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Al Mazunah, a desert turned into a thriving city



Al Mazunah - :

The Wilayat of Al Mazunah gains its significance from its strategic location on the Omani-Yemeni borders, standing as the Gulf gateway for the transit trade to the Republic of Yemen. The establishment of Al Mazunah Free Zone reflects the distinguished relation between the two countries, which contributes to boosting the economic traffic on both sides of the borders.

In this supplement, the editorial team of  Magazine strives to enlighten the readers with the different investment opportunities and growth being witnessed in Al Mazunah Free Zone. A highlight to the Wilayat of Al Mazunah, which was a desert turned into a thriving city by the blessed renaissance, was presented in the supplement.

Shrout Rock, a prominent archaeological monument in Al Mazunah






المنطقة الحرة بالمزونة
AL MAZUNAH FREE ZONE

15.3km²
المزونة
AL MAZUNAH



استكشف المناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والحرة في عُمان

وجهاتكم الأمثل للإستثمار

EXPLORE OMAN'S ECONOMIC AND FREE ZONES

DESTINATIONS OF CHOICE

الاستثمارات الجديدة للقطاع الخاص في عام ٢٠٢٠
NEW INVESTMENTS OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN 2020

الإجمالي
TOTAL
6,8
مليون ريال عماني
RO MILLION

تجاري
COMMERCIAL
580
الف ريال عماني
RO THOUSAND

لوجستي
LOGISTICS
5,5
مليون ريال عماني
RO MILLION

صناعي
INDUSTRIAL
700
الف ريال عماني
RO THOUSAND



سلطنة عمان
OMAN

إبدأ استثمارك في أرض الفرص
BRING YOUR INVESTMENTS
TO THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

المشروعات قيد الإنشاء
UNDER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
36

المشروعات المنتجة
PRODUCTIVE PROJECTS
74

إجمالي عدد المشروعات:
TOTAL PROJECTS:

عدد الشاحنات التي استخدمت تسهيلات الميناء
TRUCKS BENEFITED FROM THE PORT
35
ألف شاحنة
THOUSAND TRUCKS

كمية البضائع المتناولة
QUANTITY OF HANDLED GOODS
540
ألف طن
THOUSAND TONNES

ميناء المزونة البري
AL MAZUNAH LAND PORT

Al Mazunah, a desert turned into a thriving city

**Al Mazunah message from:
Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Shezawi**

**Pictures by:
Saleh bin Nabhan Al Mamari**

In 1992, when the borders between the Sultanate and the Republic of Yemen was demarcated, there was no people living there, which afterward became the Wilayat of Al Mazunah.

The Wilayat of Al Mazunah is one of the ten wilayats of Dhofar Governorate, located about 260 km away from Salalah and 1125 km away from the Governorate of Muscat. It can be reached through Muscat – Salalah Road by turning right after the second roundabout in the Wilayat of Thumrait. Al Mazunah is around 19 km away from Thumrait.

The road to Al Mazunah was quiet and peaceful, despite having many trucks crossing the road. Drivers could stop for a while on the way at Niyabat Moudi in the Wilayat of Thumrait to have a rest before continuing to Al Mazunah.

Al Mazunah is distinguished by its strategic location on the Omani - Yemeni borders, standing as the Gulf gateway for the transit trade to the Republic of Yemen. Establishing the free zone in Al Mazunah came as a testament of the distinguished relations between the two countries in a way that contributes to the recovery of the economy on both sides of the borders.

In this profile, the editorial team of Duqm Economist Magazine seeks to introduce the readers to the free zone in Al Mazunah in terms of growth and available investment opportunities. Al Mazunah was just a barren desert before it experiences aspects of the blessed renaissance, turning it into a prosperous city. Today, it hosts all government services, diverse economic activities, two branches of local banks and a number of hotel apartments, in addition to shops, restaurants and cafes, which witness an active business and turn out throughout the week.



Telecommunication networks are available all the way to Al Mazunah



Camera of Duqm Economist captures a picture of people at Al Mazunah



Al Mazunah Free Zone, the Gulf gateway for the transit trade to the Republic of Yemen



Deputy Wali of Al Mazunah speaks to Sultan Qaboos named the Wilayat of Al Mazunah, aspiring for being a prosperous city

A general view of Al Mazunah shows one of the public schools

Al Mazunah - :

Sheikh Musallam bin Mohammed Zabanoot, Deputy Wali of Al Mazunah, highly commended the comprehensive development and renaissance witnessed in the Wilayat. In an interview with Duqm Economist Magazine, he stated, "The late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said - May Allah rest his soul in peace - was the one who named the Wilayat of Al Mazunah after the boarders' demarcation between Oman and Yemen. At that time, there were no people living here, but Omanis were residing in the Niyabat of Shehn, which belonged to the Sultanate before the demarcation of borders".


