

## Lucky Winner of the Second Draw on Surprise Card Offer

Sabafon Telecom Company handed over its second Surprise Card awards last Thursday in a festival ceremony in the KFC open area in Sana'a on February 7th. Lucky winner Yasser Hussein Abdullah Bare won the grand prize, a Porsche Car. A number of other valuable monetary prizes were also awarded in the presence of Lead Strategy and Business Development Senior Manager in the Marketing Department Mohammed Al-Shami who inaugurated the ceremony welcoming businessmen, the clients and all attendees. "This Surprise Card Offer is one of the initiatives Sabafon does for its customers in appreciation of their loyalty and in an attempt to strengthen its relation with its customers," said Al-Shami.

He added that in a few days Sabafon will celebrate the 12 year anniversary of launching its services on 14th February 2001. "While we celebrate this amazing occasion we take pride in the achievements and the accomplishments relating to basic services and the additional merits to satisfy all customers," he said. Adding that the company had done many social services and community development projects coming out of Sabafon corporate social responsibility and will continue doing so in the future using the best technologies and highest quality.

Mohammed Al-Obadi communication unit manager at the marketing department said that the offer is still on-going and Sabafon will have its third draw early March offering a third car and many awards.

### Grand Prize Winner (2nd Porsche Car)



**Yasser Hussien  
Abdullah Bare**



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**Yousef Mohammed  
Ahmed Dahhan**



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- Omar Salem Naser Abdulnabi
- Awadh Ahmed Naser Sa'ad

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- Abdulkarim Sad Hadi Arwah
- Akram Abdulhamid Amer Qasim
- Mujeeb Abdulaleem Thabet Hazza
- Mohammed Ahmed Ali Qaid
- Faisal Salem Saleh Mohammed
- Abdu Muqbil Qaid Abdullah
- Baha Faisal Rashad Al-Himyari
- Ali Yahya Ali Mansour
- Mohammed Abdulwahab Ali Al-Dailami





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## War-torn Hasaba to be rebuilt again

**Sadeq Al-Wesabi**

SANA'A, Feb. 10 — More than 4,000 damaged houses, hotels, commercial shops and private hospitals in the Hasaba area, north of Sana'a, will be rebuilt after a damage control plan is carried out by the Secretariat of the Capital.

"The damage control report is ready and the compensation payment is included in the 2013 budget and will be distributed to the affected very soon," said Mohammed Hamoud Othman, the head of Al-Thawra District.

"We urge the government to distribute the compensation to deserved people without any manipulation," he said. "Effective mechanism should be used to avoid the same mistakes that happened in other areas."

In the middle of 2011, Hasaba district witnessed fierce clashes between Republican Guards and Central Security forces loyal to the former regime and armed tribal groups belonging to the Al-Ahmer family, one of the most influential families in Yemen that supported the revolution.

The fighting left hundreds dead and many injured. Locals fled the area and left their belongings to be plundered in the damaged area.

On Wednesday, the mayor of Sana'a, Abdul-Qader Hilal, held a consultative meeting with affected locals in Hasaba, confirming that there are presidential directives issued to compensate them for losses they sustained in 2011.

However, residents in Hasaba have repeatedly received promises of compensation.

With empty promises, residents say they are getting desperate.

Ali Al-Batool, a resident of Hasaba who worked in a private hospital before the fighting broke out, lost his apartment and all of its belongings to the conflict.

Commenting on the recent promises of compensation from the government, he said, "We are fed up with these promises. They've met with us more than 20 times and keep promising, but there is not any real change."

According to Al-Batool, some locals whose houses were damaged are living now in the street or in crowded apartments.



A child in Hasaba looks through his destroyed family home.

He says Hasaba needs a large amount of money to put it on the path of recovery.

"We need to build another district," Al-Batool said. "The owner of a dental clinic with modern equipment has lost about \$500,000. This is one example."

While residents grow restless, the government continues to promise assistance is coming.

"The locals in this area have suffered a lot and their compensation has been delayed," said Moeen Al-Mahaqiri, the deputy mayor for technical affairs. "We did our best to limit the damages in the area."

"We want to eliminate the reminders of damages in the area. We need to restore the area to its former vitality."

## Committee says Wednesday last deadline for parties to submit their lists for NDC

**Mohammed Al-Samei**

SANA'A, Feb. 10 — The Preparatory Committee of the National Dialogue (NDC) set Wednesday as the final deadline to receive the lists of the political parties' representatives.

President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi recently announced the National Dialogue Conference will begin March 18.

The Preparatory Committee held a meeting on Saturday headed by Abdulkareem Al-Eryani to discuss the final deadline as many of the parties' lists are now long overdue.

The committee released a statement asking political parties to hand in the lists of their representatives to the Technical Committee and not any other body, including the President of the Republic because it falls under the committee's jurisdiction.

Tareq Al-Shami, the head of the information department of the General People's Congress (GPC), said his party has already handed in its representatives' names to Al-Eryani, claiming that the GPC was one of the first parties to submit their lists.

However, Dr. Ahmed Awadh Mubark, the general secretary of the NDC, said during the meeting that the GPC gave their list to President Hadi and not the committee as they were instructed.

The statement also confirmed that the committee has received the list for Houthis representatives.

A big question mark remains about the GPC's biggest opposition, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).

Naef Al-Qanis, a spokesperson for the JMP, said their list is ready, but they have not been handed over because the JMP wants to have

the opportunity to discuss with President Hadi issues including the departure of former President Ali Abdulla Saleh from the Yemeni political arena and the Transitional Justice law.

President Hadi has not indicated if he will meet with the group before the deadline.

The Al-Haq Party, the Popular Powers Union and the Salfi Al-Rashad Party handed in the names of their representatives over one month ago.

