company's installation of the new crusher would reduce costs for these companies,» added CEO of Duqm Quarries Company.

Increased returns

He expected the second phase would increase the company's revenues and gains for the local community and the national economy. «The Oman Company for the Development of Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Tatweer), a subsidiary of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) owns 70% of the company's shares, while several local companies, notably Duqm Private Company, owned by the people of Duqm, hold the remaining 30%,» elaborated Eng. Al Zadjali.

Environmental gains

On environmental gains, Eng. Ali bin Abdullah Al Zadjali said that the new crusher would use the latest technologies in the field of reducing dust pollution.

It is worth noting that the establishment of the Duqm Quarries Company aimed to regulate the quarry sector in SEZD, preserve this national wealth, strengthen supervision of activities related to the sector, and employ them to serve the national economy. The company manages and operates the quarry and mining sector and manages sand and gravel mines. It also undertakes other activities related to the exploitation of quarries to extract stones, sand, and earthwork materials. The company's activities also include investment management in this sector and management of mining and quarries contracts and other related activities.

**Installing
the latest
quarrying
technologies
with a
production
capacity of
250 t/h**

**Latest
technologies
for reducing
dust
pollution**



In line with committee's study on reality of scientific research and role of companies in developing it

State Council gets acquainted with SEZAD's efforts to support scientific research



Duqm - :

The Education and Research Committee of the State Council held, on 11th of March, its seventh meeting of the first annual session of the seventh term, chaired by Honourary Dr. Hamad bin Sulaiman Al Salmi, Deputy Head of Committee, in the presence of the honourable members of the committee and a number of employees of the General Secretariat.

The committee hosted at the meeting, Khamis bin Juma Al Balushi, Advisor to the Chairman of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), as part of the committee's study on «The reality of scientific research and the role of private sector companies in supporting and developing it.»

The Committee discussed with Khamis bin Juma Al Balushi, several topics related to its study, including the role of government and its companies in supporting scientific research, na-



tional research competencies and its ability to conduct qualitative research, the contribution of the private sector in supporting scientific research and proposals and mechanisms to assist in developing the scientific research support system.

The study aims to identify the reality of the local, regional and global poli-

cies and legislations that regulate the process of the private sector's contribution to scientific research and increase its efficiency, identify the contributions of the private sector and international companies working in the Sultanate in scientific research and propose legislation and mechanisms to organise and help localise technical expertise.

Training course on judicial seizure for SEZAD employees

Duqm - :

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) organised, in March 2020, in cooperation with the Higher Judiciary Institute, a training course on judicial seizure within the framework of completing the legal procedures for granting some of SEZAD employees the authority of the judicial seizure. This is in line with the provisions of Article (31) of SEZD System issued by Royal Decree No. (79/2013). It stipulates that SEZAD employees determined by a decision of the concerned authority under the applicable laws in the Sultanate, in agreement with SEZAD Chairman, shall have the authority of judicial seizure in relation to violations within their jurisdiction and related to the laws



stipulated in SEZD System.

The course followed the issuance of the Ministerial Decision No. (340/2019) by His Excellency Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Minister of Justice on 8/12/2019 granting judicial seizure authority to some SEZAD employees. The number of employees who will be granted the authority of judicial seizure will be (25) working in

the Directorate General of Control and Compliance.

The training course aimed to provide employees with the legal knowledge and concepts of judicial control, inform them of legal procedures in judicial control and the limits of their legal powers, get them to know their job-related powers, and provide them with the necessary skills in the field of judicial seizure.

Being conducted in cooperation with the National Centre for Statistics and Information

Survey of economic establishments in Duqm kicked off



Duqm - :

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) started in February surveying the economic establishments in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD), in collaboration with the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

The survey targets all companies and projects operating in the Zone with its various economic sectors through completing the special form developed by the Centre for this purpose.


This survey is being conducted for the first time at SEZD, and it is expected to provide a number of important economic indicators including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Zone and the contribution of Duqm to the Sultanate's overall GDP as well as other statistical indicators.


The Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

marks one of the most important indicators that measure the size of the economy in a country and how healthy and durable is its economic performance. The GDP can be defined as the monetary value in the local currency of all goods and services produced within a specific geographical and time frame, and its growth rates are calculated on an annual or quarterly basis.

The GDP growth rate indicator is an important reference for developing economic policies and plans.

Conducting the survey comes within the framework of SEZAD's endeavor to obtain the necessary indicators and statistics for planning and decision-making based on scientific foundations. Besides, it coincides with the beginning of SEZAD's five-year plan (2020-2024) and with the rapid growth witnessed at SEZD.


The survey is being conducted for the first time in SEZD


Providing indicators of Duqm contribution to the Sultanate's GDP

SEZAD sets standards for workers' accommodations in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm

Adding precautionary measures concerning the infectious diseases



New standards are applicable to all permanent and temporary workers' accommodations

Existing workers' accommodations to be adjusted as per the new decision within 6 months

Enhancing workers' standard of living and providing privacy, comfort, and safety

Renaissance Village is a good example of accommodations complying with the new conditions and standards

Muscat - :

His Excellency Yahya bin Said Al Jabri, Chairman of the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD), issued a decision approving the standards and conditions for the construction of workers' accommodation in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD).

The objective behind this decision is to unify and specify the minimum mandatory requirements for the provision of appropriate accommodation for workers in SEZD, covering planning, designing and operation requirements as well as health, safety and environment requirements, in compliance with the local and international requirements.

Moreover, other conditions that have been added to the list of requirements to take into account the precautionary measures concerning the infectious diseases, in accordance with the recent amendments implemented to the Law on Control of Infectious Diseases.

