

## Decreased interest rate a positive indicator of an improving economy

**Samar Qaed**

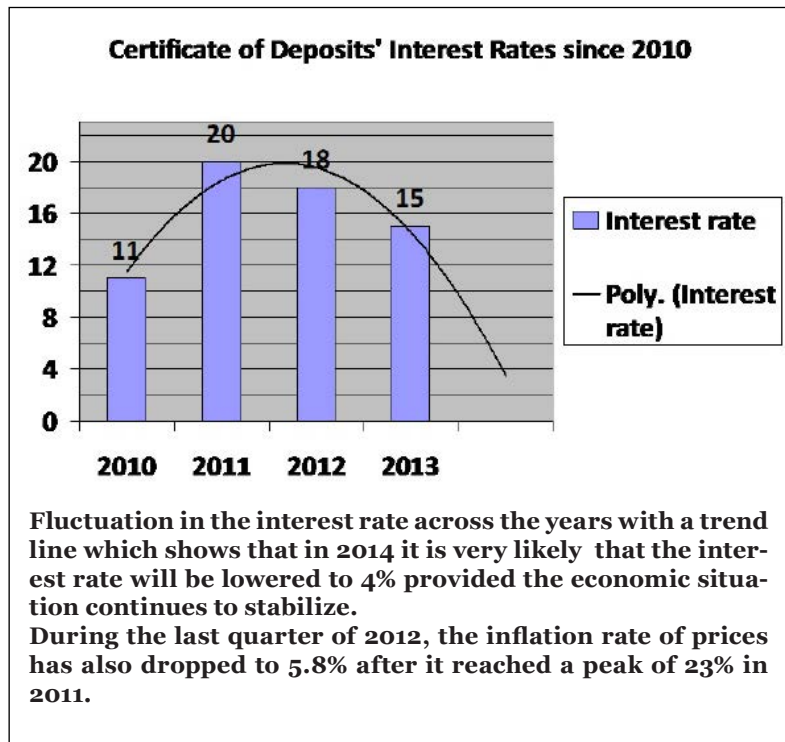
SANA'A, Feb. 13 - Yemeni Central Bank's interest rates on certificates of deposits (CDs) have reached an unprecedented low of 15 percent this week. The rate was set in December 2012 at 18 percent and is a substantial decrease from 2011 when it reached its highest at 20 percent.

The decrease in interest rates is widely viewed by economists as a way to discourage banks from freezing their money in the Central Bank.

The move comes after the government encouraged banks to invest in the Central Bank in 2011 in an attempt to provide the state with increased liquidity to pay the salaries of public sector workers and cover state expenses during the political turmoil.

Prior to 2011, the interest rate had stabilized around 11 percent, however political instability caused the Central Bank to significantly increase it in order to save the national economy from collapsing.

According to the Central Bank's governor Mohammed Awadh bin Humam, the recent decrease is a sign that the economy has stabilized, with the government confi-



dent that it can create its own revenues without depending on banks. It is hoped that the decreased interest rate will positively impact the economy by forcing banks to invest their money in projects that create

jobs. The decrease was appreciated by both commercial and Islamic banking sectors. "We expect the interest rate to fall to 10 percent this year so that it al-

lows individuals to take loans from banks without fear of a high interest rate. When more capital is accessible to potential entrepreneurs this means more business and automatically a better economy," said Abbas Naser, assistant manager of the Yemen and Bahrain Bank.

He added that the average credits banks used to give out fell from 40 percent of the certificate of deposits in 2010 to less than 25 percent today because of the high interest rate.

According to officials at the Central Bank, the move will be the beginning of a continued decrease in interest rates, bolstered by the donor pledge of \$8 billion to support Yemen through its transitional.

Bin Humam said that decision was also supported by the increase in Yemen's foreign reserves from \$4.5 billion in 2011 to \$6.2 billion at the end of last year.

Economic analyst Ahmed Said Shammakh said the increase in foreign reserves is due to the strengthening of local currency compared to the U.S. dollar.

Moreover, according to the expert, the banks' expected future investments will help stabilize the economy, in turn further strengthening the local currency.

The Director of the Economic Media Studies Center, Mustafa Naser, welcomed the news, saying that the International Monetary Fund recommended this decrease at the end of last year, but he said further decreases are still needed. "Banks would still be tempted to invest in the Central Bank rather

than real investments in the country unless the interest rate drops significantly," he said.

He recommended that it drop to 10 percent, and then gradually to a much lower value in accordance with international markets where interest rates in banks currently stand at less than one percent.

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## Political parties submit lists by deadline - Southern Movement participation to be discussed by Hadi

**Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki**

SANA'A, Feb. 13 - Political parties delaying their lists of representatives for the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) finally handed in their names on Wednesday, according to Preparatory Committee (PC) members.