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW** مقابلة حصرية

Mohammed Al-Maqaleh to the Yemen Times: "Why should we have dialogue as long as everything comes determined from abroad."

محمد المقالع ليمن تايمز كل المؤشرات تدل على أن اليمن تسير في اتجاه معاكس للحوار

Turn to pages 4 for the interview نص المقابلة في صفحة 4

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## We expected food from Iran, not weapons, Interior Ministry says

**Bassam Al-Ashmori**

SANA'A, Feb. 10 — Yemen's interior minister condemned Iran for its alleged involvement in a shipment of weapons that was seized in Yemeni waters in late January.

General Abdulkadir Qahtan made the accusations at a press conference attended by many senior officials on Saturday.

"The weapons shipment that was controlled in Yemeni waters on Jan. 23 was very dangerous because it contained explosives that could annihilate millions of Yemenis," Qahtan said.

"Yemen is peaceful, and Yemenis are in need of food shipments, not

shipments of weapons and explosives that destroy humans and land," he added.

The Interior Ministry has released a statement saying, "When the ship was inspected, it was found to be carrying 73 tons of diesel and 40 tons of weapons, shells and explosives."

General Ali Al-Ahmadi, the head of the National Security Apparatus, said the shipment was meant to create havoc and damage in Yemen, and there is evidence that an "organized official power is behind the shipment."

However, he said appropriate procedures in are still underway in order to disclose - in front of the pub-

lic - the identity of the shipment and those behind it.

Iran has denied its involvement in the incident.

Murtda Abdeen, the Iranian deputy ambassador to Yemen, said in a statement to the Yemen Times, "I challenge Yemeni authorities to provide solid evidence that the ship that was confiscated in regional Yemeni waters is Iranian."

In reaction to the statements from the interior minister, Abdeen said, "The purpose of the statements is to distort Iran in front of the Yemeni people and underestimate diplomatic Iranian representation in Yemen."

"Yemen doesn't need weapons from overseas," Abdeen concluded.

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## Statistics for number of children killed during revolution released by Council

Mohammed Al-Samei

SANAA, Feb 10 — A recent study by the Families of the Revolution's Martyr Council reveals that seven percent of casualties in the revolution were children.

"The percent of child casualties in the council's report is very dangerous and unexpected," said Majed Al-Humaidi, an expert in sociology in Sana'a.

Al-Humaidi said children were often present at the protests in 2011 as families wanted them to take part in the events. Although many believe the children had a right to participate in the marches and events, there was no guarantee of their safety.

Anas Al-Saeedi is reported to be the youngest casualty of the revolution. The ten-month baby was killed by a sniper's bullet in September of 2011 near Kuntaki roundabout in Sana'a.

The death received media coverage and was condemned as a heinous crime, but local childhood protection groups say children



Children are often hidden victims of the revolution.

are often forgotten casualties.

At a time when adult revolutionaries are protesting to receive compensation and medical treatment from the government for injuries sustained during the protests, Ahmed Al-Qurashi, the

head of Seyag Organization for Childhood Protection, says injured children suffer alongside them.

He says very few families have been compensated to pay for children's injuries.

## Price cap for gas cylinders enrages sellers

Amira Nasser

SANAA, Feb 10 — After the Minister of Petroleum and Minerals, Ahmed Abdullah Daress, endorsed a decision on Sunday setting a price cap for the sale of 20 kg. natural gas cylinders at YR1,200, or about \$6, sellers of the products began protesting as they say their profits will be unsustainably affected.

"YR40 (less than \$.25) on each cylinder is the profit for the gas cylinders store's owner," said Abdulhakeem Mohammed Qasim, the manager of the Yemeni Gas

Company.

The state controlled gas containers are sold to merchants for YR1,160, which predetermines a seller's profits with the new price cap.

The ministry has called on citizens to report any stores selling the cylinders, which are used in Yemeni households for needs like cooking, for more than the set price, enraging merchants.

Khalid Naji, an employee at a gas store, says he will continue to sell his cylinders for about \$1.50 more than the set price. He says he will not change his price unless

the government changes theirs.

"The [wholesale] price of gas should be cut for the stations if we are to sell at the determined price," he said.

Prior to the recent price set, gas cylinders were sold on the market for \$6.50 to \$10.

Although gas prices in the past fluctuated due to an increase in importation as a result of the revolution in 2011, Mohammed Al-Bowsani, the managers of the Technical Affairs for the Yemeni Gas Company, said local production is currently able to meet national demand.

## Rift between two ministries halts start of electrical substation project, Sana'a

Samar Qaed

SANAA, Feb 10 — Following the General Authority of Environment Protection (GAEP) notification to the capital secretariat that trees of historical value were uprooted in Faj Atan, Sana'a for the construction of an electrical sub-station, the capital secretariat has halted the project in the area, pending further investigation.

The move signals the latest step in a wider feud between the GAEP and the Ministry of Electricity over the Faj Atan area of Sana'a.

"The monitoring department formed a committee to evaluate the environmental damages that would be caused by the project's implementation," said Anwar Al-Himairi, the deputy head of the GAEP.

The Ministry of Electricity denies their project will be detrimental to the environment and say the project was already approved by the capital secretariat.

"The location is excellent to generate electricity and was already determined by the secretariat following field visits," said Mohammed Saleh Al-Jarbani, the general director of electricity in Sana'a.

"We have photographic evidence of the number of trees currently in the location. The trees are very few and were completely uncaared for before our coming."

He said the secretariat is set to



Bulldozers of the capital secretariat damage trees in Faj Atan district in Sana'a The source of the picture is Environmental Media and Development Center

create 20 power stations in many locations of the capital city in the coming months.

