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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Dhamar farmers revive coffee plantations after years of abandonment

By: The Yemen Times correspondent

DHAMAR, July 21 — After persuasion from the local council, many farmers in Dhamar governorate have agreed to remove qat and corn from their farms and grow coffee trees instead.

The local authorities convinced the farmers by facilitating the coffee marketing process and ensuring that the coffee would be sold at an attractive price. This was a successful policy because farmers in Dhamar had abandoned coffee farming across the past year when the price went down dramatically. The governorate has now insured a 300 percent increase in coffee prices, making one kilo of dry coffee cherries worth eight dollars.

"There has been an increasing demand on coffee seedlings in recent years as many farmers are now expanding their coffee plantations. This happened as coffee prices increased, and now I am providing seedlings to many farmers from all over the governorate, especially places that were famous for coffee in the past," said Mohammed Al-Dhabobi, a coffee seedling nursery owner in the Al-Nobtain area of Dhamar.

One of the coffee farmers, Moham-



The state has started initiatives nationwide to replace qat with coffee.

med Ali Hifhallah, from Otma district in Dhamar, said that he started with 200 seedlings three years ago. The state-run rural development project gave him 30 sacks of cement to help fix the ground water tank he uses to water the coffee trees.

"I am expecting to see a harvest next year. My area used to produce a lot of coffee in the past, but many farmers were negatively affected by soil erosion and highways that cut into their land, so they stopped growing coffee. Now there is a trend to go back to coffee plantations with encouragement from the state," said Hifhallah.

The state has created several initiatives across the country to replace qat with coffee. One of these projects is based in Dhamar. Agriculture engineer Kamal Shamsan, the project's coordinator, said that local authorities representing the agriculture office and the rural development project endorse coffee farming and distribute coffee seedlings to the farmers along with tools, and they also create awareness activities to help farmers optimally benefit from their land. The state also supports farmers in infrastructure projects, such as water tanks for their lands.

"Dhamar governorate has a good climate that is suitable for growing coffee, and these areas used to be famous for their coffee trees, to the extent that farmers would even market their produce in other governorates," said Shamsan.

He added that the locals are now growing plants that produce a specific round type of coffee bean. This variety stores

well for long periods of time, resists pests, and is popular because of its quality and flavor.

Through this initiative, three associations were created and supported with tools and equipment, allowing them to help in marketing coffee by acting as mediators between the farmers and the traders.

These associations are already selling coffee to large corporations such as Al-Ezi and Al-Kabous.

Executive director of the rural development project in Dhamar, Engineer Abdulkarim Abdullah Al-Eryani, said that the project distributed more than 71,730 hundred seedlings to 648 farmers between 2006 and 2010.

The project also helped to establish or repair 296 water tanks to collect rainwater for irrigating coffee trees. They provided the farmers with more than seven thousand cement sacs, agricultural equipment, and training on how to use them.

Continued on page 2

## Yemeni population increased fivefold in last half century

By: Yemen Times Staff

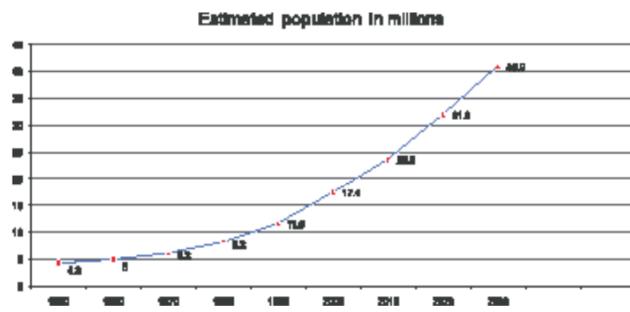
SANA'A, July 20 — The population of Yemen has multiplied five times in the last 54 years, and is predicted to triple again by 2035, according to the Health and Population Committee of the Yemeni Parliament.

The committee produced a report which was discussed earlier this month on the occasion of World Population Day, July 11, highlighting the dangers of rapid population growth in Yemen.

The report predicts that by year 2035 the country's current 23 million inhabitants will have increased to at least 61 million, almost triple the size today. Yemen's population growth rate is 3.7 while its fertility rate which is the average number of children for every Yemeni woman during her life time is 6.1.

Moreover, the infant mortality rate in the country is also considered one of the highest in the world at 53 deaths per every 1000 live births according to UNICEF's 2008 statistics. Child mortality for children below five is also high at 69 deaths for every 1000 live births. The report also indicated that maternal mortality is quite high in Yemen as 365 mothers die while giving birth in every 100 thousand live births.

These high mortality rates are in large part caused by frequent deliveries without



much time between pregnancies. This is also the main factor behind the high population growth Yemen is suffering from.

"We have to consider the balance between demands and resources. Having so many children - especially since half of Yemenis are in the unproductive age of under 16 - we are going to have a huge shortage of resources and poverty will increase," said a member of the committee behind the report.

Currently, the dependency ratio - which is the ratio of how many people are supported financially per every single income generator - is 1:4. With the increasing population rate, according to the Central Statistical Organization, this dependency ratio will double.

"We need accurate statistics to be able to put down efficient strategies in order to deal with this population challenge. One of the greatest difficulties we are facing is that that Yemen's increasing population is dispersed in so many different settlements that makes service provision very difficult," said Dr. Jamila Al-Ra'abi, Deputy Health Minister for the Population Sector.

According to the National Population Information, Education and Communication Strategy (2005-2010) prepared by the National Population Council, Yemen's population is scattered over more than 11,000 urban and rural settlements, with only 25 percent in urban areas. Population density for the country as a whole is 30 persons per square kilometer.

## Increased sea temperatures behind May fish kills in Gulf of Aden, say scientists

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, July 21 — In a recent report on fish kills along the coast of the Gulf of Aden in May 2010, scientists con-

cluded that the death of the fish was due to an increase in water temperature.

Some types of fish die when the water is too hot, reported Professors Mohammed Abubakr, Mohammed Al-Saafani and Hisham Nagi of the department of earth and environment at the University of Sana'a.

"The investigation showed strong evidence of [a] sudden increase [in] sea water temperature, which lowered the amount of dissolved oxygen in sea water and increased fish metabolism,"

they wrote. "This eventually [lead] to the death of the [blue triggerfish] which cannot tolerate such sudden increase[s] in temperature. Other possible factors [such as] depletion of oxygen due to algal growth, could have also contributed, to some extent to the stress on [fish]."

The study indicated that this happens naturally in the Gulf of Aden during the transition period between winter and summer. The same warming of the water has been reported in the past for different natural reasons, and most probably, it could happen again during the forthcoming southeast monsoon, depending on the strength of the wind and upwellings of seawater.

Continued on page 2

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## Experts discuss improving education in Yemen

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, July 21 - Abdullaheem Abdullah, 44, believes that his daughter should not stay in school after she passes sixth grade because it is only necessary for her to read and write.

Like Abdullah, there are thousands of Yemenis who believe that their daughters do not need to continue their education. Thus, their daughters leave school by the time they reach the sixth or even the fifth grade, and this increases the school drop-out rate in Yemen.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, joining forces with the World Bank, held a workshop about the future of education in Yemen.

"There is a problem regarding education in Yemen. We should admit it in order to solve it," said Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, in the workshop.

The Senior Education Specialist at the World Bank, Liangin Wang, said that there must be a fresh policy in order to come up with a successful strategy.

"The Ministries of Education, Civil Services, Finance and the governorates should work collectively to detect the flaws in the previous strategies that did not help Yemen improve its educational situation over the past 12 years," she explained.

According to the Education Status Report published by the World Bank, the number of girls who drop out from schools exceeds the number of boys, and less girls actually enroll in schools in the first place.

"This can be explained in terms of the traditions that govern people's lives. Most families, especially in the rural areas, prevent their daughters from studying when they get to the sixth grade," said Hamoud Al-Sayani, the consultant to the Minister of Education.

Al-Sayani said that the number of female students and male students is



Anouf and Ahlam on their way back from school Sayoun, Hadramout

nearly the same throughout primary schools before the sixth grade in Yemen, especially in the rural areas. However, many believe that sixth grade is the maximum level of education their daughters should achieve.

However, not only girls drop out of school: Boys also leave school due to financial difficulties. According to the report, since 2005, the number of boys who left school increased as their standard of living became worse.

"In the end, boys also drop out of school to work and help their families.

The real problem regarding the educational situation in Yemen is the large number of students who drop out, not the number of students who enroll. As most of the people in the rural areas are poor, they are in need of financial help from the government," he commented.

However, Lanya Al-Eryani, deputy minister of education for girls' education, told the Yemen Times that helping poor people in rural areas by giving them food to make their daughters enroll in school does not necessarily encourage them to allow their daughters

to continue studying.

"It is good to help people," she said. "However, this way does not work with some people. If they do not get the support each month, they come to the ministry and have a sit-in with their families demanding the support. Simply, these people need to believe that education is the way to get rid of poverty."