The Islah Party, the General People's Congress (GPC), the Nasserite Party, the Socialist Party, the Justice and Development Party and the Houthis all secured their representation at the conference, slated to being March 18, the committee

said. The lists however, are not final as the PC has yet to confirm that each list contains 50 percent representation from the South, 30 percent females and 20 percent below 40 years of age, per criteria determined for the conference's structure.

The committee also has the authority to have parties replace members who are known for having committed crimes against humanity or violence against revolutionary protestors.

"All political parties have submitted their lists except for the

Southern movement, the youth and women," said, Dr. Saleh Basara, a Preparatory Committee member. "The Technical Committee will sort the lists out and present them to the [Preparatory Committee] on Saturday."

Basara said there are ongoing negotiations about the South's representation.

Currently, there are many components wanting to speak on behalf of the region, including the Southern Movement Supreme Council, the Southern Movement Coordination Group and the Southern Movement

Conference. Dr. Mohammed Al-Amiri, a member of the Dialogue Committee, said President Abdu Rabu Mansour will contact the Southern Movement in order to help select its representatives.

## Security forces attack on protestors provokes public condemnation

**Rammah Al-jubari**

SANA'A, Feb. 13 - In a press conference on Wednesday, a Ministerial Committee responsible for treating injured revolutionaries denounced a security forces' attack on protestors outside the Cabinet building the day before.

According to eye witnesses, on Tuesday security forces used batons and tear gas to disperse the protes-

testors who have been camped out for two weeks, demanding medical treatment for injured revolutionaries.

The press conference announced 15 people were injured in the incident.

"Although we were trying to avoid clashes with [security], they started attacking us and then riot police came to end the injured protest," Taher Al-Haboob, one of the protes-

testors, said. Political parties and human rights organizations have called the incident a "crime," asking the government to take responsibility and form a special committee to investigate the attack.

According to the Ministry of Interior, Abdul-Rahman Hanash, the deputy Minister of Interior for Public Security, is heading a committee to examine the claims.

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## Turkey and Yemen expected to open borders

Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — A recent unofficial agreement between Turkey and Yemen to remove visa requirements for travel between the two states has been welcomed by officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an appreciated step in the amicable relationship between the two countries.

Mohammed Al-Ashbei, the head of the Asian and Australian Department at the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the recent move by Turkey to cancel visa re-

quirements for Yemeni citizens will help nationals of the two countries move freely, adding that this move will contribute to increasing trade between Yemen and Turkey.

According to Al-Ashbei citizens from both countries will be able to travel with just a passport if the Turkish Parliament ratifies the diplomatic decision.

"The agreement was signed in 2011 when the Turkish president came to Yemen," said Fazli Corman, Turkey's ambassador to Yemen.

Turkish and Yemeni Ministers of Foreign Affairs ratified the agree-

ment in October 2012, but before Yemenis are advised to travel to Turkey without a visa, Corman says the Turkish Parliament must officially endorse the decision.

"On the Yemeni side, the approval process is completed, and the same thing should be done on the Turkish side," he said.

Although Corman is confident that visas will be a thing of the past, he is unsure on an exact time frame for his country.

"I don't how long will it take. It may take a couple of months," he said.

According to the ambassador, the move will be advantageous for both Yemen and Turkey and will hopefully increase trade between the two countries.

"Such a move will open up opportunities for the Turkish businessmen to come to Yemen for the purpose of economic and tourist activities," he said.

Mustfa Nassr, the head of the Economic Studies and the Media Center, agreed, saying the agreement will allow Yemenis to learn from Turkey's experience in the fields of economy, tourism and healthcare.

## European team to assist in Interior Ministry restructuring

Bassam Al-Ashmori

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — A team of European military experts will arrive in Yemen in the coming two weeks to oversee the implementation of the restructuring process of the Interior Ministry, said Brigadier Dr. Abdulmunem Al-Shaibani, an assistant academic member in the Restructuring Committee of the Interior Ministry.

A host of Jordanian military experts have already been offering

counsel and technical support to the Yemeni team tasked with restructuring the Interior Ministry.

"The arrival of European experts in Yemen will contribute to creating many choices considering the experts are knowledgeable about the security and administrative fields," Al-Shaibani said.

The Interior Ministry has been criticized for its disorganized structure, which has resulted in weaknesses in security apparatuses.

Al-Shaibani praised the initial fruits of the security restructuring process such as the recent seizures of illegal weapons in Yemeni waters.

However the restructuring process hasn't been completely smooth sailing. Colonel Mohammed Hizam, the editor-in-chief of Al-Haress newspaper and an Interior Ministry spokesperson, said several security administration in the Interior Ministry have not been consulted in the restructuring. He

says this could lead to security imbalances.

"I was not notified about any details regarding the restructure of the Interior Ministry," said Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Nasser Al-Abeedi, the director of Dar Salm police station, indicating that the restructure is going ahead without much communication.

President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi approved the Interior Ministry's restructuring plan at the end of January.