"These stations will help improve the electricity supply to the city and mitigate power cuts," he said.

However, the Environmental Media and Development Center called on the Ministry of Electricity and the capital secretariat to find an alternative location for Faj Atan as it is one of the few green belts in Sana'a that has not been distorted by urban expansion.

Fawaz Ghanim, the information

assistant in the center, said, "The government should create legislation to protect green areas, and the role of the GAEP should be elevated."

"No electricity substation should be established without the agreement of the GAEP so that negative environmental impacts are clear from the outset," he added.

Ghanim said bulldozers recently uprooted over 40 trees, with the GAEP expecting over 30 more to be removed.

Many trees were aged between 20 to 40 years, he said.

### ADVERTORIAL

## Sabafon announces second winner of grand prize in scratch offer



Sabafon Company, the first and the largest mobile operator in Yemen, gave away its second Porsche car for the winner of its scratch offer. Other prizes were also given away.

The offer is still underway and Sabafon will hold its third drawing in March.

The awards ceremony had many other entertaining events for participants to take part in.

The company concluded the ceremony by wishing attendees success and happiness, promising to publish the winners' names in official newspapers.



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Applications must be submitted online no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Faxed, mailed, or handed applications will not be considered.

ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



# Fashion and tradition battle for young men's clothing preferences

Story and photos by Amal Al-Yarisi

With youth throughout Yemen increasingly exposed to globalized influences, fashion has become a key battleground between traditional and modern aspects of Yemeni culture. More and more, young men, as well as women, say they are using clothing to define their individual identities against a backdrop of cultural, tribal and religious differences.

A number of youth are pursuing ever-changing fashion trends and clothing stores are swarming with various designer clothes such as Tahini and Abu Tafhita. Provocative items, such as T-shirts that have swear words on them and tight "skinny" jeans, have become the norm for many.



A rarity several years ago, trendy clothing stores are now found all over Sana'a.



Experts say young men are subject to global influences, and it is reflected in dress.

Abdulrahman Al-Rwahi, a university graphics student in Sana'a, is conscious of fashion trends in and thinks clothing is indispensable to his individuality.

To compliment his extensive collection of new clothes, shoes and accessories, Al-Rwahi also likes to experiment with hairstyles.

"Spiky Mohican is a hairstyle, and it is not a shame to keep up with fashionable hairstyles," he said.

For Al-Rwahi, the ability to change his style through his hair and clothes has become a way for him to express the changing nature of his identity.

However, his hairstyle has caused controversy in his local area, with many people looking down on fashion trends as fickle and unrepresentative of Yemeni society.

Nasser Al-Hamdi, a clothing store owner, said they import stylish products from international markets, asserting that there is a great demand for these global trends.

"Some youth look to emulate the styles of famed singers," he said.

Like many of the older generation, he is not happy to see youth put on such clothes, but he said buying and

selling these clothes is a way to eke out a living in tough times.

### Some still preserve norms

Despite the changes seen in many cities, across more rural or tribal areas, Yemen remains a conservative society in many aspects. Some tribes even consider it shameful to wear clothes against their norms.

Noman Al-Jarmoozi, a local from Arhab district, strongly opposes young people who want to keep up with fashion, describing them as imitators and childish.

Instead of spiking his hair and putting on a T-shirt, Al-Jarmoozi wakes in the morning to put on a traditional white robe and coat, asserting that it is impossible for him to change his "uniform" as he lives in a tribal and conservative area.

Al-Jarmoozi is one of many who live in areas across Yemen that tend to preserve popular cultural heritage through clothing. Though many young people in urban areas such as Sana'a, Taiz and Aden have developed a liking for fashion, other tribal areas including Marib, Sa'ada and Al-Jawf abhor the fans of fashion, considering them womanish and feminine.

Ahmed Al-Hakeemi, a resident in Al-Ahkoom of Taiz, believes men should put on clothes that respect religion, traditions and customs.

Al-Hakeemi said that he would never change his clothes in reaction to a television advertisement on new "trendy" clothes at the market.

He said, "I respect my religion and my culture, so I will not distort them."

### Fashion becomes imitation

Television shows have been identified as a contributing factor to the newfound male obsession with fashion throughout Yemen. With images of Western and specifically American clothing and hair styles invading the television screen, following these styles has often been a way for Yemeni youth to escape traditionalism and challenge social norms.

Dr. Salah Al-Deen Al-Jumaei, a sociologist, said this invasion has largely increased as youth have actively welcomed anything that comes from the West.

Al-Jumaei gave insight about why the youth have neglected some religious values and societal norms, saying, "All these practices have developed because of an absence of family supervision and a breakdown of family networks."

"The more advanced the societies become, the more the society opens itself up to the foreign world," he said.

Al-Jumaei is not convinced this is a good thing. The youth have the right to keep up with appearances, but they should not set aside their values and social norms, Al-Jumaei said.

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Mohammed Al-Maqaleh to the Yemen Times:

# "Why should we have dialogue as long as everything comes determined from abroad."

Mohammed Al-Maqaleh, a writer and political activist, said there are currently no indicators that denote the earnestness of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC). He says Yemen is moving further away from a comprehensive and peaceful dialogue.

In his opinion, the Gulf Initiative went against the aims of the revolution and did nothing more than spare the old regime. He said it did not save Yemen from a crisis, but instead did the opposite.

In the interview, Al-Maqaleh slams the Islah Party, saying they used the revolution to advance their influence in the military and the government. He is also critical of the influence global powers play in shaping Yemen's future.

Interview by Mohammed Al-Samei



Mohammed Al-Maqaleh says that Yemen is a pawn for international players to exert their influence.