The participants in the workshop also listed the most important difficulties facing education, the first of which is to improve the quality of education in Yemen.

One problem in the educational system, according to Tawfiq Al-Mekhlafi, lecturer at Sana'a University, is that primary school teachers are often less qualified than secondary school teachers. In Al-Mekhlafi's view, the more qualified teachers should be in the primary schools.

According to a recent international assessment, the levels of achievement in school in Yemen are quite low. In fact, the percentage of students who can read well does not reach 90 percent until the seventh grade.

## Parliamentarians protest against government renewing Qatari agreement

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, 21 July - A number of parliamentarians protested on Wednesday inside the parliament against the unstable security situation in Sa'ada and Harf Sufian.

Sheikh Ali Mujalli told News Yemen that seven parliamentarians from Sa'ada and Harf Sufian will protest in parliament until the state stops Houthi rebels assassinating tribesmen loyal to the government.

Mujalli said that implementing the Doha agreement will force Sa'ada's citizens to live under the mercy of the Houthis if the state does not stop Houthis from killing their opponents from the war.

He said that he and other parliamentarians protested against renewing the Doha agreement signed in 2008. He added that they supported the last agreement signed between the Yemeni government and Houthis that excluded interference from any other country.

At least 33 people were killed and others injured in clashes between Houthis and tribes supporting MP Bin Aziz last Sunday in Al-Amshia, Sa'ada, according to local sources.

Houthis accuse the Yemeni government and Saudi Arabia of supporting Bin Aziz's tribes by giving them weapons and

other equipment. Bin Aziz's tribes accuse Houthis of attacking them and the tribes' supporters.

However, Houthis recently said on their website that the clashes are between their supporters and the security forces.

According to tribal sources, three Houthis were killed last Friday in Shakeh between Sa'ada and Amran governorates. Houthis accused the security forces of having ambushed the Houthis and the victims' families accused supporters of Bin Aziz of killing their relatives.

Accordingly, the road between Amran and Sa'ada has been cut since last Monday.

The General Secretary of the Haq opposition party, Hasan Mohammad Zaid, said on Sunday that Saudi Arabia is looking for a seventh war in Sa'ada.

Zaid told Saba News Agency that Qatari involvement in renewing an agreement might encourage Saudi Arabia to find a way to start a new war.

He added that there are many reasons to restart the war in Sa'ada. Those who are still fighting and who have lost a lot their land want to prove themselves and win in the clashes.

He added that the last visit from the Qatari Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, might hasten the clashes in Sa'ada unless the Qatari and the Saudi

sides coordinate between each other, or Yemen becomes free from Saudi's influence.

### Al-Houthi welcomes National Dialogue

Abdulmalek Al-Houthi, the Houthi's leader, welcomed the new agreement between the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) and the General People's Conference (GPC) to hold a "National Dialogue" in which all political parties are involved.

Al-Houthi expressed his happiness that such an agreement was signed.

"Ending the atmosphere of war in Sa'ada, Amran and Al-Jawf governorates is crucially needed. We are looking forward to hearing that all war prisoners have been released without procrastination. We want their families to stop feeling sad and pained," he added.

Al-Houthi said that the best way to end the war atmosphere is to repair the damaged properties and compensate victims for their losses, as well as stopping arrests and allowing suspended employees to return to their jobs.

The Houthis had earlier signed an agreement with the National Dialogue Committee and the JMP in which they supported a scheme to end the war in Sa'ada and other areas affected by the war.

## Yemeni riyal continues devaluation against foreign currencies

By: Mahmoud Assamieh

SANA'A, July 21 - The Yemeni riyal has continued its devaluation against the US dollar. The exchange rate reached YR 231 to USD 1 last Thursday.

According to currency exchangers, the increasing exchange rate started two weeks ago due to increasing demand for the US dollar.

"The dilemma of the exchange rate started two weeks ago," said Yahya Al-Kawqabani, owner of an exchange store in Al-Raqas Street. "Bigger money exchangers are collecting the dollar from small stores. There is great demand for hard currency."

The exchange rate between the US dollar and Yemeni riyal had remained relatively stable since the beginning of 2010 at around 225 riyal per dollar.

The dollar rate exchange against the Yemeni riyal has increased during the past few years as the country's economy deteriorated.

Economists and observers explain the sudden great increase in demand for hard currency against the Yemeni riyal to the coming month of Ramadan, during which Yemeni families consume many foods and buy clothes for their children.

"The increase in the price of the dollar is because of large merchants' demand for it to import things for Ramadan," said Director of Public Relations in the Yemeni Central Bank, Yahya Al-Kustaban.

There is no clear reason why there is such a high demand for hard currency, other than traders wanting it to buy goods to sell during Ramadan, he said.

But he said that the Yemeni Central Bank (YCB) since last Saturday has pumped USD 80 million to feed the local markets with dollars. The money went to exchange offices and the commercial banks.

"We have pumped in USD 100 million but the market needed only 80 million which meant there is no more demand for the dollar," he said, adding that the money injected into the

market will keep the price of the dollar stable.

"Today [Sunday] the exchange rate for the dollar dropped to 227 riyals because of the dollars the bank pumped in," he added.

"The Yemeni riyal is deteriorating against the dollar because of the economic deterioration and the decrease in foreign currency because of declining oil revenues," said Dr. Ali Saif, assistant professor of economy and international financing at Sana'a University.

He said that there are many reasons for the riyal's devaluation against the dollar including speculation, keeping money in dollars fearing the devaluation of local currency, and the increasing demand and decreasing supply of hard currency.

Furthermore, the drop of Yemen's revenues from oil, which represents 80 percent of the country's income,

and the sharp drop of revenues from tourism, as well as the printing of local currency have added to the devaluation of the riyal.

YCB, from time to time, pumps millions of dollars into the local market to keep the price of riyal high against the dollar. Last year the bank injected dollars into the market eight times. The last was in December 2009 when the bank released USD 178 million.

The devaluation of the riyal led to the removal of the former governor of YCB from his post and the appointment of his deputy, according to media websites.

Yemen Times checked the exchange rate of the dollar on Tuesday, a day before publishing this news, and learnt from Al-Jazeera Company for Money Exchange that the price had jumped up to 231.5 for one USD.

They said they buy the dollar for 230.5 and sell it for YR 231.5.

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### Continued from page 1

#### Dhamar farmers revive coffee plantations after years of abandonment

"We are aiming to encourage coffee farming and to get farmers interested in diversifying their agricultural production in order to enhance their living standards. This also means that they need to change their habits and lifestyles, and we are helping them do this through training and raising awareness," said Al-Eryani.

#### Increased sea temperatures behind May fish kills in Gulf of Aden, say scientists

Yemen Liquid Natural Gas (YLNG) reported the fish kill in May 2010 in Balhaf on the coast in Shabwa governorate, where they have a plant to liquefy Yemeni natural gas prior to its export by sea.

On May 26, the team from Sana'a University travelled to the reported sites to investigate. The study was made upon the request of the company to investigate the possible causes of the incidence.

Besides visiting the YLNG plant, the scientists' field visit covered more than

150 km of the coastline, from Ain Ba Maba'ad west of Balhaf to the city of Mukalla in the east.

During their field visit, the scientists interviewed fishermen and studied site findings to examine all possible causes of such occurrences in the area. They also used meteorological data provided by satellite images for the northern Arabian Sea at the time of the fish kills.

Field observations and interviews with fishermen and local communities confirmed the death of fish along the 150 km of coastline between Al-Mukalla and Balhaf, and it turned out that the blue triggerfish was the most affected species, comprising over 95 percent of the dead fish.

According to locals, the fish kill incident started on the 8th and 9th of May 2010 and lasted for a few days. Fishermen have described this kind of fish kill as a naturally occurring phenomenon which happens regularly, according to the study.

However, the scientist couldn't find

samples of dead fish to collect because most of dead fish had already been washed out to sea. It was also too late to measure other environmental parameters such as pH, dissolved oxygen, toxic materials, and trace metals, so they used data from the YLNG weekly monitoring reports for Balhaf in their study.

"By examining the common causes of death, dissolved oxygen [...] jump[s out] as the most probable reason for fish mortality. The ability to tolerate low dissolved oxygen levels depends on the species and their size," scientists wrote.

The study pointed out that there were unconfirmed reports of fish kills, mainly of blue triggerfish, in the Arabian Sea in November 2007.

According to the Yemeni study, a similar event was reported from the island of Reunion in the Maldives in 2002 and 2001, where groups of triggerfish were found dead. The results from this event reported the presence of a species of bacteria known to be associated with fish deaths in the spleens of the dead fish.

# French embassy celebrates National Day

Last Wednesday July 14, about a hundred guests including diplomats to Yemen, members of Yemen's business community and civil society and French citizens living in Yemen, gathered in the garden of the French Embassy's residence to celebrate the French National Day or Bastille Day.