"Post the demarcation in 1992, those Omanis moved to this current location in 1996, which afterward had been called by the late Sultan "Al Mazunah". This name reflects his aspiring for the would be future prosperous city.


Al Mazunah remained as Niyabat affiliated with the office of the Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar until 2006 when the Royal Decree No. 2006/13 was issued to upgrade the administrative level of Al Mazunah to be Wilayat" The Deputy Wali explained.

Development services

He pointed out that the Wilayat of Mazunah is among the largest wilayats in terms of population density in the desert areas of the Dhofar Governorate. According to 2020 electronic census, its population reached about 8,400 people, ranking fifth in terms of population in the Dhofar Governorate, which includes 10 Wilayats. Omanis mark %86.9 of the total population in the Wilayat of Al Mazunah.

Commenting on the urban development


The establishment of Al Mazunah Free Zone contributed to the Wilayat's economic boom


Al Mazunah is a stopover for investors and traders and there are multiple investment opportunities



The main road in the Wilayat of Al Mazunah



Deputy Wali of Al Mazunah during his interview with the Editor-In-Chief

in Al Mazunah, the Deputy Wali stated, "Al Mazunah, which is about 260 km from the city of Salalah, has received various government services, especially in the field of education, health, municipal and housing services. Last year, the Tender Board awarded a project to establish a hospital in the Wilayat of Al Mazunah at a cost of OMR 15.3 million, standing as a new addition to the healthcare services in the Wilayat. In the education front, there are 9 government schools and a private school. The Wilayat and its affiliated Niyabats have also witnessed the distribution of about 632 houses granted by the Government to Omanis".

Economic boom

The Deputy Wali of Al Mazunah confirmed that the establishment of the free zone in Al Mazunah contributed to the economic recovery of the Wilayat. Trade traffic between the Sultanate and Yemen passes through this free zone and many investors, traders

and truck owners stop in Al Mazunah before heading to Yemen or the other Wilayats of the Sultanate. This has contributed to an increase in the demand for utilities, hotels and restrooms as well as caused a recovery of other economic sectors. He also stressed that the locals at Al Mazunah depend a lot on Al Mazunah Free Zone to attract investments and provide more job opportunities.

"We have high aspirations for an increase of economic activity more than what is currently being witnessed in light of the future plans of Oman Vision 2040, thanks to the visionary leader His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik", addressed the Deputy Wali of Al Mazunah.

Economic and tourist factors

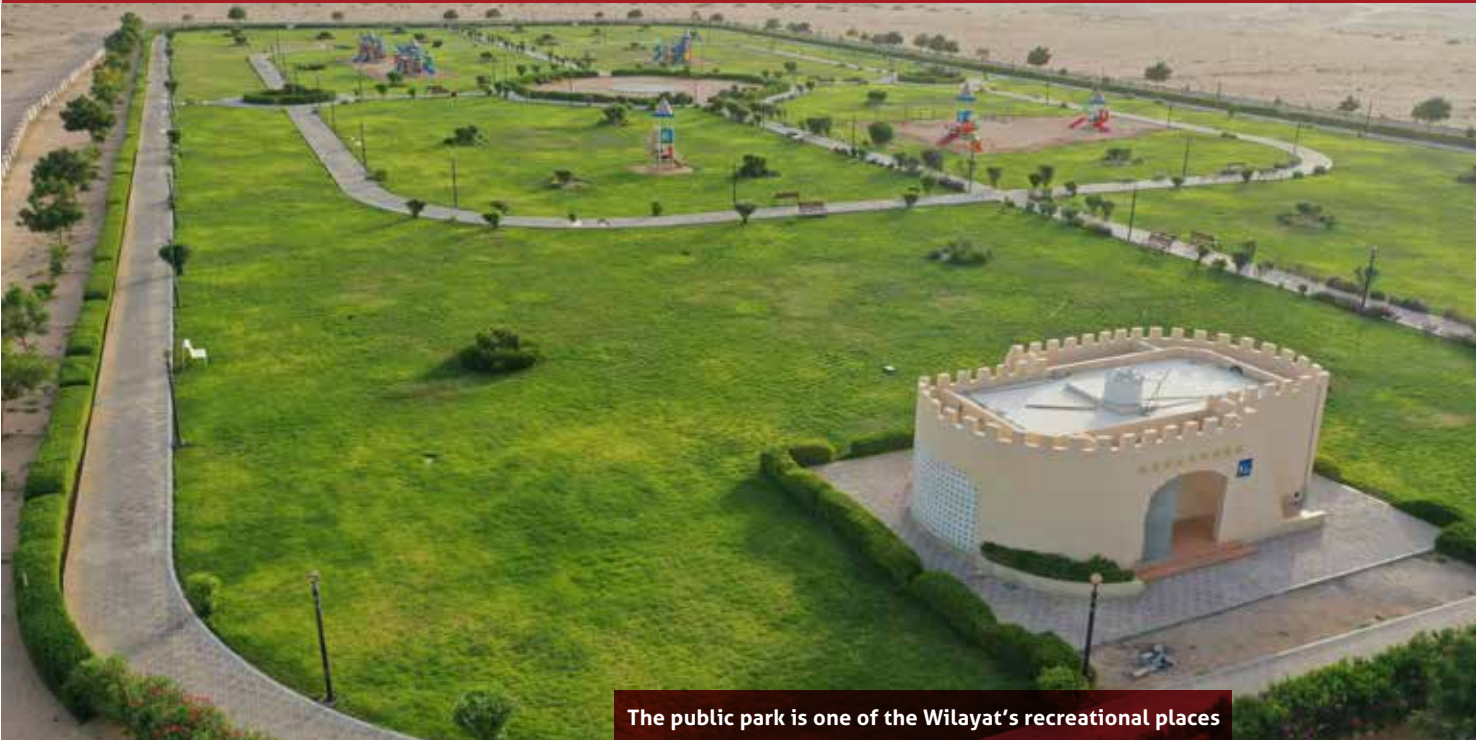
Sheikh Musallam bin Mohammed Zabanoot, Deputy Wali of Al Mazunah, highlighted the different economic and tourist components of the Wilayat, which includes 3 Niyabats: Harweeb, Tusnat, and Metin, in addition to