**Let's start with the National Dialogue, what do you think?** There have been no signs that indicate the National Dialogue is a serious event. Everything adds up to Yemen progressing in the opposite direction.

**"Yemen progressing in the opposite direction." What has led this to happen?**

Yemenis have put Yemen in this situation. Politicians want to solve the crisis while they contribute to it. The crisis, therefore cannot be resolved by its parts. Yemeni people attempted to isolate politicians from the crisis by the revolution. The revolution aimed to isolate the components of the crisis. However, some insisted on overthrowing the revolution and restoring Yemen to its original state, namely to a pre-revolution period.

**Do you mean the reasons for the crisis in Yemen are the political parties, not the former regime?**

The former regime was a part of the political components. The political parties were part of the former regime. We wanted to restore the role of the parties by means of the revolution. However, the parties dominated the revolution, capitalizing on it to take authority. This forced Yemen to return to its previous political state.

**But it was the General People's Congress (GPC) that ruled the country, not all parties.**

The GPC was one of the political components. The party that plotted a revolutionary takeover was the Islah party. It was the party that brought military and tribal figures to the revolution. Ali Mohsen and the sons of [Abdulla Bin Hussein] Al-Ahmer mean nothing to the revolution. Yet the Islah Party means something to it, and society approved its role in the revolution. Unfortunately, its involvement hurt the revolution. It contributed to restoring half of the former regime because they shared the power 50-50 with the GPC. Now the Islah Party fights for Ali Mohsen and Al-Ahmer.

**It was a foreign initiative that gave the GPC half of its control. How does this relate to the Islah Party?**

The Gulf Initiative went against the revolution in order to rescue the old regime. It was an international, regional and local agreement to remove the ringleader so that the gang could continue. Anyway, the initiative has not resolved the crisis of Yemen. On the contrary, it has put the country in a crisis again.

**Back to the National Dialogue, many are optimistic about it, saying it will be a success. What is your opinion?**

Why are they optimistic? What makes them optimistic is when they put on nice suits, go the hotels and receive money. That causes some of them to be overwhelmed with a sense of optimism. In fact, there are no signs that point to optimism. There is strife in Ra'ada, and there was strife in Zinjibar. In terms of security, weapons are continuously smuggled by sea to this country. We only know about what is reported. What about smuggled weapons that have not been detected? We don't even know to whom these weapons belong.

**It is reported that the weapons come from Iran, what do you think?**

They could be from anywhere, whether from Iran or Turkey. I think the state should reveal the identity of these weapons. More importantly, the state is supposed to disclose local persons that receive these weapons once these shipments are captured. As I said, they are dangerous weapons including silencers. This means they are intended for assassinations, other crimes and to create havoc. Once the weapons shipments are seized, the state should know where they came from. I think if the shipments were Iranian, Iran would say so.

**The Interior Ministry announced that the weapons shipment is Iranian.**

No, it is not Iranian. It belongs to Turkey.

**What does Turkey intend to do if the smuggled weapons to Yemen are Turkish-made?**

Turkey is a weapons trader and a death trader. [The country] is a death trader in Syria and wants to be a death trader in Yemen.

**Yemen is often an outlet for regional and international conflicts, why is this happening?**

Some have nothing to trade with but weapons. Others have nothing to trade with but wars and conflicts. The former regime thrived on conflicts. Researchers have said Yemen has witnessed over 4,000 wars from 1978 until present. Today, American drones violate Yemeni sovereignty and kill Yemenis.

**This issue is supposed to be highlighted in the National Dialogue which you are pessimistic about.**

There is no dialogue. If there was, what would be the issues discussed at the dialogue?

**The major concerns, including the Southern issue, the Sa'ada issue and the army restructuring.**

The most important issue is the state and the constitution.

**Is the constitution one of the most important issues?**

No issue can be resolved without the existence of the state. The structure of the state and its nature should be agreed upon. If there is a seriousness about the dialogue, then the dialogue stakeholders should be asked about their visions in terms of these issues.

**At the dialogue table, they will voice their opinions.**

True preparation means visions of the Islah Party, the Socialist Party and the Houthis regarding the creation of a civil state should be clear. This helps make our differences and agreements clear.

Of course, some issues are indisputable. So why should we include such issues in the dialogue. The task of the Preparatory Committee is to spot the differences and the agreements, for example, the agreement on the third item of the constitution. If this happens, society can partake in the dialogue. Then we can examine our issues and see if they are valid.

The Yemeni constitution is the constitution of unity. Currently, dialogue issues are kept in the dark because stakeholders disagree on them. For instance, do you think the six joint parties agree on the Southern issue? Do you think they agree on a civil state or on the Sa'ada issue? No, but why do they hide their rifts? They do this because they don't want to appear disagreeable in front of the public. It is dangerous to hide what we feel and say issues will be put forward on the table. So the possibilities are that the dialogue will blow up when people start disagreeing about issues. Or the dialogue will be dealt with as an item in the Gulf Initiative, just like the previous matters, like the formation of the reconciliation government and the one-candidate presidential elections. After that, we will tick the box that the dialogue was held and then receive aid.

**Political groups say they agree on a civil state. What do you think?**

It is just theoretical speech. They scoff at themselves.

Ask Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani. Once I asked the leading figure in the Islah Party Mohammed Qahtan. The question was: is it true that the third article of the constitution stipulates that the Islamic Sharia is the source of all legislations? Is the Islamic Sharia the source of the traffic law? Moreover, which doctrines of the Islamic Sharia will be implemented since there are so many doctrines?

Thus, the solution is the civil state. That is, the state should be agreed on by Yemenis by means of a constitution. There should be freedom for thought and belief, and the state

should protect a variety of them. Islam is for everyone, but it should not be involved in minor issues.