Despite the rain, the mood was festive and the national day was enjoyed by all.

Bastille Day or the "Quatorze Juillet" is celebrated on 14 July every year by the French and is a French National Holiday.

It celebrates the 1790 Fete de la Federation. The Fete de la Federation took place on 14 July, 1790 and was organized as a huge feast and official event to celebrate the establishment of the short-

lived constitutional monarchy in France.

It took place on the first anniversary of the storming of the Bastille. The Fete de la Federation represented the uprising of the modern French nation. This marked the beginning of the French Revolution.

In France, cities organize fireworks during the night. Dancing parties are organized. Generally, firefighters organize parties, which are called "bals du 14 juillet."

In Paris this year, a military parade was organized on the Champs Elysees in Paris as is custom. It was attended by President of the French Republic Nicolas Sarkozy and First Lady Carla Bruni as well as their guests from various African nations to celebrate 50 years of the independence from French colonial rule.



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# The untold story of slavery in Yemen - Part 3

## Director of Al-Zahra district in Hodeida: "We will free any remaining slaves"

Al-Zahra district of Hodeida governorate is one of the few places in Yemen where slavery still exists. In an interview with Omar Al-Umqi, the district's director Abdulrahman Al-Rifai downplayed the severity of the slavery issue yet promised that he, as a government representative, would free any remaining slaves in his area.

According to Al-Rifai, there used to be slaves in his district Al-Zahra, but they no longer exist or at least not as many.

"There are those men and women whose parents or grandparents were slaves in Tihama but now they are ordinary free citizens with full rights," he said.

He added that many of the former slaves are living a good life, in fact even better than that of those who used to be their masters. He did admit that there are others who suffer from financial difficulties, "but then again many Yemeni people suffer from financial problems as it is," he said.

Al-Rifai mentioned that the Yemeni revolution in 1962 liberated many slaves and that they are today free men and women who are probably working as domestic workers rather than slaves.

"I have a man working in my office called Jawhar. His father used to be a slave but he is not and he is now a government employee and no one in my office calls him slave or anything of the sort," said Al-Rifai.

He added that there are many women whose mothers and grandmothers were slaves and they are now working at the sheikhs' houses as servants and not as slaves.

When confronted with the fact that there are still slaves bought and sold as goods today in Yemen and in Al-Zahra district in particular, the director said he would look into the matter seriously.

"I will search for any remaining slaves and, when I find them, we will free them," he promised.

Al-Rifai said that he came to know about Qannaf and his family of slaves through the published articles in Al-Masdar newspaper. Now that he knows about this - and he does appreciate the work of media in this issue -, he will do his best to free them.

"After I read the article, I made some calls yet no one said that they knew

of this Qannaf. In fact, some said that he was not a slave and that he was a servant. My sources also said that there are women who are descended from slaves but now they are employed as workers for certain wages or land from those for whom they work," explained the director.

When confronted again that these people are slaves and in fact that there are documents to prove them as property of their masters, director of Al-Zahra district requested to see these documents.

"I will contact the sheikhs whose names are in the documents and negotiate with them on freeing the slaves that they are holding in their possession," said Al-Rifai.

He explained that he has already so many tasks as director of the district and this is why he did not know about this issue before. That he always faces security and development challenges, projects stalling in education, health and other important sectors.

He praised the partnership with the media in discovering such issues and said that an independent press is the fourth authority to support the government in doing its work correctly.

Al-Rifai seemed astonished that a Yemeni court would endorse a purchase document of a human being, in reference to the document in which Sheikh Abdul Rahman Suhail bought Qannaf the slave from his master Hamid Jubran in mid-2008.

"The constitution provides that all citizens are equal in rights and duties and born free," he said. "How can the court approve of this?"

When asked why the local authority denies the reality of slavery in Yemen instead of dealing with it, Al-Rifai said that he lives with people who used to be slaves every day, whether individuals or groups, like the man who is now working at his office as a government



Left: Al-Zahra district, where many of the 21st century's slaves live, although director of the district said they are servants, not slaves. Right: Mosawiya, a femal slave who lives a few meters from the director's house, who said that he would visit her and all the other slaves to investigate the issue.



employee. However, the slavery issue is something of the past and this is why he was surprised to read that they are still treated as slaves today.

"I know many sheikhs and judges locally and could not imagine them being part of such an inhumane process," he said.

But perhaps the judge who endorsed the sale of slave document wanted to alert the authorities and bring the issue of slavery to the media's attention, especially since it seems that no one knew about this issue including Al-Rifai who has been the district's director for two years.

He said that he had seen many sheikhs with "followers" or servants who help them with their everyday tasks, but he had not seen inhumane treatment towards the servants.

"They have those workers as escorts or as farmers, and all of them are descendants from slaves, but they have been treated well in the homes

like family members, and they can sit beside the sheikh in a car and he does not call them a slave or control them," observed Al-Rifai.

He added that the cases in which slaves were reported in the media to have been treated badly, beaten or humiliated are rare cases and are the exception not the norm.

"Anyway I will look into this and will not neglect the subject. But this also depends on getting proof that this is happening for real and I need documents and evidence to prove this," argued the director.

When encouraged to visit one of the slaves called Mosawiya who lives a few meters from the director's residence, Al-Rifai said that he would soon visit her and Qannaf and all the others reported in the news. He would also search for others and do what was needed to be done.

However, the director made a point that we should distinguish between

those who are known as akhdam or servants, and slaves.

"Slaves are in a higher social position than servants. Slaves have a superior social status for example, slaves could marry free women which is not acceptable for servants," he explained. Slaves get offended if they are called servants. They could even, according to Al-Rifai, get agitated and start a fight because they are slaves not servants!

But in all cases, people are equal and should be treated equally. Al-Rifai does not approve of any kind of discrimination and explained that, under the Yemeni constitution and international laws such practices, whether against slaves or servants, should be abolished.

"We as a local authority cannot ignore any complaints we received whether from free people or slaves or any other social class. We are required to act upon complaints and investigate any mishap, but unfortunately we have

not received any complaints of abuse or ill-treatment by any of the local servants or slaves. This is why we have not done something about this until now," explained the director.

On whether he has heard about the Ministry of Human Rights committee that was created to investigate this issue, the director said that he has not yet met them or received correspondence from them but that he was more than happy to meet them and assist them in their task.

"The Ministry of Human Rights is the primary responsible authority in this issue and must not take it lightly," he said.

"On my part, I will make sure that this issue is dealt with adequately and not brushed aside by the influential people or sheikhs in the area," he promised.

*This report was first published in the Al-Masdar newspaper in Arabic.*

## Invitation for Bids

Date: [July 24, 2010]

Contract Identification No: GEODR-1

United Nations Environment Program Grant: GFL-2328-2721-4A90

: PMS: GF/4040-09-11

United Nations Environment Program Project Name: **Yemen Geothermal Development Project**

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has received a MSP Grant from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) towards the cost of drilling a geothermal borehole depth up to 1500 m, and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments. The Project covered under these Tender Documents is Drilling an Exploratory Geothermal Borehole in Dhamar Area Contract No. **GEODR-1**.

1. The Works consist of:-

- Drilling of one geothermal Borehole up to 1500 m depth. With casing/drilling technology with cutting sampling at specific depths
- Supply and install casings; and
- Perform temperature, pressure profiling by kuster probe-logging at different depths

**Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under Yemeni and GEF standard guidelines. All submitted bidders should have the following:**

- the maximum allowable number of joint venture partners is 2.
- Experience in drilling a geothermal boreholes depth more than 1500m.
- The minimum required annual volume of construction works for the successful bidder in any of the last five years shall be US\$ 1.0 Million.
- The minimum of liquid assets and / or credit facilities net of other con-

tractual commitments of successful bidder shall be US\$ 1.0 Million.

- The Ministry of Water and Environment invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Drilling and testing of one geothermal borehole in Al-Lisi- Isbil Area, Dhamar Governorate, prep-meeting will take place in the Project Management Unit - Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board and Site Visit will take place on August 7, 2010. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased at Project Management Unit - Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board

Al-Zubairi St. Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Tel: +967- 1- 534257 fax: +967-1- 537263

for a nonrefundable fee of 100 US Dollar or its equivalent in Yemeni currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

- Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security total amount 30,000 US\$ Valid for 150 days after the deadline for Bid submission and shall be delivered to the above address on or before August 24, 2010 at 12:00 noon, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

All bids must be accompanied by a security in the form and amount specified in the bidding documents, and must be delivered to the above address at or before Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

**Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board  
Project Management Unit -  
Al-Zubairi St., Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Tel: +967- 1- 534257 fax: +967-1- 537263**

## Gitmo: A no man's land between the federal courts and politicians

By: Jacob Zenn  
For the Yemen Times

In May 2010, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia granted the habeas corpus petition of another Yemeni Guantanamo prisoner, Mohammed Hassen Odaini, holding that his detention was unlawful.