## Rise in humanitarian funding needs

Nadia Haddash

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — A recently released international response plan drafted by the United Nations that details Yemen's humanitarian needs in 2013, revealed that funding requirements for humanitarian crises in Yemen have risen to \$716 million compared to \$585 million in 2012.

The 22 percent rise is due to an increase in the number of those in need of humanitarian assistance from 6 million to 7.7 million, according to the plan.

"Despite Yemen's political transition, it still suffers from a fragile humanitarian situation with many

people threatened by severe poverty. The humanitarian response plan targets one third of Yemen's population by conducting activities that help citizens fight human rights violations and increase humanitarian law," said Ismail Walad Al-Shiek, the U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen.

Al-Sheik added that half of Yemen's population, estimated to be 24 million, currently have no access to clean water and sanitation. A sustainable and adequate food supply is out of reach for 10 million people and 6 million lack access to health services.

Furthermore, one in five children currently suffer from acute malnutri-

tion with over 1 million in danger of death, he added.

In a recent speech, Mohammed Al-Sadi, Yemen's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, said, "Arrangements have been completed for the launch of the international response plan for humanitarian needs. The plan aims to provide funds to those in desperate need throughout the country."

At a recent U.N. conference, officials said progress has been made with the help of humanitarian aid. Officials praised the fact that over 80 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Southern governorates have returned home since 2011.

## Disagreement over a financial post in Hajja delays release of 20,000 employees salaries

Rammah Al-Jubari

HAJJA, Feb. 13 — Armed men in Hajja governorate shut down several financial institutions including the branch of the Central Bank of Yemen, the Yemen Bank of Construction and Development and CAC Bank, because protestors say they have not received their salaries for the second consecutive month. Faisal Hassan, a political activist in Hajja governorate, said the move was provoked by a recent disagreement between the

governor of Hajja, Ali bin Ali Al-Qaisi and the Ministry of Finance about the appointment of a new financial director for the governorate. The disagreement has delayed the release of funds for over 20,000 employees in the governorate. Traditionally, the governor of Hajja selects three potential candidates for the position of finance director in Hajja and the candidate is chosen from this list.

However, Ismail Al-Radhi, the newly appointed finance director for Hajja, was given the position with-

out the governor's approval.

Al-Qaisi said the local council in the governorate refuse to accept the decision of the Finance Ministry.

Abdu Mohammed Salem, a local council member, said the disagreement has been intensified as the newly appointed finance director no longer requires the governor's signature for budget allocation in Hajja.

Although the decision by the finance ministry was supported by the central bank, "the governor of the governorate refuses this," he said.



World Health Organization

### VACANCY NOTICE NO09/2013

**TITLE:** Data manager  
**GRADE:** SSA  
**OFFICIAL STATION (COUNTRY):** 1 based in Sana'a and 1 based in Aden  
**ORGANIZATIONAL:** Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)  
**LOCATION/UNIT:** Office of the WHO Representative,

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME:

The data manager will be responsible to support the Electronic Disease Early Warning System (eDEWS) project through provision of regular analysis and reports on communicable disease, and to systematize the data collection and reporting system on communicable disease.

#### THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WILL:

To support the eDEWS Project in the following tasks:

- To develop a database for monitoring communicable disease trends.
- Perform data analysis and produce reports/Epi-Bulletins in various formats including graphs, charts etc as required
- Maintain and further develop the structure or format of the database as required by DEWS management
- Provide technical support on the specific data required from health partners in relation to the different indicators they are monitoring (telephone support or travel to other offices) as required.
- Train WHO and other agency staff on the use of the databases
- Develop and maintain documentation database design documentation and operating manuals on how to use the Database for WHO and partner organizations
- Develop and maintain a web interface for the Database as required
- Ensure web content management and monitoring web promotion tools
- Undertake any other tasks assigned by the Supervisor

#### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

The Data Manager shall have the following profile:

- At least Graduate or having completed three 3 years University studies in Computer Science of related fields.
- Have a strong knowledge and experience in Microsoft Excel (Microsoft Access knowledge & experience will be an advantage). Ability to use and maintain Microsoft Excel and Access databases i.e. enter data, update records and fields, modify database structure, generate customized reports
- Thorough knowledge of data format and significant experience in analyzing data, generating reports and graphs using pivot table queries
- Having once managed databases in well reputed organizations will be an advantage
- Reports (monthly/weekly/quarterly) generated from the database
- Experience in writing and maintaining database documentation and operating manuals
- To translate available data into Arabic and English, as desired.
- To monitor and validate the data according to set standards and profiles.
- Maturity and professional ability to handle sensitive information and ability to respect the confidentiality of such information while working with WHO and even after the contract ends.

#### CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:

30 February 2013

#### APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING (ON FORM WHO 1.2) AND SENT TO:

World Health Organization, Al Hasaba area, Ministry of Health and Population building  
PO BOX 543, Sanaa, Republic of Yemen  
TEL: 01 25 2213  
FAX: 01 251612

ONLY CANDIDATES UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WILL BE CONTACTED FOR INTERVIEW AND TEST. ANY APPOINTMENT/EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT IS SUBJECT TO WHO STAFF REGULATIONS, STAFF RULES AND MANUAL.