**Do you think the National Dialogue Conference will not be held?**

Even if it is held, it will be for show. It will not be serious. Let me give an example. The 20 Points presented to President Hadi by the Dialogue Committee have not been implemented even though everyone has unanimously said the National Dialogue will not succeed without [the 20 Points].

**The committee said the implementation of the 20 Points is not a condition that precedes the dialogue.**

That was a new point. They want to discuss all the issues of this life and the hereafter in the NDC. Then we will explode in the dialogue and start to fight. They are making fools out of themselves and us.

**Some say that even if the NDC is held, its outcomes are al-**

**ready determined by the foreign world. Do you side with this saying?**

I confirm this. It will not be genuine. The army is restructured based on an American decision. The wording of laws was done by France and Britain. So, what is the point of the National Dialogue? Let Saudi Arabia, America, Britain and France have a dialogue about Yemen in the Security Council. Why should we have dialogue as long as everything comes determined from abroad.

**In your opinion, why do some Southern factions still object to participating in the dialogue?**

I side with them. The majority of the Southern factions want secession. So far, the new government has done nothing to show Yemenis in general and the Southerners in particular that the situation is different. The situation has been exacerbated.

**President Hadi answered the critics of the reconciliation**

**government questioning what the former regime did during its reign of power.**

This is regretful. What has Hadi done? The former government is the current government.

**Some say it is too early to judge the performance of the transitional government?**

There are only three new ministers in the reconciliation government, the rest belong to the former regime. That means those who ruled during the regime of Ali Abdullah Saleh are ruling today. It is the same system, the same corruption and the same sharing. The tyranny remains tyranny. I want the electricity minister to guarantee power stations will not be stormed tomorrow. The [Marib] power station has sustained over 20 attacks. What has the minister done to guarantee that the power station will not be assaulted again?

**Are you unhappy with the performance of the government and the President Hadi?**

I am extremely unhappy.



## Vacancy Announcement

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



## محمد المقالح ليمن تايمز

# كل المؤشرات تدل على أن اليمن تسير في اتجاه معاكس للحوار

قال الكاتب الصحفي والناشط السياسي محمد المقالح إنه لا يوجد أي مؤشرات على جدية الحوار الوطني، فكل المؤشرات تدل على أن اليمن تسير باتجاه معاكس تماما للحوار. وأضاف في حوار مع يمن تايمز أن المبادرة الخليجية جاءت ضد الثورة ولا نفاذ النظام السابق، فلم تخرج اليمن من الأزمة بل أعادتها إلى الأزمة. وأشار إلى أن الحزب الذي انقلب على الثورة هو التجمع اليمني للإصلاح وهو الذي أتى بكل الرموز والمكونات القبلية والعسكرية إلى ظهر الثورة.

حوار: محمد السامعي



محمد المقالح

نبدأ معك حول الحوار الوطني كيف تنظر إليه؟ الحوار الوطني لا يوجد فيه أي مؤشرات لجديته، كل المؤشرات تدل على أن اليمن يسير في اتجاه آخر، باتجاه معاكس تماما للحوار.

ما الذي جعل اليمن يسير في الاتجاه المعاكس للحوار؟

اليمنيون جعلوا اليمن كذلك، السياسيون الذين يريدون أن يحلوا الأزمة وهم أدواتها، ولا يمكن أن تحل الأزمة بأدواتها. الشعب اليمني حاول أن يخرج السياسيين من هذه الأزمة بالثورة، وكانت الثورة تستهدف إخراج كل مكونات الأزمة؛ لكن البعض أتى إلا أن ينقلب على الثورة وإعادة اليمن إلى المربع الأول، مربع ما قبل الثورة، مربع الأزمة التي كانت تاكل اليمن وتحولها إلى بلد فاشل منهار يأكل بعضه بعضا، الانهيار يتم بالشكل الذي تراه اليوم.

أنت تقصد أن سبب أزمات اليمن هي الأحزاب وليس النظام السابق؟

النظام السابق هو مكونات سياسية، والأحزاب السياسية جزء من النظام السابق، كنا نريد إعادة تجديدها عن طريق الثورة، لكنها سطت على الثورة ثم استعادت السلطة من داخل الثورة فأعدت اليمن إلى نفس المربع السياسي السابق.

المؤتمر كان يحكم في الفترة السابقة وليست كل الأحزاب؟

المؤتمر أحد هذه المكونات، الحقيقة الحزب الذي انقلب على الثورة هو التجمع اليمني للإصلاح وهو الذي أتى بكل الرموز والمكونات القبلية والعسكرية على ظهر الثورة، علي محسن الأحمر لا يمثل شيئا بالنسبة للثورة ولا عيال الأحمر، الإصلاح يمثل شيئا وكان المجتمع قد قبله أن يتقدم الثورة ولكنه أتى إلا أن يأتي ويحمل الثورة ما لا تطلق، وأن يعيد نصف النظام باسم الثورة، والأمن يقاتل من أجل علي محسن الأحمر.

هي كانت مبادرة خليجية جعلت نصف الحكومة من المؤتمر ما علاقة الإصلاح بذلك؟

المبادرة الخليجية جاءت ضد الثورة وجاءت لتنفذ النظام. كان حصل شيء من التوافق الداخلي والإقليمي والدولي على أن العصاة محملة بعبء رئيس العصاة، فلا بد من رحيل رئيس العصاة لتبقى العصاة، المبادرة

أحد الباحثين يقول إن اليمن خاضت أكثر من ٤ آلاف حرب من عام ٧٨ حتى الآن. اليوم الطائرات الأمريكية تخترق السيادة اليمنية وتقتل اليمنيين.