Habeas corpus derives from the Latin words, "you have the body" and requires a person detained by the government be brought before a court of law so that the legality of detention may be examined. If the detention is unlawful the detainee must be released, but at Guantanamo habeas winners too often receive no relief.

Odaini's impending release, announced on July 12, proves to be the exception while fellow Yemenis linger in Guantanamo's "no man's land."

Although the District Court judge in Odaini's habeas case ruled that "there is no evidence that Odaini has any connection to Al-Qaeda" and that holding him in custody "has done nothing to make the United States safer," he remained in no man's land -- legally innocent, but without the ticket out of Guantanamo -- for an additional two months before the July 12 "court-ordered release."

Odaini was not released immediately after winning habeas because the government was unwilling to return him to Yemen, relocate him to the United States' mainland, or find for him a suitable third-party country. He became one of the many Guantanamo prisoners caught in the no man's land between the federal courts, which have increasingly recognized Guantanamo prisoners' right to challenge detention, and politicians, who have increasingly stymied successful habeas petitions.

Odaini's court-ordered release is the most recent in a string of Guantanamo habeas cases where the courts rejected the government's powers to indefinitely detain prisoners.

Before 2004, the U.S. government used Guantanamo to detain foreign nationals captured in Afghanistan during the war against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda without providing access to counsel, the right to a trial or even knowledge of the charges against them.

However, in the case *Rasul v. Bush* in 2004, the court held that although the Guantanamo detention center is technically on Cuban territory, Cuba surrendered "ultimate sovereignty" of the base to the U.S. government by way of treaty, and therefore the U.S. courts have "complete jurisdiction" to hear habeas petitions of detainees -- otherwise the base would become a jurisdictional black hole. The Supreme Court added to detainees' protections with a holding in 2005 in the case *Hamdan v. Bush*. In that case, the court ruled that the U.S. government lacked constitutional authority to try detainees through its military commissions because they did not provide detainees with basic legal protections under international law with regards to evidentiary matters, the right to an attorney and a fair appeals process. Finally, in the landmark case *Boumediene v. Bush* in 2008, the court held that habeas review applies to all prisoners held in Guantanamo, including those designated as enemy combatants. These landmark cases reaffirmed that

it is the duty of the judicial branch to decide the fate of the Guantanamo detainees.

The defendants in these three major cases -- Rasul, a British citizen, Hamdan, a Yemeni, and Boumediene, an Algerian -- went on to win their habeas petitions and were ultimately released by decision of the executive branch, and not by the judiciary that granted their habeas petitions. The courts have the power to rule on the habeas petitions, but until the Odaini court-ordered release they seemingly did not have the authority to order the outright release of prisoners. Releasing habeas winners to a foreign country or to the United States implicates "immigration" powers, which are traditionally left to the executive branch. Therefore, a habeas winner could not obtain relief out of no man's land without the executive branch's final approval. Now, the Odaini release shows that the courts may be able to order the release of a prisoner, but, apparently, according to an unnamed official who spoke with the Washington Post, only because "people were comfortable with this... because of the guy's background, his family and where he comes from in Yemen."

As for the other Yemenis at Guantanamo who won habeas, maybe "people" will not be so "comfortable," and the Obama administration has been clear that the ban on transfers to Yemen remains in place.

Since the Christmas day bombing attempt on an American airline in 2009 that was discovered to have roots in Yemen, the administration and leading politicians have become extremely skeptical of releasing detainees, especially Yemenis, which means relief has become more elusive even for successful habeas petitioners.

After the air-bomber incident, republicans lashed out at Obama's plans to close Guantanamo and portrayed him as weak on security. Former Vice-President Cheney said to online political publication POLITICO that Obama "seems to think if he closes Guantanamo and releases the hard-core Al-Qaeda trained terrorists still there, we won't be at war." In addition, New York republican Peter King, a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, commented on NBC of the Obama administration's decision to try the air-bomber in civilian courts saying, "I think that the administration has made a mistake by treating this terrorist as a common criminal, by putting him into the criminal justice system. I wish they had put him into a military tribunal so we could get as much intelligence and information out of him as we could."

Notwithstanding the fact that a government review of Guantanamo detainees determined that less than 5-10 percent ever had connections with Al-Qaeda and that the air-bomber cooperated with intelligence authorities while under civilian control, the political pressure evidently affected President Obama. Although he promised in his 2008 election campaign to close Guantanamo within one year of his inauguration, he announced after the air-bomber incident that "given the unsettled situation, I've spoken to the attorney general and we've agreed that we will not be transferring additional detainees back to Yemen at this time."

This led the leading lawyer for the Yemeni detainees, David Remes, to respond to the President's new stance in an interview with the Miami Herald where he concluded that, "the politics of the situation may make it impossible for the administration to send any Yemenis back to Yemen in the foreseeable future." Unsurprisingly, Remes was "delighted" when Odaini was released, but whether any of Remes' other clients will be released from no man's land is still an open question.

The President, facing both republican and democratic pressure, will probably not send most of the remaining Yemenis back to Yemen. On top of this, the House Armed Services Committee in May 2010 budgeted \$567 billion for defense spending and \$159 billion for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, but turned down all transfer funds intended to close Guantanamo and buy a prison in Illinois for prisoners designated for trials or who are in indefinite detention without charge or trial.

However, with Yemenis comprising almost half of the remaining population of nearly 200 prisoners at Guantanamo, a delay in releasing the Yemenis precludes President Obama from fulfilling his campaign promise to close Guantanamo. Furthermore, the President risks alienating his supporters at home and abroad who believed closing Guantanamo would be one of the President's "changes."

According to the Final Report of President Obama's Guantanamo Review Task Force, which was completed in January 2010 and published in May 2010, 97 of the then 181 remaining detainees were Yemeni, and 66 of those Yemenis were cleared for release.

One of the released detainees, Alla Ali bin Ali Ahmed, was captured in the same guesthouse in Pakistan as Mohammed Odaini, but bin Ali Ahmed was granted habeas and repatriated to Yemen before the air-bomber incident while Odaini lingered in no man's land. The recent news that an exception was made for Odaini means that he will return home, but other Yemeni habeas winners will still linger in no man's land, unsure whether the courts can order their release.

It is unclear whether Odaini's release was contingent on "non-objections" from leading politicians, such as republicans John McCain and Lindsey Graham, or an example of the government respecting the judiciary's authority. His release is a welcome step in the process of closing Guantanamo, but releasing him alone will not resolve the separation of powers issue between the judicial and executive branches. Until the courts' habeas decisions are supplemented with a guarantee of relief, no man's land will remain contested territory between the politicians and judges and a place of fear and uncertainty for the detainees.

In no man's land "you can never leave a man behind," but even though other Yemeni habeas winners still remain in detention at Guantanamo, no one can fault Odaini for returning home... eight years after his initial "release" order.

*Jacob Zenn visited Yemen this summer on a fellowship to work with the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) to gain insight from the Yemeni perspective on the issue of Yemeni Guantanamo detainees.*

## Democracy on hold in Yemen

By: Ginny Hill  
Arab reform Bulletin

Yemen recently celebrated the twentieth anniversary of unification between the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen). Unique political conditions created by unification led the country's decision-makers to introduce universal suffrage to the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen's 2006 presidential ballot—deemed an "open and genuine contest" by European Union election monitors—raised hopes that after nearly two decades, the country was progressing towards mature participatory politics.

Four years later, Yemen's democracy is on hold, at least temporarily. Neither constitutional reforms, recommended by the EU election monitors in 2006, nor suggested technical amendments to the election law have yet been implemented. The last round of parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 2009, were delayed for two years by mutual agreement between the ruling party, the General People's Congress (GPC), and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), a coalition of opposition groups. Now Yemen will need to take action within the next two months, or elections planned for April 2011 will not be possible.

Last year's postponement deal included a commitment to hold bipartisan dialogue that would seek to break the deadlock over the electoral framework. The outbreak of violent protests in south Yemen a few months later, followed by renewed conflict in the northern province of Saada, however, ruptured the conditions required to establish fruitful talks. The recourse to violence indicated that the grievances of the southern separatists and the Saada rebels—the so-called "non parties"—were beyond resolution by the existing parliamentary system. In response to these rising tensions, President Ali Abdullah Saleh promised to sponsor a wide-ranging national dialogue, but as yet these talks remain elusive.

Instead, the JMP has gone ahead with an independent national consultation exercise to canvass grassroots opinions

and determine an alternative vision for the future of the country. The resulting national salvation plan calls for "leverage for peaceful change" to relieve the country from "despotism and corruption." Supporters count the JMP's initiative as a sign that the opposition is transforming itself from an urban phenomenon into a credible national political movement. Many Yemenis still believe, however, that parliamentary politics are hostage to elite self-interest and that key protagonists in both parties are bringing the system to its knees by pushing for their own advantage.