Citizens depend a lot on the free zone to attract investment and provide more job opportunities

The Habrut Triangle, Ramla Jadela and Shrouf Rock are the most prominent tourist attractions in Al Mazunah



These pictures show the active commercial traffic in Al Mazunah



The public park is one of the Wilayat's recreational places


The topographic diversity introduce many potentials for investment

the Andat Centre and Hebrout Triangle, in which the historic Hebrout Castle is located. As well, there are people living in a place called Hurut, located in the southeast from the centre of the Wilayat and there is an archaeological site called Musanin.

Each Niyabat is characterised by a number of competitive advantages; Harweeb, for instance, is distinguished by having a number of water springs and Wadi Harweeb, which is linked to Wadi Aidem, one of the largest valleys in Dhofar Governorate. However, Tusnat is a pastoral area in which valleys are abundant, while Mitten is famous for its location on the outskirts of the Empty Quarter Desert and covered mostly by sand dunes and is known for Ramla Jadela, whose height is 455 metres above the sea level.

This site has attracted many tourists from within and outside the Sultanate inside and outside the Sultanate. Recently, a number of archaeological remnants, dating back

to the ancient times of humanity, have been discovered there, according to the specialists. The Wilayat of Al Mazunah is also home for many other tourist attractions, such as Shrouf Rock, a prominent geological and historical landmark.

Plains and green lush

The Deputy Wali of Al Mazunah, pointed out that the topographic diversity of the Al Mazunah, including mountains, valleys, sand dunes and vast plains, introduced different potentials for investment. The Wilayat is famous for having rich animal wealth, especially camels and sheep, and it is characterised by rich fertile plains that are good for farming. In this regard, he referred to the experience of a citizen in establishing a model farm full of different vegetables, fruits and date palms. This indicates that Al Mazunah is good for planting all kinds of crops.



New residential units that will be distributed to citizens soon

Shrout Rock, a prominent archaeological monument in Al Mazunah



Al Mazunah -  :

Shrout Rock stands out in the Wilayat of Al Mazunah as one of the most important tourist, archaeological, geological and historical landmarks. The Rock was known in the past as a meeting place for camel caravans crossing the region and where tribes used to hold their meetings under its shade.

The Rock is still of high significance to the people of Al Mazunah for it is considered one of the meeting hubs there, witnessing different events and functions, including weddings.

The Rock, which is about 6 km away from the centre of Al Mazunah, is distinguished by its wide, round body. In view of that, it can be seen from a long distance due to its location in the middle of a flat ground.



We focus on attracting international investors and strengthening partnership with the Yemenis



Al Mazunah -  :

Said bin Abdullah Al Balushi, Director General of Al Mazunah Free Zone, confirmed that the Zone's future plan focuses on attracting international investors, strengthening partnership with Yemeni investors and establishing projects in the field of storing re-exported goods. The plan also includes implementing the fourth development phase with an area of 4 million sqm, bringing a diverse group of economic sectors, most notably the industrial sector.