هذه القضايا التي تناقشها يفترض أن يتم مناقشتها في الحوار الوطني فلماذا أنت متشائم منه؟ أضرب لك مثال كي أقول لك أنه لا يوجد حوار، ما هي قضايا الحوار؟

القضايا المهمة حسب ما طرح القضية الجنوبية وقضية صعدة وهيكلة الجيش... أهم قضية هي قضية الدولة والدستور.

الدستور من بين أهم القضايا؟ لا يمكن أن تعالج أي قضية دون وجود دولة، ودون أن تتفق على شكلها وطبيعتها. لو كان هناك جدية في الحوار عليهم أن يطلبوا من كل أطراف الحوار أن يترجموا رؤاهم في كل هذه القضايا.

في طاولة الحوار سيتم طرح آرائهم؟ لوسمحت، هناك واحدة من الأكاذيب الكبرى التي يتم فيها مغالطة الناس. التحضير للحوار هي أن نعرف حزب الإصلاح ورأيه حول الدولة المدنية، والاشتراكي وما رأيه بالدولة المدنية، والحوثيون ورأيهم في الدولة المدنية، أين نختلف؟ وأين نتفق؟

أكد هناك قضايا متفق عليها، لماذا ندخل القضايا المتفق عليها في الحوار؟ مهمة اللجنة التحضيرية للحوار أن تحدد مواطن الخلاف وتحدد قضايا الاتفاق. مثلا تتفق على المادة الثالثة للدستور، في هذه الحالة يستطيع المجتمع أن يشارك في الحوار ونستطيع أن نختبر أنفسنا وقضايانا هل هي صحيحة.

الدستور اليمني دستور الوحدة كان كل يعني مشارك في الحوار حوله لأن التلفزيون كان حاضرا، وهم يتكلمون الآن على قضايا الحوار لأنهم مختلفون. فمثلا هل تعتقد أن أحزاب المشترك الستة متفقة على القضية الجنوبية، هل تعتقد أنهم متفقون على الدولة المدنية أو قضية صعدة؟ لا، ولكن لماذا يتم إخفاء الخلاف؟ حتى لا يظهر أمام الرأي العام بأنهم مختلفون، فإذا نريد أن نغطي بعضنا بعضا، ونقول في طاولة مؤتمر الحوار نطرح كل القضايا، هذا الكلام خطير. إما أن نتفجر كل هذه القضايا وتفجر الحوار أو أن نتعامل مع الحوار باعتباره شكلا، وأن نُشر عليه ما أشرنا على تشكيل حكومة الوفاق الوطني أو انتخاب رئيس الجمهورية، ثم نُشر على أن الحوار الوطني قد عقد ونستلم المعونات.

ولكن الذي يجري هو الاستعداد على الدولة اليمنية، لو تسال في أي مؤسسة في قسم شرطة، في المحافظات، في الجيش والأمن، كم غيروا مدراء، وكم غيروا موظفين، إذا كان وزير الدفاع يقول إنه تم تجنيد أكثر من ٢٠٠ ألف خلال هذه الفترة، وأنت تصور كم قد تغيرت اليمن، كم قد استحوذ على اليمن؟ هناك طرف يريد أن يستحوذ على كل مؤسسات الدولة لأنه لا يريد أن يحكم بمؤسسات الدولة، يريد يحكم بمؤسسات الجماعة. هذا الطرف هو الذي يغطي على كل قضايا الخلاف ويقول إن المشترك هو عظيم وممتاز، وسيبقى ٢٠ سنة، لكن لا نسال لماذا نكتل المشترك يبقى ٢٠ سنة؟ ما هي القضايا التي اتفقتنا عليها كي يبقى التحالف ٢٠ عاما، إذا اتفقتنا على الدولة المدنية شيء جميل.

هذه الأسلحة يقال أنها أتت من إيران؟ تكون من أي مكان، من إيران أو تركيا.

أنت كمتابع لن تعتقد هذه الأسلحة؟ أنا اعتقد أن الدولة اليمنية هي من يفترض أن تقول لمن هذه الأسلحة والسفن. الأهم من ذلك يفترض على الدولة أن تقول من الأطراف الداخلية التي تتسلم هذه الأسلحة، عندما يتم القبض على شحنات الأسلحة، وهي كما قلت أسلحة أمنية خطيرة، قنصات مسدسات، كاتم الصوت، معناها أنها لارتكاب اغتيالات وجرائم، وتخريب الوضع الأمني بمجرد القبض على الشحنات يفترض أن يتم معرفة لمن ذلك، وأعتقد لو أن السفن تابعة لإيران لأعلنت إيران ذلك صراحة.

وزارة الداخلية تعلن أن السفينة المحملة بالأسلحة هي إيرانية؟ لا أبدا ليست لإيران، هي لتركيا.

ما الذي تهدف إليه تركيا من تهريبها للأسلحة لليمن؟

تركيا تاجر أسلحة وتاجر موت، هي تتاجر بالموت في سوريا وتاجر بالموت في اليمن.

لماذا أصبحت اليمن منطقة صراع للعالم والإقليم؟

هناك من تجارته الوحيدة هي السلاح، وهناك من تجارته الوحيدة هي الحروب والصراعات، والنظام السابق اللاحق عاش بعذه الصراعات.

وإن عقد سيكون شكليا، لن يكون فيه جدية، سأضرب لك مثلا، العشرون النقطة التي قدمتها لجنة الحوار للرئيس هادي كتهيئة لمناخ الحوار إلى أين وصلت تطبيقها؟ وقالوا بالإجماع إنه لا يمكن أن ينجح الحوار الوطني إلا بهذه النقاط.