Cross-party negotiators continue their efforts to set the parameters for national dialogue, but both power blocs are repeatedly criticized, for stalling. The JMP can resort to the threat of boycott in next year's elections, while the GPC is blamed for playing with time to maintain the balance of power in parliament. When talks reached stalemate in April, unknown gunmen opened fire on the JMP's chief negotiator. A week later, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced that delayed parliamentary elections would be held on schedule in April 2011, regardless of the status of negotiations. During unity celebrations in May, however, Saleh offered an amnesty deal for the release of political prisoners and called for a coalition government.

After thirty years at the top, President Ali Abdullah Saleh is beset with challenges including falling oil production, a currency that is rapidly dropping in value, complaints about the concentration of power, and a popular backlash against civilian deaths in missile strikes that are intended to target al-Qaeda's leadership. Opposition leaders might well fear that they have little to gain and much to lose by joining a coalition cabinet. But they will also share the blame for derailing Yemeni democracy if they fail to negotiate a timely agreement to hold next year's elections or decide to boycott the ballot.

Yemen's upcoming elections pose various hard choices and possible dilemmas for Western donors. Should the European Union deploy election monitors if its 2006 recommendations for constitutional reforms remain ignored? If it does, how will the EU

guarantee the security of its observers? And what if observers judge the result to be unfair? Without Yemen gaining a clean bill of electoral health, donors will be even further constrained in their relationship with the Yemeni government and the gap between rhetoric and reality on democracy and governance reforms will grow even wider. A controversial election result has the potential to stretch a coordinated donor stance to the limit.

Yemenis themselves are divided over the significance of the planned elections. Opposition figures argue that political reforms are an essential precondition for effective measures to tackle the macro-economic challenges. Yet within Yemen's administration, there are some who claim that the country cannot afford the luxury of elections while there is such a pressing need to tackle the escalating economic crisis. And among Yemen's political class, there are figures who say that flawed elections would be worse than no elections at all because of the risk that voters will lose faith in the political process completely and be further disposed toward violence.

Decisions taken in the coming weeks will determine the direction of Yemen's shaky political trajectory. Ramadan begins in mid-August and by Eid al-Fitr on September 9, an agreement between the two parties must be in place to implement technical reforms and begin the process of registering voters in sufficient time for the 2011 poll. As each week goes by, ambitious suggestions such as a shift to proportional representation, seem ever more elusive.

"If we have not reached an agreement by September, we can say goodbye to democracy in Yemen," says former Prime Minister Dr Abdul-Kareem al-Iryani. "The president himself is the only person who can break the deadlock now but if he leaves it to the eleventh hour to strike a deal, there will be no time to implement the agreement." He adds: "If we cannot guarantee free and fair elections next year, we will not see democracy in my lifetime and a light will go out in the region."

*Ginny Hill is an associate fellow at Chatham House in London, where she runs the Yemen Forum.*



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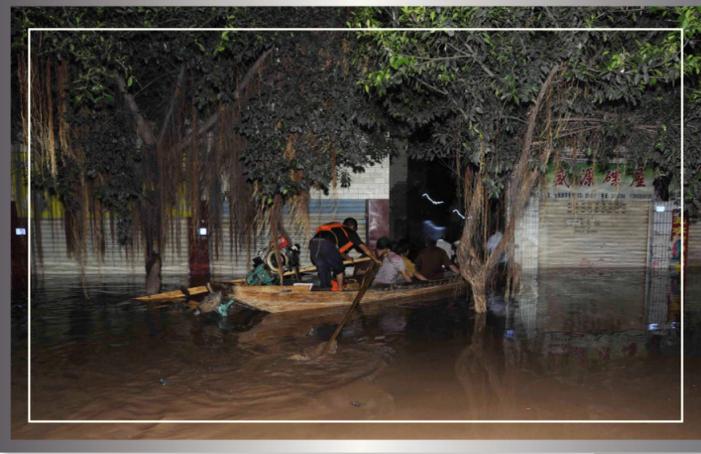
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People in south west China leaving their homes as they are surrounded by floods caused by rainstorms. More than 250 homes were destroyed because of flooding.



Greek fire fighters work to extinguish a forest fire in a village a few miles northeast of Athens, Greece, July 17, 2010.



People enjoy the snow in Cordoba, Argentina, July 16, 2010. The minimum temperature reached minus 1.5 Celsius degrees in Argentina's capital Buenos Aires on Saturday.



Former South Africa's president Nelson Mandela cuts his 92nd birthday cake at his home in Johannesburg with his family and friends in this picture released by the Nelson Mandela Foundation on July 18, 2010.



Launching of the 2010 Tourism Festival in China. The festival will continue for 21 days starting from July 16.



Santa Claus from all over the world parade during the first day of the annual World Santa Claus Congress at the amusement park Dyrehavsbakken, north of Copenhagen, July 19, 2010. The Christmas convention ends on July 21.



Iranian nuclear researcher Shahram Amiri returns to Tehran. He had gone missing on a pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia in June last year. He told reporters that he was kidnapped by the CIA and that the abduction was part of the US campaign to add political pressure on Iran over its nuclear program.



Sa'ad Al-Hariri, Lebanese Prime Minister visits Syrian president Bashar Al-Asad in Damascus this week. During the visit 17 agreements were signed on political cooperation between the two countries.



A crane lifts a damaged carriage of a passenger train at the site of an accident at Sainthia in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal, July 19, 2010. A speeding express rammed into the back of a stationary passenger train on Monday, killing 60 people.



Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak (R) speaks with US Middle East envoy George Mitchell during their meeting at the presidential palace in Cairo, July 18, 2010.



People gather around the site of a suicide bomb attack at a mosque in Sargodha City, Punjab province, Pakistan, on July 18, 2010. At least four people were killed and 26 others were injured in the blast.



EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton addresses the media during her visit to a UN-run school in the northern Gaza Strip, July 18, 2010.



A truck carrying aid from a Libyan ship which docked at an Egyptian port after the Israeli navy intercepted it, crosses into Gaza through Rafah border crossing, southern Gaza Strip, July 18, 2010.

## Taxi drivers in the rain

In Sana'a when it rains, families huddle by the side of the road, avoiding the spray from vehicles that plough through the cold brown water to their destinations. When a taxi stops, bargaining is hard. During the rain, taxi drivers have the upper hand. Demand is high and most drivers who stay out in the down-pour navigating roads-come-rivers, say that they make more money than they would usually. But others complain that a lack of drains in the city damages the roads and their cars. If they get caught in a serious flood, they risk losing their livelihood. Alice Hackman follows the tale of two taxi drivers and their struggle to make ends meet in the rain.

### A torrent of brown

With a lopsided smile, Naswan Masoud Al-Farza'i, 31, tells of how, during the heavy rain last May, he lost his source of income for his family.

It happened in the Saila, a paved road built in the natural course of rainwater that divides the Yemeni capital Sana'a from south to north. In Arabic, 'saila' literally means stream, and when it rains heavily, it soon becomes apparent why the road is called this.

It was late afternoon on a Wednesday when Al-Farza'i first drove down into the depression of the Saila. In the back of his white cab he had one Yemeni passenger.

"When we entered the Saila, there was no rain," starts the father of two.

But then suddenly, as if out of nowhere, water was everywhere. His customer screamed, opened the door, and ran. Al-Farza'i debated what to do until the water was up to his chest. He tried to open his door, but the pressure of the water on the outside was too strong. His seatbelt was still on. He undid it, and tried again in vain. So he wound down his window and squeezed himself out of the taxi and onto the roof. As he stood on the top of the car, he looked up. The rain was pouring down.

Perched on the top of the 3-meter high wall of the Saila near Qubbat Al-Mahdi, he watched the spectacle in the water below.

"I saw cars come up behind my car, slide over the top of it, and continue on down [the river]," he tells the Yemen Times. He pauses, and holds up a hand to his cheek to convey how overwhelmed he was. The water, he says, was seeping up over the side wall of the Saila and into the adjacent residential areas. As he was cold and wet and he couldn't see his car anymore, he went home.

When the taxi driver returned later that night, the level of the brown water in the Saila had dropped and the taxi's luminescent roof sign poked out of the water. He breathed a sigh of relief as the car had not moved.

"The municipality came and towed the car out of the Saila and onto the side, but then they left it. There was no compensation, nothing," he says.

Today, Al-Farza'i has cleaned his car and says that he has fixed the engine as much



as he can. He is putting the car up for sale. In total, he says, he has lost USD 2,000 in the event. His number plate floated away.

They should set up a warning system, he says. If they also build good drains, then the water would be channeled through them and would not flood the road.

"The floodwater doesn't come from Sana'a," he said. "It comes from up in the mountains."

Al-Farza'i asks for compensation, but says that if he manages to buy a new car, he will work again as a taxi driver.