World Health Organization

### VACANCY NOTICE NO07/2013

**TITLE:** eDEWS Surveillance Coordinator (two positions)  
**GRADE:** SSA  
**OFFICIAL STATION (COUNTRY):** 1 based in Taiz and 1 based in Aden  
**ORGANIZATIONAL:** Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)  
**LOCATION/UNIT:** Office of the WHO Representative,  
**Duration:** 6 month (Subject to Renewal)

#### THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE WILL:

- Collect weekly eDEWS data from health facility sentinel sites, apply quality control, computerize and assess the data patterns.
- Train the Sentinel eDEWS Reporting Sites to
- Make active as well as passive search for the cases in health facilities
- Fill the weekly reporting forms
- Verify rumors in their area
- Report the weekly data to the Hub or WHO Sub-office
- Report immediately any disease cases that have crossed the alert threshold.
- Train the District/Governorate Surveillance and Response Unit to
- Collect and compile the reporting forms from the Sentinel Sites
- Make sure data are correct and complete
- Report the weekly data to the central level
- Carry out case/outbreak investigation and initial response when needed
- Distribute feedback reports to the Sentinel Sites
- Communicate rapidly with the central level for any sudden occurrence of major diseases for investigation
- Coordinate and lead the outbreak investigations, specimen collection and shipment, collect descriptive data, apply statistical measures and epidemiological terms to develop a hypothesis, apply analytical methods to test the hypothesis
- Coordinate with MoH teams and other partners to assign proper preparedness against disease outbreaks and emergencies
- Detect, verify, confirm and coordinate for response the disease outbreak or emergency at any situation all over the governorate or assigned area
- Design proposals in case of any need for emergencies and disease outbreaks and communicate with the MoH counterparts for resource allocations.
- Set up an active surveillance for Communicable Disease such as Measles, Pertussis, Cholera, Avian Influenza, Hemorrhagic Fever, Dengue and any Disease which crosses its alert threshold.
- Conduct adequate training on Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Communicable Disease and Outbreak Investigation in different levels for the health personnel.
- Conduct proper research studies whenever required to answer a question or find out a solution to a problem.
- Manage all DEWS-related logistics and supplies for the district and region assigned
- Manage administrative and financial requirements of DEWS staff and activities in the district or assigned area, preparing all necessary documents and following up processing the payments.
- Perform reasonable and related tasks as may be assigned by team leaders.

#### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- MBBS with higher degree in public health
- At least 3 years experience in similar position

#### CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:

20 February 2013

#### APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING (ON FORM WHO 1.2) AND SENT TO:

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(1951 - 1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times*



## OUR OPINION

### Reading into the president's editorial

**F**or the first time since he became president of the republic, Hadi wrote an editorial addressing the nation in the state-run newspaper Al-Thawra on Feb. 11, marking the two-year anniversary of Yemen's revolution.

This editorial is significant on many levels. To start with, it documents a clear recognition of the revolution's youth and the legitimacy of the revolution.

It is also timely because it brings much needed hope to the nation. Additionally, it demonstrates the president is keen to connect with the population and reach out to people after a long period of silence.

Moreover, it comes at a critical turning point as Yemen embarks on its military and security restructuring and the launch of the National Dialogue Conference next month. Finally, it comes after two committees were created to address grievances in the South.

I especially like the fact he mentioned both male and female youth, which is a sign of gender inclusiveness.

Yet, the most interesting idea in the editorial is how he used revolutionary legitimacy that materialized out of demand for change in 2011 while legitimizing himself constitutionally through the original structure of the state.

“As it is true that revolutionary legitimacy could not be achieved without precious sacrifices, it is equally true that former constitutional legitimacy could not withstand the overwhelming demand for change that accumulated due to self-destructive methods characterized by personal interests,” Hadi said in his editorial.

This statement is very important because it is an indirect message to former President Saleh and his supporters who continue to defend his authority. They defend him as an elected president who was toppled by “some elements” who could not get to power through elections and so they decided to create social unrest to topple the regime.

What Hadi is actually saying is that there is no use and it is not acceptable to keep talking about the former state because today we have a new legitimacy that stems from the nation's overwhelming demand for change. I think what Hadi is hinting at goes beyond the presidency of the republic and is in fact an indirect memo aimed at the General People's Congress Party, which is still headed by Saleh.

Another interesting point is his clear commitment to include youth in the decision making process in the future, whether through state institutions or elsewhere. This is a positive step because until recently you had to be quite old to receive a high level or a significant position that have traditionally been monopolized by what we term locally as “the dinosaurs.” Considering youth make up at least half of the population, they deserve to be recognized in this way.

Finally, Hadi called on the nation to forget the past because most past conflicts do not and should not concern today's generation and should be limited to history books. It seems to me the president may be issuing an indirect apology to the youth for dragging them into the political struggles of former generations.