اللجنة قالت إن تطبيق النقاط العشرين ليس شرطا في الدخول للحوار؟

هذه نقطة جديدة طرحت. هم يريدوا أن يجمعوا كل قضايا الدنيا والأخرة إلى مؤتمر الحوار ثم يتم تفجير الحوار ونخرج نتائجه، أو أنهم يضحكون على أنفسهم وعيلنا، ويقولوا لك أن الحوار ليس مهمته أي شيء إلا أن يجتمعوا.

أنت مع فكرة أنه حتى وإن عقد الحوار الوطني فستكون نتائج معدة سلفا من قبل الخارج؟ هذا ما يؤكد عليه. هو حوار شكلي، بمعنى الصفقات الخلفية، الجيش اليمني تم هيكلته

بقرار أمريكي، وصياغة الدستور من قبل فرنسا، والقضية الفلانية من قبل بريطانيا. ما هو الحوار؟ انتركوا السعودية وأمريكا وبريطانيا وفرنسا يتحاوروا في مجلس الأمن. لماذا الحوار طالما أن كل شيء جاهز من الخارج.

باعتقادك لماذا ما تزال بعض الفصائل في الحراك الجنوبي ترفض الحوار حتى الآن؟

أنا معهم. أغلب الفصائل الجنوبية تريد انفصال، هذا ما ظهر حتى الآن. الحكومة اليمنية لم تعمل شيئا منذ تم تشكيلها لكي تظهر لليمنيين عموما والجنوبيين خصوصا أن الوضع مختلف، لكن الاختلاف كان للأسوأ.

رئيس الجمهورية قال قبل أيام للذين ينتقدون الحكومة، ما الذي قدمته الحكومات السابقة خلال ٣٤ عاما؟

فمصر حكومة الوفاق عاما واحدا... قال هكذا بالحرف؟ هذا يؤسفني جدا، ماذا قدم عبد ربه منصور. الحكومة السابقة هي

الحكومة اللاحقة.

البعض يقول إن الفترة قصيرة حتى يتم تقييم أداء حكومة الوفاق...

أقول لك الحكومة الجديدة ٣ وزراء، هم وزراء الحزب الاشتراكي اليمني وزير من حزب الحق، وزير من اتحاد القوى الشعبية، هؤلاء الجدد، أما الآخرين هم أنفسهم، تركيبة الحكومة هي نفسها السابقة واللاحقة، معناه إن المكونات التي كانت تحكم في عهد علي عبد الله صالح هي التي تحكم الآن، نفس المنظومة، الفساد هو الفساد، التقاسم هو التقاسم، الاستبداد هو الاستبداد وعدم تحمل المسؤولية. كل واحد يتكلم على الآخر، أنا أريد من وزير الكهرباء يقول لي ما هي الضمانات إنه لن يتم تفجير محطة الكهرباء غدا، هم قد فجروها ٢٠ مرة، ماذا عملت كي لا يتم تفجيرها مرة أخرى؟

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## 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.
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# In Haraz: Steps for qat-free Yemen



Project coordinators say it has taken the efforts of the whole community to remove the 270,000 trees that have been uprooted.

## Amira Nasser

Just over 90 kilometers west of Sana'a, Haraz district is close to achieving its goal of becoming the only qat-free area of Yemen. By enlisting the help of residence and focusing on alternatives to qat, the Qat Uprooting and Agricultural Development Project, has successfully replaced the mild-narcotic trees with coffee plants and other agricultural crops.

Taha Ali, a farmer from the Saut village in Haraz, who participated in the scheme, said he joined because qat did not provide him sustainable economic resources.

Qat is "a day for you and a day on you," he said.

Alqaed Jawhar Althuhra, the secretary of the project, said the focus was on inclusion and not coercion of farmers through education and awareness campaigns that increase inhabitant's awareness of the negative impacts of qat on Yemen's economic situation.

Since 2005, almost 270,000 qat trees have been uprooted.

Althuhra indicated that the project was not an easy ride, as farmers often met the project with hostility. He says they feared a loss of income if asked to quit growing trees.

However, by providing farmers with alternative sources of income - such as other saplings - and compensating them through the initial

period of transition, the project helped turn Haraz from a qat center, to a qat-free zone.

"We brought coffee, fruit and vegetable saplings, as well as pressing the government to build dams and water barrages in the district to facilitate cultivation," said Althuhra.

He also indicated that there is Al-Ezy factory based in Aser district, which is owned by one of the merchants interested in the project to help the farmers diversify their crops and produce "Haraz" coffee. This factory buys coffee beans for a competitive price and sells them on the international market for a profit, Al-Ezy said.

Ghaleb Qasem, a field supervisor for the project said the farmers in Haraz were cooperative once they were provided with alternatives to qat.

He added that members of the government also played a role in the project by visiting the district and facilitating the establishment of dams and water barrages and paving the roads in highlands to make it easier for the project to be implemented throughout Haraz district.

Taher Alharazi, a local in Haraz, expressed his happiness about the project.

"Haraz's residents are eager to achieve the project, which we have been working on for two years now."

## Greenhouse help

Taking over three years from the time it is planted until its first yield is harvested, coffee is a delicate plant to cultivate. With unpredictable and sudden drops in temperature throughout Haraz, many farmers worried about the sustainability of coffee cultivation. To counter this, the project provided farmers with greenhouses.

Mabrook Ibrahim, a farmer in Haraz, said farmers have used the greenhouses for other crops as well as coffee. Vegetables and fruits like cucumber, tomato and strawberry that require warmer environments to grow, are now being cultivated.

## Additional fund

Recently, the calls to combat qat farming and conduct campaigns to execute qat-banning laws have been raised by activists, youth and civil society organizations especially in governmental institutions via social communication websites.