"It's my livelihood," he says.

### Holes in the road

As he drives up Taiz road in central Sana'a in his white taxi, Abdullah Al-Rida'i, 40, points out patches in the road where the tarmac has crumbled away and the road is uneven. It is one of the first dry days in over a week.

When they put in electricity cables, sewage and water pipes, they dig up the road but don't put tarmac back on top, he says. When it rains, it gets worse.

"It's neglect," says the Sana'ani who has been driving a taxi now for two years. "Young men from the area fix the road themselves," he explains. "And then when the minibuses pass by in the morning, they pay them YR 20 each. They don't have to, but they do it out of the kindness of their heart."

Taxi drivers tend not to pay, he explains, because they can take a different route, but the minibuses throttle up and down the same road 30 to 50 times a day. Wear and

tear on their vehicles from the uneven road would take its toll on the vehicles sooner.

Al-Rida'i complains that the authorities responsible for fixing the road in each area of the Yemeni capital do not do so. The irregularities in the road not only damage the car's suspension in the long term, but they aggravate traffic and waste petrol for the drivers who have to slow down on bad roads.

But more than the uneven roads aggravated by the rain, Al-Rida'i, who has three grown-up children, blames the bad quality spare car parts for his constant visits to the garage these days. Things simply are not made today as well as they were before.

The same spare part for his Korean car used to cost YR 4,000 in the market and YR 12,000 from the official agent, but you could be sure that what you bought from the official agent was of good quality. Now, he is not so sure that the more expensive version is really of better quality.

When it rains, Al-Rida'i does not make any more money than usual, but he visits the garage more often.

"I go according to the work that needs to be done," he says.

4U

For a clearer picture of the Saila after average rainfall, follow this link to a video of a drive through the road in the summer of 2009: <http://bit.ly/baR6LL>



Photo by Alice Hackman

بِقَلُوبٍ مُّؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرَارِ الْعَزَائِمِ وَأَصْدَقِ الْمَوَاسِمِ إِلَى أَوْلَادِ عَوْضِهِ

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المعزوف

الوالد الحاج / أحمد حسين العقود

وأولاده م/مطر - د/فاضل - م/زياد - أ/فهد

الشيخ / عثمان - أ/يحيى - د/مختار - م/محمد

### Re-advertisement / Correction

## Medical Representatives Required

Due to a mistake in the email address of the previously published ads in Yemen Times (issue 1380 and 1381) we would like applicants to resend their copies of current CVs complete with recent photographs no later than 25th July 2010 to

[Pharmagulf.biopharma@yahoo.com](mailto:Pharmagulf.biopharma@yahoo.com)

We apologize for inadvertent mistake.

### Vacancy: LE IV Management Assistant



A full time post is now available in the British Embassy, Management Section, to fill the post of Management Assistant and to work as part of a busy team managing the day to day running of the Embassy and its properties.

#### The post involves:

- Maintaining accurate records of utilities at both the embassy and residential properties and managements files and build a strong relationship with the offices of the companies involved.
- Maintain inventory and up to date records of all mobile phones and SIM cards issued to embassy staff and all land-lines to the embassy and residential properties, and resolving any problems. Keeping and processing inventory of all MTN numbers and bills.
- Work closely with, and deputise for, the Estates Officer in respect of all matters concerning residential properties.
- Deputise for and assist the Protocol Officer to liaise with Ministries and other Yemeni companies.
- Assist British staff with aspects of their domestic problems when language is an issue.
- Some tasks will require the applicant to work outside of the normal hours, and at weekends.
- Maintain UK Staff internet and satellite connections
- Dealing with finance and procurement (processing invoices)

#### Required Education & Qualification:

- Minimum of two years of administration experience.
- Bachelor Degree in an equivalent field.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Good IT skills (Microsoft packages) and sound knowledge of IT systems.

Applications should be made in the applicant's own handwriting and enclosing a full CV, in an envelope addressed to:

Corporate Services Manager (Human Resources)  
British Embassy  
P.O. Box 1287

Applications should be received on or before 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

### Vacancy: LE II Estate Manager



A full time post is now available in the British Embassy, Management Section, to fill the post of Estate Manager and to work as part of a busy team managing the day to day running of the Embassy and its properties.

#### The post involves:

- Management of all aspects of the official estate - recommendations on housing allocation to Post Management Committee. March in/March outs, inventories, rolling programme of furniture replacement, disposal of surplus stores.
- The incumbent will, as Chairperson of the Post Housing Committee, be responsible for allocating all residential properties, locating new properties and overseeing the maintenance of both domestic and office accommodation.
- Liaise with staff in respect of the purchase of furniture as part of the rolling programme of furniture replacement. Co-ordinate and oversee the disposal of surplus furniture ensuring that all staff have the opportunity to view and bid for any sale items
- Co-ordinate all March ins and March outs, ensuring sufficient time between occupants to allow for refurbishment of the property.
- Oversee and provide budgetary information to the Head of Corporate Services in respect of 26 budgets including profiling expenditure and ensuring value for money on all purchases. Liaising with Partners Across Government to ensure combined invoices are properly authorised and paid on time.
- Together with the other Management Officers provide cover for the Head of Corporate Services during their absence from Post and assume budgetary responsibility to that officer's financial limits.
- Act as cheque signatory for any cheques issued by the accountant for invoices not approved by the officer.
- Line management of 3 LE officers.

#### Required Education & Qualification:

- Minimum of four years of management experience.
- Bachelor Degree in an equivalent field.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Good IT skills (Microsoft packages) and sound knowledge of IT systems.

Applications should be made in the applicant's own handwriting and enclosing a full CV, in an envelope addressed to:

Corporate Services Manager (Human Resources)  
British Embassy  
P.O. Box 1287

Applications should be received on or before 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

# إفتح واربح فوراً

## العديد من الجوائز النقدية

تبدأ المسابقة من 1/6/2010 وحتى نفاذ الكمية  
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خلال الفترة من 1-5 أغسطس 2010م

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# The value of time - Part 2

Compiled by: Faris Mohammed Al-Shoabi  
farismohammed2010@gmail.com

**B**elieve in yourself. Stand up and stop wasting time. Tell yourself that things will get better.

There are times when people disappoint you and let you down, but these are the times which you must remind yourself to trust your own judgments and opinions, to keep your life focused on believing in yourself and all that you are able to do.

We must be among those who believe in the popular saying that "Time is gold."

Time in our Islamic country, according to our Islamic teachings, is worth more than gold or any other precious metal in this world.

Islam, as other religions, guides us as to how to value time. Allah the Almighty and His Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), very clearly tell us of the value of time, that we must not waste it, and how we can make use of our time wisely to increase our faith and reach success in our lives, especially eternal success in the hereafter.

There are some of the most important duties asked of us as Muslims: benefitting from time, utilizing free time for good deeds, learning from the passage of time, planning and organizing time, fulfillment of commitments on time.

Both the Quran and the Sunna enjoin Muslims and everyone on this earth to be conscious of time and not abuse it. Because Allah is time, it is reported in Sahih Muslim (one of two famous collections of hadith by the Imam Muslim) that Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Allah is time, do not abuse Him."

And also it is reported in Hadith Qudsi that Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Sons of Adam rail against time, and I am time. In My hand is the night and the day."

It is reported by Abu Huraira (May Allah Be Pleased With Him) and collected in Sahih Bukhari (the second

of two famous collections of hadith by Imam Bukhari) that Muhammad (PBUH) said: Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, said: "The offspring of Adam abuses time, whereas I am time since in My Hands are the night and the day."

A number of Salafi scholars have said that time or Dahar is the one of the names of Allah. God willing, let us not abuse Dahar by making Allah's reality an appendage to our lives.

We are reminded that life in this world is nothing but temporary. We never know when death has been appointed for us. All of us must do our best to succeed in life by using our time, but we must not forget life in the hereafter and value time for the satisfaction of Allah the Almighty.

It is reported by Mujahid (May Allah Be Pleased With Him) and collected in Sahih Bukhari that Abdullah Ibn 'Umar said: Allah's Apostle took hold of my shoulder and said: "Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveler."

The sub-narration reads: Ibn 'Umar would say: "If you survive until the evening, do not expect to be alive in the morning, and if you survive until the morning, do not expect to be alive in the evening. Take from your health for your sickness, and take from your life for your death."

It is a blessing that we do not know and we never know when death has been appointed for us, but we should live by this saying, "Strive for your life in the hereafter as if you were to die tomorrow, and strive for your life on earth as if you were to live forever."

This is sometimes said to be a hadith, but after a bit of research, it was either said by Ali Ibn Abu Taleb or an unknown source and Al-Albani claimed that it was hadith. Either way, whoever said it, it has a lot of truth in it.

Utilize free time well, to be free from worry and distress is a great blessing, and to have a body free from diseases is a great blessing, too. However, they are the very blessings on which people

are deceived. The Prophet was reported to have said, "There are two blessings in which people are cheated: health and free time." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Book 81, Chapter 1, Hadith No. 6412, p. 1232.)