Thank you Mr. President, I hope your words reach all Yemenis and find a positive place in their hearts and minds.

**Nadia Al-Sakkaf**

## ADVERTORIAL

### A Porsche and many other prizes in the second Surprise Card Awards draw

Sabafon Telecom Company handed over its first Surprise Card awards last Tuesday in a festival ceremony in the company's headquarters in Sana'a February 12, 2013.

This Award Program was announced early 2013 and was dedicated to all the post and prepaid subscribers with the exception of groups system accounts.

Lucky winner Yasser Hussein Abdullah Bare from A-Jawf governorate won the grand prize, a Porsche.

The grand prize, a Porsche and a number of other valuable monetary prizes were awarded in the presence of Lead Strategy and Business Development Senior Manager in the Marketing Department Mohammed Al-Shami.

Sabafon represented by Al-Shami congratulated the grand prize winner for his new car and all other winners. He stated that the offer is still on-going and Sabafon will conduct the third draw early March for the third car and other valuable prizes.



## VACANT POSITIONS

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### 1. Senior Institutional Specialist

To manage a new program to assist with management improvements to a central organization, and to develop new enterprises designed to commercialize electric services in rural communities in Yemen. The Senior Institutional Specialist will be responsible for overseeing institutional improvements at the existing central agency, institutional and financial feasibility assessments of new projects; developing business systems required to manage new electric enterprises; oversee development of training programs for the central agency and these new enterprises and their employees; and, develop and introduce practices and procedures that will be needed to ensure long-term sustainability of these enterprises. Candidates should have a background in business management with a minimum of ten years of recent experience in private companies, development project management, or electric utilities.

### 2. Senior Electric Power Engineer

To assist in implementation of a new project to supervise design and construction of multiple power distribution projects throughout Yemen. The Senior Electric Power Engineer will work as a member of a multi-disciplinary team based in Sana'a, but who will be required to travel extensively to project sites where construction activities are under implementation. The Engineer will be responsible for managing groups of field inspectors, verifying work quality of distribution construction firms, documenting work progress, and ensuring that construction meets the design specifications and quality requirements of the client. Qualified candidates should have a B.S. degree in electric power engineering with a minimum of fifteen years of work experience in design and construction of electric distribution systems.

Candidates must be fluent in Arabic and English.

Interested and qualified candidates should send a letter of interest and CVs to [YemenAdmin@nreca-intl.org](mailto:YemenAdmin@nreca-intl.org).



## Vacancy Announcement

**Job Title:** Procurement Officer (PO)  
**Project:** Enterprise Revitalization and Employment Pilot, EREP  
**Location:** Based in Sana'a  
**Starting Date:** February 15, 2013  
**Duration:** Permanent

### 1 – BACKGROUND:

The Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS) is a quasi-government agency established in 2005 as a subsidiary of the Social Fund for Development. SMEPS focuses on planning, directing, coordinating and monitoring several programs that contributes directly to developing SMEs in Yemen. In close coordination with partner organizations, such as the World Bank, UNDP, GIZ and others, SMEPS provides SMEs in Yemen with adequate tools and policies that facilitate their growth and diversification. The agency's programs focus on three main lines of intervention, namely: 1) promoting business development services (BDS), 2) developing value chains; including fisheries, coffee, horticulture and health, 3) sponsoring entrepreneurship.

### 2 – DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The project “Enterprise Revitalization and Employment Pilot, EREP” is a two year pilot project funded by the MENA Transition Fund. The project aims to inform private sector development policies and programs in Yemen, with a particular emphasis on SME development and employment. This focus on SMEs and employment stems from evidence of the importance of SMEs in private sector development.

The project will support in two distinct activities, a) internships for recent graduates in private enterprises and b) the implementation of business development plans in private enterprises. The project would facilitate and support the placement of up to 400 interns through a matchmaking process in subsidized internships in Yemeni businesses (expected length of 6 months). The program will also provide up to 400 firms with a matching grant for the procurement of business development services (BDS) e.g. consultancy, exhibition services, training and goods (as a minority component) to improve management practices, technology, or products or to reach new markets (domestic or export) as defined in a Business Development Plan submitted by the firm. Firms may apply for an intern, a business development matching grant, or both. These activities would be implemented at firms in two locations, Sana'a and Aden. The project will be implemented by SMEPS, as the recipient and implementing agency with the World Bank acting as an implementation support agency.