A bill that has been introduced to Parliament is rooted in steps that lead to the gradual elimination of qat farming over a 21-year period, offering financial reimbursement to farmers who quit qat. The bill also includes a ban on qat chewing in public transportation, ministries, institutions, authorities, companies and different state apparatuses.

It further includes prevention of new qat farms and bind farmers to gradually get rid of the plants.

The bill has been met with controversy in Parliament and has yet to be ratified.

While some farmers like Adel Sadan in Bani Matar district, said they might be willing to follow the example of Haraz if presented with a tangible alternative, they are hesitant to give up their way of life easily.

Sadan is critical of anti-qat campaigns, calling them "elitist," and says the projects rarely provide the financial support necessary to help farmers find alternatives.



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- Aden Office, Located in Khour Makser, 02- 232271
- Hodiedah office, located in trading area, 03- 219383
- Haradh office, located in main road, 07- 245420

Please report at the reception desk. Tender documents will be issued at the logistics office between 9.00A.M to 4.00 PM. Tender documents will be issued from Saturday 09/02/2013 To 18/02/2013.

For more information please feel free to call on Tel numbers: 01- 444568/9.

Oxfam is not bound to accept any application or give reasons for rejection or acceptance.

## دعوة إلى تقديم العطاءات لتوريد مواد صحية

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- عدن الواقع في خور مكسر، 02 232271
- الحديدة، الحي التجاري، 03 219383
- حرض - الشارع العام، 07 245420

الرجاء التقدم الى مكتب الاستقبال بالمنظمة والحصول على وثائق المناقصة من قسم خدمات الإمداد والتأمين بالمنظمة من الساعة 9:00 صباحا وحتى الساعة 16:00 مساءً وستصدر وثائق المناقصة اعتباراً من يوم تاريخ 2013/02/09 حتى 2013/02/18.

لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال على الرقم: 01-444568/9

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Mamoud Motai'a, a farmer in Sana'a is one of self-described "qat lovers," who also questions the complete eradication of the crop in Ye-

men. "Qat is a part of Yemen's tradition, which we are supposed to proud of. Like other things, qat has advan-

tages and disadvantages," he said, adding that the leaf is used is economically important in employing citizens.

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## Unpaid electric bills cause headache for Electricity Corp.

**Ali Mosed Al-Moshki**

Revenue for the Public Electricity Corporation declined by 87 percent in 2012, the state-run organization said at a two day meeting held last week with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. They say this is largely due to unpaid bills. The corporation is owed YR69 billion, or almost \$321 million in unpaid electric bills from the past year.

Abdulrahman Saif Aqlan, the director of the Electricity Public Corporation, said citizens owe over half of the unpaid lump sum at YR39 billion, about \$181 million, and government institutions owe the remaining YR30 billion, about \$140 million.

"If senior officials don't pay the electricity bills, how will the ordinary locals pay?" said Saied Abd Al-Momin, a concerned citizen.

Aqlan said the government has

been providing the corporation with diesel to subsidize the cost of running power stations so the financial woes will not disrupt services.

However, there are delays in providing the diesel, which weakens electricity services, he said.

Al-Momin said locals do not pay their electric bills because of low enforcement on the part of the Electricity Public Corporation.

Yemen is notorious for electricity shortages. Power production in the country does not exceed 1,200 megawatts a month, below the country's need, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The Marib Gas Power Station, which produces about one third of that, has sustained 141 attacks since 2010, mostly from disgruntled tribesmen seeking revenge on the state. The attacks have led to repeated power outages in Sana'a.

## Potential national folklore carnival in infancy state

**Nadia Haddash**

A group of activists from WE CAN Initiative have launched a campaign that will introduce Yemeni folklore through a carnival to be held in Sana'a.

Those in charge of carnival have published their idea on social networking sites and media outlets to spur excitement about the event.

Rawan Saleh, one of the carnival organizers, said the idea behind the event is to unite people behind the goal of praising Yemen's culture and history. She says there has long been a need for such activities in the country.

"We are facing the challenge of organizing such a carnival, which is considered the first of its kind in Yemen," Saleh said.

According to the WE CAN Ini-

tiative, their goal is to involve all governorates and present the community with their unique histories, traditions, customs and folklore.

"This will be an arduous task and big challenge so we are dedicated to calling on everybody to help us implement the idea," said Mohammed Al-Samawi, a member of the Preparatory Committee.

The Ministries of Tourism, Culture and Media are all expected to help support the project.

Adel Al-lawzi, the director of the tourism office in Capital Secretariat said the idea is unique because it could bring Yemeni people together and could potentially give the country a boost in tourism after it has lagged in recent years due to security concerns.

## Yemen boasts huge hidden natural gas potential

**Amira Nasser**

The Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority estimated the potential volume of natural gas in Yemen to be a little over 18 billion cubic meters.

Adel Alhazmi, the general manager of exploration in the authority told the Yemen Times that between 80-85 percent of Yemen's natural gas is located in Marib governorate, with remaining reserves in Shabwa and Masila districts.

Abdulsalam Alkamel, the general manager of petroleum production in the authority, indicated that the current annual production of natural gas is estimated to be 2 billion cubic meters.

He added, with the gas industry opening up to private investment and public private partnerships, the foundations will be laid for

new investment frameworks that increase benefits to Yemenis.

With 80 percent of the current private sector investment in Marib, the government is also keen to open up other areas of the country.

"There are similar investment expectations in the Red Sea and the 'Moon Islands' basin in Mahra district," Alkamel further commented.

Talking about the progress made in petroleum and gas explorations, Alkamel said, "We are now witnessing exploration developments as there are five blocks of land where companies are currently searching for oil and gas resources".

He added that as long as the country's situation remains stable, petroleum and gas profits will be used to develop Yemen.

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