This Hadith implies that people are unaware of the real value of health and free time. They are not properly invested in what is good for them in this world or the hereafter. What a loss!

Calling on Muslims to utilize their time, to benefit from it and not to waste it, the Prophet said, "On the Day of Resurrection the feet of the son of Adam [man] will not move away till he is questioned about four matters: how he spent his lifetime, how he spent his youth; from where he acquired his wealth and how he spent it, and what he did with his knowledge." (Abul-Qasim Attabarani, "Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabeer" (The Great Dictionary), 20/61. Sunan at-Tirmidhi, no. 2417).

He also said, "Grab five things before five others: y

our youth before your decrepitude, your health before your illness, your wealth before your poverty, your free time before your work, and your life before your death." (Al-Hakim, "Al-Mustadrak", Book No. 44, 4/341).

The Righteous Salafis were extremely careful about occupying their time with useful deeds, and they hated laziness and unemployment. Umar Ibn-Al-Khattab was reported to have said, "I do hate to see any of you unoccupied, doing nothing for this world or the Hereafter." (Abul-Qasim Azza-makhshari, "Al-Kashshf", in Arabic, investigated by Mohamed A. Shaheen, 4/761)

On the authority of Ibn-Mas'ud, the Prophet said, "I do hate to see a man doing nothing for this world or the Hereafter." (Abul-Qasim Attabarani, "Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabeer", 9/102)

Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradhawi says, "Free time will never remain unoccupied. It will be occupied with good or evil. If one does not occupy himself with truth, that self will make him oc-

cupied with falsehood. Successful is he who fills his time with what is good and righteous, and woe to him who fills it with evil and corruption."

Indeed, we displease Allah the Supreme One when we abuse time. We must remember that time must be spent to fulfill our very purpose in life that is to worship Allah all throughout our lives. Everything we do in accordance with the Quran and the Sunna is an act of worship. Such worship must be performed sincerely for the pleasure of Allah alone.

We should make use of our time -which includes our "free time"- in doing beneficial things especially those that will make us closer to Allah and earn His Mercy.

We have to make use of our time wisely by learning more of the Quran and the Sunna. We must have correct knowledge of what Allah and His Messenger Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) have commanded us to do and at the same time to refrain from what they have forbidden us. This is imperative so that we earn

Allah's pleasure and reward. Allah the Exalted makes it very clear, when he says: "O ye who believe! Obey Allah, and obey the messenger, and make not vain your deeds!" Qur'an (47:33)

Corollary to the above divine commandment, we must ask ourselves: Have we been obeying Allah and His Messenger? To what extent have we used our time learning the Qur'an and the Sunnah in order to have correct faith (Eaman), to do righteous deeds, to enjoin the Truth, and be patient and constant? As time passes by, are we sure we are devoting our time for the sincere worship and pleasure of Allah the Most High? Are we taking guidance from the following very enlightening (Qur'anic verses)?

By (the Token of) Time (through the ages), Verily Man is in loss, Except such as have Faith, and do righteous deeds, and (join together) in the mutual teaching of Truth, and of Patience and Constancy. Qur'an (103:1-3)

بِقُلُوبٍ مُّؤْمِنَةٍ بِقِضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ  
نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرَارِ التَّعَاذِي وَأَصْدَقِ الْمَوَاسَاةِ الْقَلْبِيَّةِ إِلَى  
الأخ /  
معاذ حمود الخميسي  
في وفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى  
عمه والد زوجته اللواء /  
أحمد يحيى الشامي  
وكيل محافظة حجة  
داعين المولى عز وجل أن يتعمد الفقيد بواسع  
رحمته وأن يسكنه  
فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر  
والسلوان  
وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون  
الأسيفون:  
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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions with its "**Gender and Economic Empowerment Project**"

**Title: Market and Small Enterprise Development Associate**  
**Type of Contract: 1 year renewable**  
**Duty Station: Seiyun, Hadramout, Yemen**

### Responsibilities:

- Review and become familiar with the Hadramout Governorate Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2006-2015, the Women and Development Strategy (WNC 2008), and knowledgeable about the UNDP Gender and Economic Empowerment Project, strategy and work plan.
- Facilitate the subcontractor in the implementation of the Market Validation Workshop with the community and respondents. Ensure adherence to the ToR and results to be obtained, including clearly prepared feasibilities of 10 enterprises/occupations (for each of 4 districts).
- Support to Identify the specific needs of trainees (women and youth) for market development and or value chain linkages, appropriate and improved technologies, and facilitate access and support to the target group with provision of technical assistance and follow up.
- Facilitate exchange visits and networking between women and youth production and marketing groups in the districts, and networking between female entrepreneurs and male youth.
- Build active partnerships and networks with Wadi Hadramout Chamber of Commerce, and other private sector entities, employers', industries and commercial entities for market access and job options, and collaboration with the project.
- Undertake regular site visits to all districts to monitor enterprise activities and resolve problems as they arise.

### Qualifications:

- A university degree in business administration or economics, commerce, business and market development Experience.
- A minimum of 5 years experience in conducting Training Of Trainers (ToTs), planning and organizing market oriented training for employment [small enterprise development, self/wage employment] for disadvantaged women and youth, including in rural communities.
- Solid computers skills (MS Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint).
- Fluency in Arabic both spoken and written,
- English is an asset.

**Title: Community Facilitation and Gender Associate**  
**Type of Contract: 1 year renewable**  
**Duty Station: Seiyun, Hadramout, Yemen**

### Responsibilities:

- Assist in developing a gender sensitive advocacy and awareness plan and strategy with key messages in coordination with the project team, IPs, Department of Endowment and Guidance in the Seiyun Governorate, including religious leaders, local council members, Radio Seiyun, and with the back up support of the UNDP Communications Officer.
- Support in providing technical guidance and inputs to project team and IPs in gender integration in all project activities, and at planned orientation workshops on gender and community participation.
- Facilitate early formation of the District Gender and Economic Empowerment Committees (DGEECs) based on criteria and operational modalities and responsibilities. Encourage and ensure a minimum 40 per cent participation of women and build their capacity. Assist in orienting DGEECs about their roles and responsibilities.
- Participate in regular meetings of DGEECs and provide technical support on gender perspectives and community participation.
- Coordinate and support project team members on all activities undertaken at the community level and advocate and ensure gender dimensions are integrated.

- Ensure proper reporting by IPs/ DGEECs on Community Fund activities.

### Qualifications:

- A University Degree in community development, gender studies, or social sciences education, communications and journalism or related disciplines
- A minimum of 5 years experience in community based approaches, experience in community facilitation and gender sensitive programming and working with local communities. Previous working experience in UN system assisted projects or NGOs will be an asset.
- Proficiency in computer software, report preparation, and data management.
- Fluency in spoken and written Arabic.
- English is an asset.

**Title: Gender Sensitive Monitoring and Policy Support Associate**  
**Type of Contract: 1 year renewable**  
**Duty Station: Seiyun, Hadramout, Yemen**

### Responsibilities:

- Support to identify existing activities undertaken in Hadramout Governorate by MoPIC, Central Statistical Office (CSO) or other departments in gender sensitive data collection, analysis and monitoring, gender mainstreaming, and reports prepared.
- Assist in preparation of a ToR, to identify and subcontract a competent firm to provide technical support in undertaking the baseline survey incorporating gender issues
- Facilitate the subcontracted organization to organize training for selected participants (as above). Orient and train selected trainees (as given above) on the baseline survey, and build capacity of WNC in all design and preparation activities.
- Support in conducting the training workshop, and evaluate.
- Facilitate the subcontractor to undertake the baseline survey in consultation and collaboration with trainees, and monitor the process. Ensure the report of the gender sensitive baseline survey is shared with key stakeholders, IPs, and WNC in Sanaa and the findings are used to inform project work.
- Coordinate and support project team members to include gender sensitive monitoring indicators in the UNDP monitoring and evaluation process followed by them.
- Monitor the WNC activities to ensure progress and quality achievements, and prepare monitoring reports.