### 3 – SCOPE OF WORK

SMEPS is seeking a Procurement Officer to develop and implement a procurement policy for the agency and procurement plan for the EREP project. The procurement officer will be responsible for managing procurement systems and activities on the EREP project and for training SMEPS team on the procurement policy and systems. The procurement officer will report directly to the Executive Director of SMEPS. The Procurement Officer will have the following responsibilities:

- Prepare, execute and update the EREP procurement plan in accordance to World Bank procedures and requirements and consistent with the project operating manual. Maintain procurement documents and records to enable strong monitoring of project procurement and the necessary clearance procedures from the Bank.
- Maintain and update SMEPS service providers' database.
- Prepare specifications, tender documents, and requests for offers for supply of goods and services to meet project objectives and ensure clearance from the World Bank as required.
- Lead as appropriate the procurement processes from assessment to issuance of award and pursuance of delivery of services or goods and ensure clearance from the World Bank as required.
- Provide guidance to the project team and SMEPS staff on the agency's procurement policy and systems. Play a leadership role to the colleagues in handling complex procurement tasks and issues which frequently cut across the project and agency's work.
- Provide guidance to beneficiary firms of the EREP project on procurement of goods and services to ensure timely procurement and compliance with World Bank requirements.
- Provide support as requested by independent evaluation consultants and independent financial accounts auditors.

### 4 – Essential Specialized Skills/Knowledge/Competencies:

The candidate will need to demonstrate proficiency in the following:

- Demonstrated competency of the concepts, principles and practices which govern public and private sector procurement, the contracting of consultant services, technical specifications in design as related to IT systems and the development of public procurement policies etc.
- Experience with World Bank procurement processes preferred.
- Good understanding of critical linkages and relationships among clients' business drivers, business operations and objectives and procurement processes.
- Proven ability to design and implement procurement plans for major projects.
- Strong communication skills and persuasiveness in presenting, negotiating and resolving complex issues, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to build effective working relations with clients and colleagues.

### 5 – Qualification

- BA degree with a major relevant discipline (Procurement, Finance, Business Administration, Public Sector Administration)
- A minimum of 4 years experience in procurement with at least two years working on similar donor funded projects.

To Apply, please send your CV to [HR@smeps.org](mailto:HR@smeps.org)



# Tourism industry: 'innocent victim' of insecurity

Sadeq Al-Wesabi

Security instability in Yemen has not only resulted in thousands of deaths, injuries and the displacement of locals in governorates across the nation, but it has also devastated the tourism industry, leaving guides, agencies and shop owners without a source of steady income.

"The tourism situation is tragic. The majority of tourism agencies

hotel has laid off 65 percent of its employees due to a steep decline in tourism.

With no indication of an influx in visitors anytime soon, Al-Hamdi says they may be forced to make more cuts from their now skeleton crew.

"We will close soon if the situation continues this way," he said. "Until now, we've lost YR 120 million (approximately \$558,000). We're barely covering the operating expenses."

the uprisings that erupted in 2011, triggering the downward security spiral, the "war-zone" stigmas associated with Yemen continue to discourage potential international visitors.

Hotels and restaurants also say domestic tourism is at an all time low.

"It's not only foreign tourists who find it difficult to go to some tourist places, Yemenis also face different difficulties such as banditry," said Ahmed Al-Beel, manager of the Programs and Activities Department in the Ministry of Tourism.

Al-Beel said the industry is growing more and more distressed.

"I've visited several tourist restaurants and their owners keep asking me, 'Where are the tourists?'" he said.

Al-Ariqi blames the deterioration of the tourism sector on the government that "hasn't provided support for this vital and profitable sector."

Fahd Frass, the executive manager of Yemeni Dreams Tourism and Travel Agency, also blames the government for her flagging financial state.

"We're a real victim of security disturbances," he said. "Unfortunately, the government doesn't realize the significance of tourism in boosting the economy in the country."

Recently, the Yemeni Dreams Agency booked 24 international tourists for a package trip that included a hotel and tour in Syoum, a city in Hadhramout known for its attractive historical buildings.

But, at the last minute, the Tourist Police Office prevented the agency from moving ahead with plans, citing "security concerns."

"We were initially told by the Tourist Police that we can send our tourists to Hadhramout but when [the tourists] arrived in Sana'a we were told the opposite," said Frass. "We've lost a lot of money, but we don't care about money as we're only worried about our reputation being damaged."

"Such tourists could yield thousands of dollars for Yemen in a few days," he said.

The Tourists Police defended their decision, saying such determinations come up suddenly because of Yemen's volatility and is for the safety of visitors.

"Everyday something new comes, so tourism agencies should always coordinate with us to know the areas that are put on the ban list," said Colonel Dr. Mosed Al-Dhaheri, deputy manger of Tourist Police. He went on to say that travel bans often come suddenly.

Speaking to Yemen Times about the decision of the government on banning tourists to visit specific areas, Al-Beel said, "We appreciate that the government is worried about the safety of tourists but that doesn't mean that they should abandon their duties in securing roads and imposing security."

Currently, tourists are allowed in Ibb, Taiz, Hodeida, Sana'a, Hajja, Mahweet and Socotra, Al-Beel said.

Other areas that were one-time tourist destination like Marib and Hadhramout have been banned by the Tourist Police.



