

Haya Water poised to give new lease of life to Muscat

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RO 1.3bn wastewater project is one of the most ambitious in ME: Omar

MUSCAT -- The Muscat Wastewater Project is one of the most ambitious projects of the Sultanate and one of the biggest in terms of fund allocation and expansion to such a project in whole of the Middle East. Giving this information, Omar bin Khalfan al Wahaibi, CEO of Haya Water, said RO 1.3 billion project is not only one of the biggest such projects in the Middle East, "the project is well diversified and limited not only to management of drain water in the Sultanate."

Dwelling upon the main driving force behind the project, Omar said, "Health of an individual and general health of citizen and residents of the Sultanate is our prime concern. The overflow of sewage water from tanks of private houses not only cause pollution and affect the beauty of cities, they are very dangerous from health point of view. They are carriers of many diseases and they need to be checked at the earliest," he said. "This project will build a network to transfer wastewater from individual premises to a central sewage treatment plant in Muscat in the most hygienic and eco-friendly manner.

The wastewater will then be recycled efficiently for landscaping and development work that will enhance the beauty of the city," said Omar and added "the company aspires to provide an environment-friendly atmosphere to the people of Oman." Established in December 2002 the company signed a concession agreement with the government that ends in 2036. The project would provide wastewater services to 80 per cent of Muscat population by 2014 and 90 per cent of the population would be covered under the project by 2017.

The beauty of the project lies in treatment of wastewater. The project is aimed at building and operating sewage treatment plants to treat generated wastewater of Muscat Governorate up to the national standards of treated wastewater and re-use them for general irrigation. The project also aims to build and operate treated wastewater distribution networks to use them for landscape irrigation and provide efficient and reliable wastewater services for customers. According to Omar, the Muscat Wastewater Scheme could broadly be divided into two parts: Wastewater Treatment Plants (STP) and Wastewater Networks.

Areas like Al Ansab, Seeb, New Darsait, Al Amerat, Al Hajir, Qurayat STP, and a package unit of villages Seeb, Bausher, Al Amerat and Greater Muttrah are covered under the Wastewater Treatment Plants. In terms of capacity Al Ansab would have a capacity of 55,000m³ per day with an additional expansion of 25,000m³ per day. Seeb would have 60,000m³ per day with an additional expansion of 20,000m³ per day. New Darsait STP would have 50,000m³ per day capacity and Al Amerat 10,000m³ per day. Al Hijor and Qurayat STP would have capacities of 10,000m³ per day and 6,500 m³ per day respectively.

The Wastewater Networks would have 270 kilometres of vacuum sewers (150mm to 350mm), 10 vacuum stations (10 to 50 l/s), 1700-km of gravity/ trunk sewers (100 to 900mm), 25-km rising mains (180 to 900mm dimension), 25 pumping stations (50 to 150 l/s), 42.4-km micro tunnelling (200 to 200mm dimension) onshore 7-km and offshore 9-km sea outfall pipelines from STPs and 200,000 house connections by 2035.

Commenting on factors behind wastewater re-use in Oman, Omar said, "water scarcity and depletion of groundwater, increase in population, expansion in agriculture and landscape beautification are some of the important factors." Besides them, availability of wastewater and its diversion from a source of pollution to source of prosperity were also the force behind the project, he said.

(Zawya)