The newly set standards and conditions are applicable to all permanent and temporary workers' accommodations designated to accommodate workers in the Zone, and are compulsory to all owners of these accommodations. The decision issued on April 9 requested that all existing workers' accommodations to be adjusted as per the new decision within six (6) months from the date of its issue.

Likewise, on 10th of February, SEZAD added a new article to the Urban Planning and Building Permits Regulations stipulating that it is not permissible to establish workers' accom-

modation in the Zone unless an approval is obtained from SEZAD to ensure the compliance of its standards and requirements.

Otherwise, SEZAD may impose an administrative fine not exceeding RO 5,000 (Five Thousand) in the case of establishing workers' accommodation without SEZAD's approval or violating the prescribed requirements and specifications.

Enhancing workers' standard of living

The conditions and standards stipulated all workers' accommodations shall have the features and facilities that ensure providing decent standards of living for workers; including privacy, comfort, security, health, safety and service, while taking into account the environmental and social aspects.

In view of that, all accommodations shall consider the size and type of facilities as to be appropriate to the number of residents, provide all necessary facilities to maintain health and safety of residents, ensure all facilities have appropriate natural or artificial lighting, good ventilation, equipped with tools and fire-fighting equipment according to the requirements of civil defense and appropriate to the size of area while providing training for workers to use it.

Further, all accommodations shall include a first aid box with all the necessary medical tools and supplies. Besides, all facilities should be built from materials that comply with the approved technical and standard requirements.

The new conditions strictly prohibited the use of Asbestos, any other product in which Asbestos is used or any other harmful substance.



Also, the cooking stoves, washing machines, food storage, or any dangerous materials are not permitted inside bedrooms.

Overall, the standards and conditions are covering all facilities and services in the accommodations including bedrooms, toilets, washing rooms, kitchen and accessories, dining hall, prayer hall, activities hall, gym, clinic, laundry, drinking water tanks, sewage treatment station, sewage tanks, waste collection sites and many other facilities.

Procedures for obtaining a workers' accommodation permit

All projects planning to establish accommo-

modation for their workers must consider obtaining the land designated for such purpose by submitting land usufruct permit request, in accordance with the procedures set by SEZAD. Projects' owners may build the accommodation within the land allocated for the project post obtaining SEZAD's approval.

Upon the project completion or expiry of land usufruct agreement, projects' owners shall remove the temporary accommodation and all other assets existing on the land or under the surface of land and keep the designated land as it was before setting up the accommodation within the period specified by SEZAD.

You can get the full document of conditions, through the following link on SEZAD's website:

<https://www.duqm.gov.om/upload/files/regulations/workers-housing-specifications-en.pdf>



Unifying and specifying the minimum mandatory requirements for providing appropriate accommodation for workers

Obtaining SEZAD approval to establish workers' accommodation in the Zone is obligatory

Administrative fine of RO 5,000 for violating the prescribed requirements and specifications

The use of Asbestos is strictly prohibited and cooking stoves are not permitted inside bedrooms





**Mohammed bin
Ahmed Al Shezawi**
Editor-in-chief



Despite the fear that this hidden enemy would infiltrate into SEZD through the workers returning from their leaves or visitors. However, praise be to the Almighty Allah, the virus has not reached SEZD

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SIGHTS AND SCENES

In each issue of Duqm Economist Magazine, we present various scenes of Duqm to keep the readers updated first hand. In this way, the scenes we provide make part of the story of developing Duqm and a testimony to the volume of the ongoing progress on an area of about 900 square kilometres, representing 45 % of the total area allocated to the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZD) of 2,000 square kilometres.

In this issue, we have four main scenes, notably the endeavors of many government and private bodies to spare SEZD the infection with the Coronavirus (Covid-19), the pandemic that has paralysed the economy in many cities around the world. Despite the fear that this hidden enemy would infiltrate into SEZD through the workers returning from their leaves or visitors. However, praise be to the Almighty Allah, the virus has not reached SEZD. According to official statistics until April 30, Duqm remains free from any infection.

Many entities have devoted their time to combat this pandemic. There is a continuous follow-up from the Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (SEZAD) for every project in SEZD to ensure that they implement the precautionary and preventive measures issued by the Supreme Committee. The projects, for their part, have been keen to protect their workers. During my visit to the Renaissance Village in Duqm, I saw the efforts undertaken by the company to protect workers in particular and SEZD in general. It has invested in buying thermal scanning systems that can detect the temperature of the workers. If the worker has a high temperature, the company prevents him from mingling with his colleagues. One infection among about 15,000 people who live in one location becomes a real disaster, which has been the concern of the entire Duqm community.

The second scene is that while different bodies strive to keep Duqm away from the Coronavirus pandemic, the projects are progressing well. This has enabled the completion of the oil berth at Port of Duqm, which is a major locomotive for SEZD. As the editorial team of Duqm Economist, we look forward to providing comprehensive coverage in the next issue of this vital project that will change Duqm map economically and socially.

The third scene is government and private sector investments in the commercial sector in Duqm. Next to SEZAD headquarters, two malls provide the people of Duqm and other residents new shopping experiences: Hassad, a government investment and that of Beladi Development Company, a private sector investment.

The fourth scene is the new investment of Duqm Quarries Company in installing an automatic crusher with a production capacity of 250 tonnes per hour that can provide more than 10 products needed by SEZD in the next phase, which will have many factories that need the company's products in their operations. This will maximise the economic revenues of the quarry and mining sector and increase the gains for investors in the company, namely the government through the Oman Company for the Development of Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Tatweer) and the local community through the Duqm Private Company in which a large number of people from Duqm invests.

Duqm is rich with many other important scenes that we look forward to highlighting them in coming issues of the magazine.