An increase in travel restrictions for foreigners has detrimented many tourism agencies across Yemen.

have lost millions of riyals," said Basel Al-Ariqi, an executive member of the Yemeni Union for Tourism. "Tourism agencies laid off their employees even leading companies had to layoff their staff's services."

Abdullah Al-Hamdi, a manager of the five-star Ramada Al-Mukalla hotel in Hadhramout, said that the

Despite relative improvements in the situation, especially in the south where the state has gained back much of its lost control, Yemen still has an international reputation as a conflict ridden country, despite the efforts of citizens to dispel this label.

Although tourism agencies say they were suffering a bit before



Tourism agencies complain of a lack of government support.



Yemen has lots to offer tourists from culture to adventure.

# CELEBRATING LOVE ON HADDA STREET

Najla'a Hasan

Gift stores and florists find Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, a golden opportunity to cash in on love. Shop owners begin decorating their store fronts about a week before the holiday to catch consumers' eyes.

Flowers, red teddy bears, heart-shaped pillows and gift boxes all lure lovebirds with their romantic expressions.

On this holiday, florists increase their prices, saying customers are willing to meet the costs no matter what they are.

Although the holiday remains controversial - Religious scholars say it opens Yemen to the influence of non-muslims and encourages idol worship - many shops owners on Hadda continue with the tradition year after year.



Customers have a selection of choices for different romantic expressions in various shapes.




The color red overtakes flowers shops in Sana'a. Hearts shapes and teddy bears are shown on shops' shelves.



Some customers buy gifts one day before Valentine's day to avoid expensive prices associated with last minute shopping.



Flower shops imported a big amount of red flowers in the days leading up to Valentines, often doubling their prices.



**COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS PROJECT (CLP) |**

### Tender Invitation

The Community Livelihoods Project (CLP) is a USAID-funded project in Yemen managed by Creative Associates International.

In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, CLP is responsible for the following:

**Honey Value Chain assessment**

CLP is inviting qualified Companies specializing in this area to submit quotations.

Interested companies are invited to contact CLP at the address below to request a copy of the RFP during the period **February 14, 2013 thru Monday, February 18, 2013 03:00pm** to receive the complete Tender Documents.

CLP email: [proc@clp-yemen.com](mailto:proc@clp-yemen.com)





**12**  
**YEARS**

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# Two years later, Yemenis reflect on change and stagnation after the revolution in 2011

Mohammed Al-Samei

**F**awaz Salem has been camping in Sana'a's Change Square since Yemen's revolution broke out on Feb. 11, 2011.

The revolution was "pure" in the beginning and had a great impact on Yemenis, he said.

Even though the 27-year-old continues to occupy the space where the movement was born, he says two years later the revolution has been lost to political bickering and agendas.

He, like many of the other occupants at Change Square, say the revolution started as an uprising and quickly turned into a political crisis that lost sight of people's original goals.

"The revolution was supposed to fully eliminate the former regime. Yet, the Yemeni political parties that claimed solidarity with the revolution contributed to killing it," he said.

Much has happened in the two years since revolutionaries took to the streets and called for a regime change, a transitional government has taken over, a national dialogue is in the making and a former president was dethroned. But, as Yemenis reflect back on the 700 days that have passed, they opine about the successes and failures of the revolution. Some are quick to call what happened in Yemen nothing short of a miracle, while others scoff at the idea that life has changed for Yemenis.

Revolutionaries in governorates nationwide recently celebrated the



A recent festival held on Al-Sateen Street, celebrating the second anniversary of the Yemeni revolution.

second anniversary of their cause on Feb. 11, including large street celebrations in Sana'a and Taiz.

"I especially congratulate you, my youthful sons and daughters, on this day because you are half of the present and the entire future," President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi told the state-run Al-Thora newspaper.

Some activists in Change Square have celebrated the revolution for its ushering in of President Hadi.

Mohammed Nasser Al-Mukbili, a leading activist in Sana'a's Change Square, met the president's praise with reciprocal admiration, calling Hadi "the fruit of the youth's

peaceful revolution."

Some like Abdulla Al-Warqi, a 26-year-old from Amran governorate, said the Yemeni revolution distinguished itself from other nations lumped in with the Arab Spring because it overthrew the former regime with fewer casualties and faces a brighter future.

On the contrary, Ahmed Al-Quhali's, sentiment captures an over arching questioning of Yemen's path forward post revolution.

"The economic situation has gone from bad to worse. I have no work opportunities to make a



Youth dress up as the Yemeni flag at a recent event for revolutionary youth in Sana'a.

living," said the Sana'a resident. "The revolution is supposed to make new changes for people, yet Yemen's revolutionary change is not good. We don't feel any tangible improvements in the economic and security fields."

Remnants of the revolution like the sit in outside the Cabinet building for people injured during the revolution seeking medical treatment and the government's campaign to remove tents from both Change Square and Tahrir, leaves room for everyone to contemplate the future many activists say.

For now, some still cling to the idea that the any future change will have to again emerge from its origins.