### Qualifications:

- A university degree in gender, development, economics, social sciences or related fields.
- A minimum of 5 years experience in developing and implementing gender sensitive monitoring systems and tools, including collection and analysis of gender disaggregated data, and in capacity building of women's departments in the said disciplines.
- Proficiency in computer software application for report preparation, and data management
- Fluency in spoken and written Arabic
- English is an asset

**Only Online Applications will be accepted**

For further details on the job description and online application, please visit our website at

<http://jobs.undp.org>

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**IMPORTANT Numbers**

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لاشتراك في هذه المساحة الاتصال على  
تحويله: ٢٦٨٦٦١

**مستشفيات**

مستشفى الثورة ت: ١٢٤٦٩٦٧-٦٦  
المستشفى الجمهوري ت: ١-٢٧٤٨٦/٨٧  
مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٤١٢٩٨١-١  
المستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ١-٦٠٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠٠  
فاكس: ٤٧٨١٦٦  
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

**البنوك**

البنك اليمني الخارجي ت: ٢٠٢٥٤٤/٧، الشؤون الداخلية ت: ٢٥٢٧٠/٧، الإذاعة ت: ٢٨٢٠٦١، التلفزيون ت: ٢٢٢٠٠/٧، مؤسسة البصائر للتلفزيون ت: ٢٦٢١١١/٣، وزارة المواصلات ت: ٢٢٥١١٠/٧، السياحة ت: ٢٥٤٠٢٢، الصليب الأحمر ت: ٢٠٢١٣١/٣، تليفون: ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

بنك اليمن والخليج فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤، ت: ٩٦٧-١-٣٦-٨٢٣  
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**مكاتب ترجمة**

الشهاب للخدمات الترجمة (عربي-إنجليزي) (إنجليزي-عربي)  
تلفون: ٧٧٧٧٢٠٢ أو ٨٨٦١-٧٣٣-٨٨٦١، فاكس: ١/٤٢٠٦٥٧  
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**مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر**

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صناعاء ت: ٤٦٨٣٠٥-١  
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**شركات للتأمين**

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عدن ت: ٢٤٧٦١٧  
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**مدارس**

روضة واحة الأطفال: تلفاكس: ٤٧٠٢٥٠-٤٧٠٢٥٠، موبايل: ٧٣٤٥٢٢٢٢٥  
مدارس صناعاء الدولية ت: ٢٧٠١٩١/٢، فاكس: ٢٧٠١٩٢  
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**البريد السريع**

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سكاي للسفريات والسياحة ت: ٥٣٥٠٨٠ / ٨٣  
٢٧٠ - ٢٢١ ٢٧٠  
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النسيم للسفريات ت: ٢٧٠٧٥٠  
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**مطاعم**

مطعم وخيالة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)  
تلفون: ٢٦٦٦٧٥ - ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - فاكس: ٢٦٦٦١٩

**مطاعم**

مطعم وخيالة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)  
تلفون: ٢٦٦٦٧٥ - ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - فاكس: ٢٦٦٦١٩

مناسب. ف/٤٥٠٦٩٢

للتواصل: ٧١١٢٩٤٣١١  
najeeb\_salam2000@yahoo.com

ربيع محمد-بكالوريوس إعلام  
تخصص إذاعة وتلفزيون من  
جامعة عدن ٢٠٠٦-٢٠١٠م،  
خبرة في مجال مونتاج البرامج  
الإذاعية والتلفزيونية، إجابة  
التعامل مع الكمبيوتر - إجابة  
اللغة الإنجليزية، إعداد التقارير  
الإذاعية والتلفزيونية، يرغب في  
العمل مع أي محطة إذاعية أو  
تلفزيونية محلية أو خارجية.

للتواصل: ٧٣٤٥٢٢٢٢٥  
للبيع

اثاث منزلي للبيع  
للتواصل: ٧٣٤٥٢٢٢٢٥

لبيع سيارة برادو موديل ٢٠٠٤م،  
العداد ٧٢٠٠٠ كيلو متر، بحالة  
جيدة بسعر \$٢٠٠٠٠ A.B.O  
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٤١٩٤٤٨

أرضية للبيع بمساحة لبنتين  
ونصف (٢,٥) على شارع الستين  
أمام مستشفى آزال في موقع  
مرتفع وممتاز صالح للسكن،  
سعر اللبنة الواحدة خمسة مليون  
ريال قابلة للتفاوض.

للتواصل: ٧٧٧١٦١٩٥٦  
فيلا في مدينة الشباب والرياضة-  
مساحة الأرض ١٢ لبنة حر-ثلاث  
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للتواصل: ٧٣٣٧٠٠٠٤٠  
وظائف شاغرة

تعلن مدرسة أهلية عن حاجتها  
لموظفين في التخصصات  
الأتية. - محاسبة / محاسب  
(يشترط خبرة في مجال حسابات  
المدارس) - كمبيوتر - مكنتبات،  
يشترط في المتقدمين أن يكونوا  
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وذوي خبرة لا تقل عن ٣ سنوات.

للتواصل: ٤٥٠٦٩١ /

العام للإتصالات، عشر سنوات  
خبرة في الحسابات.  
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٣٦٨٠

فائز عبدالله - بكالوريوس  
إنجليزي خبرة في الصندوق  
(التحصيل) خمس سنوات، خبرة  
في المجال الإداري والموارد  
البشرية خبرة في المبيعات  
ثلاث سنوات إجابة التعامل مع  
الكمبيوتر

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٥٦٤٣٦٩-٧٧٠٦٩٣٠٦  
بكالوريوس محاسبة - دبلوم  
سكرتارية كمبيوتر وأكسل - عدة  
دورات لغة إنجليزي مستوى جيد  
في المحادثة والكتابة - خبرة في  
مجال المخازن لمدة عشر سنوات  
(أمين مخازن - محاسب مخازن  
- متابعة مشتريات) يرغب في  
العمل في أي مجال مناسب

للتواصل: ٧٧٥٩٦٥٩  
باحثة عن وظيفة - بكالوريوس  
حاسوب برمجة، خبرة أكثر  
من أربع سنوات في الأعمال  
المصرفية والسكرتارية وخدمة  
العملاء، أرغب في العمل في بنك  
أو سفارة أو منظمة أجنبية أو  
شركة في عدن.

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٩٩١٢٤٨  
مصطفى ناشر - بكالوريوس  
محاسبة مالية جامعة صنعاء  
دبلوم علوم حاسوب المعهد

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٠٩٦٥٢  
نجيب محمد- دبلوم تحكم  
صناعي (تقني جيد جداً)-دبلوم  
كهرباء وإلكترونيات ممتاز  
(الهيئة السويدية المستقلة)  
ست دورات لغة إنجليزية- ثلاث  
سنوات خبرة في مجال الكهرباء  
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## New website encourages youth input in reform

By: Alice Hackman

A youth movement set up last January to convey the voice of Yemen's youth to its leaders is back.

This time, Resonate! Yemen has launched a website for young Yemenis to learn about, question, and suggest improvements to a 10-point agenda that lays out reform priorities for Yemen.

The reform plan, thought up by Deputy Minister of Finance Jalal Yaqoub and recently adopted by the government, has received mixed reviews. It has in particular been criticized for giving priority to issues like bettering Yemen's image, but not to improving health or education.

**THE GOVERNMENT'S 10 POINT PLAN**

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Resonate! Yemen

www.resonateyemen.org

The website seeks to educate young Yemenis about the plan through individual pages in English and Arabic on each of the points so that they can provide constructive feedback on them.

Resonate! Yemen was initially set up by three young Yemeni men in Canada who believe that, as nearly 70 percent of Yemen's population is no older than 25, its youth is a key partner in plans for its future.

The 10-point reform agenda now under scrutiny on the Internet broadly includes attracting 100 talented Yemenis into the civil service, ensuring the rule of law, reducing subsidies without raising prices for more efficient energy utilization, boosting oil and gas exploration, solving land problems and the water issue.

On the new website, visitors are encouraged to rate its points in order of priority and ask Yaqoub about it via the online video platform Yook.com. On Wednesday evening, there were 13 questions in English posted on the deputy minister's page but still no answers.

Online, visitor yemenalhakeem or "Yemen the Wise" asks about the transparency of the plan's execution.

He then writes that he is "highly educated" and "a professional in my field of work" and

asks how to apply to become one of the 100 top talented Yemenis.

Another Yemeni, abdulbari, asks why the plan includes sending skilled labor to the Gulf instead of keeping it in Yemen.

"Have you thought about the needs of local market for those skilled labor[er]s?" he asks, reminding Yaqoub of the blow to Yemen's remittances from abroad when in 1991, Saudi Arabia expelled all Yemeni workers because of the Yemeni government's support of Saddam Hussein.

"When talking about reducing unemployment, the only suggestion that was mentioned was sending people out for work. Have you guys thought about bring[ing] work in for people?" writes yasenoman.

After the online question and answer session, visitors to the website are encouraged to provide ideas of how the various points can

be implemented best in the country. For each point, constructive comments already abound.

If the deputy minister had not yet posted any replies to the young Yemenis' questions online on Wednesday evening, he at least seemed very impressed with the young men behind Resonate! Yemen and their latest website.

"The two guys I met from Resonate (Rafat Al-Akhali and Ahmed Al-Awah) are above superior and are a model for Yemenis we're seeking in government," Yaqoub wrote to the Yemen Times.

**4U**

If you want to participate in the debate, go to:  
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Arrival Thursday	1Y889	Guangzhou	Dubai	01:45	05:55
Arrival Tuesday		Dubai	Sana'a	06:55	08:30

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