With unrelenting eagerness, Salem said, "I will stay devoted in the square until the modern civil state is built."



## Vacancy Announcement

Job Title: Project Manager (PM)  
Project: Enterprise Revitalization and Employment Pilot, EREP  
Location: Based in Sana'a with frequent travel to Aden  
Starting Date: February 15, 2013  
Duration: Two Years (Fixed Term Contract)

### 1 - BACKGROUND:

The Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS) is a quasi-government agency established in 2005 as a subsidiary of the Social Fund for Development. SMEPS focuses on planning, directing, coordinating and monitoring several programs that contribute directly to developing SMEs in Yemen. In close coordination with partner organizations, such as the World Bank, UNDP, GIZ and others, SMEPS provides SMEs in Yemen with adequate tools and policies that facilitate their growth and diversification. The agency's programs focus on three main lines of intervention, namely: 1) promoting business development services (BDS), 2) developing value chains; including fisheries, coffee, horticulture and health, 3) sponsoring entrepreneurship.

### 2 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The project "Enterprise Revitalization and Employment Pilot, EREP" is a two year pilot project funded by the MENA Transition Fund. The project aims to inform private sector development policies and programs in Yemen, with a particular emphasis on SME development and employment. This focus on SMEs and employment stems from evidence of the importance of SMEs in private sector development.

The project will support in two distinct activities, a) internships for recent graduates in private enterprises and b) the implementation of business development plans in private enterprises. The project would facilitate and support the placement of up to 400 interns through a matchmaking process in subsidized internships in Yemeni businesses (expected length of 6 months). The program will also provide up to 400 firms with a matching grant for the procurement of business development services (BDS) e.g. consultancy, exhibition services, training and goods (as a minority component) to improve management practices, technology, or products or to reach new markets (domestic or export) as defined in a Business Development Plan submitted by the firm. Firms may apply for an intern, a business development matching grant, or both. These activities would be implemented at firms in two locations, Sana'a and Aden. The project will be implemented by SMEPS, as the recipient and implementing agency with the World Bank acting as an implementation support agency.

### 3 - SCOPE OF WORK

SMEPS is seeking a Project Manager to lead the implementation of the EREP project. The Project Manager will be reporting directly to the Executive Director of SMEPS and will be responsible for proper implementation and execution of the project objectives. The Project Manager will have the following responsibilities:

- Ensure the correct and effective management of the project from a technical, organizational and financial point of view.
- Ensure constant coordination, reporting and close co-operation with the appropriate World Bank staff in Yemen and DC.
- Guarantee project team compliance with the Operations Manual and its policies and procedures.
- Establish an appropriate client relations management (CRM) system to manage relationships with firms throughout the cycle, (from application and screening through BDP preparation, appraisal and supervision, to procurement, service provision, final reporting), and ensure its appropriate use and maintenance.
- Establish an appropriate intern management system to manage relationships with interns, and ensure its appropriate use and maintenance.
- Establish an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system, linked to the EREP project Results Framework, and ensure its appropriate use and maintenance and compatibility with the impact evaluation to later to be undertaken by the World Bank.
- Ensure the implementation of the project in accordance with the financial management and procurement systems at SMEPS and in compliance with World Bank requirements.
- Manage and lead a project team, ensuring in particular strong, practical technical and business management skills among the staff working on the project;
- Ensure the procurement of the services of well qualified BDP Advisors and Internship Advisors with both local and technical knowledge that will act as the first line of support for firms and graduates applying to the project. The PM will manage these advisors.
- Organize and ensure full pre-start-up training of Project Team members including the BDP and Internship Advisors to meet their job responsibilities and periodic post-start-up workshops.
- Lead and ensure sound EREP project promotion and liaison with the Yemeni business community stakeholders through a well-developed Communications Plan, including the development of a project website.
- Lead and support the EREP Project Team, ensuring good internal communications, exchange of information, and teamwork;
- Lead EREP Management Committee comprised of the Project Manager, Project Officers, Finance Manager, and the Business Development Manager which oversees the project and approves all recommendations for partial grants to firms and for internship short-lists.
- Ensures a business culture that emphasizes business-friendly and supportive, and rapid response, business administrative efficiency and flexibility;
- Provide support as requested by independent evaluation consultants and independent financial accounts auditors.

### 4 - QUALIFICATIONS:

The incumbent will have to meet the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated leadership, general management, and people management skills.
- Master's or equivalent degree in economics, business or a related field (or BA degree with at least 5 years experience).
- The candidate will demonstrate relevant working experience in projects programming and management and in developing and managing private sector oriented technical assistance, advisory services, business projects or consultancy programs.
- The candidate will preferably demonstrate experience of working within the private sector in Yemen and preferably other countries too.
- Must be fluent in English and Arabic with excellent report writing skills and excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Very good administrative skills and IT skills.
- Target oriented and problem solving aptitude.

To Apply, please send your CV to [HR@smeeps.org](mailto:HR@smeeps.org)

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