The completed development phases reflect the Zone's ability to achieve economic recovery on both sides of Omani-Yemeni borders

In his interview with Duqm Economist Magazine, Al Balushi said that the area is operated and managed by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) and has over the past years, worked on three phases of development that have contributed to proving the Zone's ability to achieve economic recovery on both sides of the Omani-Yemeni borders, where the Omani city of Al Mazunah and the Yemeni city of Shehn are located.

Al Balushi also stressed that the Zone, which marks the Gulf gateway to the transit trade to the Republic of Yemen and from there to the countries of East Africa, has been able, since inception in late 1999 as the first free zone in the Sultanate, to increase the intra-trade traffic between the two countries. It also encourages Yemeni capital to invest in the Al Mazunah Free Zone, as it has created many opportunities for Omani investment for growth.

Three development phases

Said bin Abdullah Al Balushi said that the free zone in Al Mazunah, which covers an area of more than 15.3 million sqm, has witnessed a number of development phases. Initially, prior to the Royal Decree No. (2005/103) to establish a free zone in Al Mazunah and command its operation and development of services to Madayn, the industrial focus has been on the traffic of trade, import and export. However, post issuing the aforementioned Royal Decree, the Zone received more attention and Madayn began preparing plans for its development.

During the past years, 3 development phases were launched in which the infrastructure needed by the Zone was established to be able to attract investments such as internal road networks with lighting, construction of sidewalks, pedestrian paths, electricity, water and communications networks, water tanks, fire extinguishing systems, sanitation





Main gate of Al Mazunah Free Zone

services, and water drainage channels. A rest building for truck drivers was also constructed during their layover in the Zone. Madayn is currently working on other projects there; among the most prominent is the services and facilities building project, which is being constructed with a total building area of more than 11,000 sqm.

Development agreements

The Director General of Al Mazunah Free Zone remarked that during the past years the Zone had signed 3 major development agreements. The first agreement was signed with the Hala Golden Trading and Contracting Company to develop 3 million sqm of the area. The second was agreed with the Logistic City Company to manage and operate the land port, while the third was with Shumookh Investment and Services Company aimed at constructing the mixed-use services building.

74 productive projects

He explained that, by the end of first quarter

of this year, the number of productive projects in the Zone reached 74 projects, most notably Al Mazunah water bottling factory, the paper tissue production factory, and the restaurant ovens production factory, noting that most of these projects are destined for export outside the Sultanate.

36 under construction projects

He commented that the number of projects under construction is 36, of which 13 are being established during the development phase of the Golden Hala Company, stressing that most of these projects are in the final stages of the construction process.

Economic gains

Said bin Abdullah Al Balushi, Director General of Al Mazunah Free Zone, touched on the economic gains achieved by the Zone. He also noted that the Zone has contributed to enhancing intra-trade between the Sultanate and Yemen, and promoting activities related to import and export, car showrooms,

◆◆◆
 The Zone covers 15.3 million sqm and the available job opportunities exceed 1040

◆◆◆
 Implementing the fourth phase of development with an area of 4 million sqm comes within future plans

◆◆◆
 productive 74 projects in the Zone and 36 are under construction





Commercial centre is the first building in Al Mazunah Free Zone

◆◆◆
 The Zone contributed to boosting intra-trade between the Sultanate and Yemen and created many opportunities for local capitals

warehouses, and commercial agencies. This led to the establishment of many companies operating in the activities of import and export, customs clearance and handling.

In regards to crating job opportunities, he explained that the Zone has contributed to providing many job opportunities for the people of Al Mazunah. Around 1040 job opportunities have been provided by the projects operating in the Zone. In addition, the Zone also sponsors many activities and conducts training programmes for higher education students as part of their academic courses and graduation projects.

An invitation for investment

In his closing note, Said bin Abdullah Al Balushi, Director General of Al Mazunah Free Zone, stressed the invitation to investors from the Sultanate, Yemen, other Arab countries

as well as international investors explore investment opportunities in the Zone. In view of this, Al Mazunah Free Zone enjoys a wide range of incentives and exemptions such as tax exemption for up to 30 years, customs exemption, and projects %100 ownership for non-Omanis, exemption from the minimum capital stipulated in the Companies Law, in addition to facilitating and simplifying procedures for non-GCC investors to obtain residency in the Sultanate.

The Zone is also characterised by special incentives such as easy access for Yemeni individuals, shoppers and investors without entry visas, and facilitating the work of the Yemeni workforce in the Zone without a work visa, in addition to it proximity to the Yemeni markets because they are located directly on the borders.

◆◆◆
 Activating the fields related to import and export, car showrooms, merchandise stores and commercial agencies



Advantages of investing in Al Mazunah Free Zone

1

Allowing goods to be imported to the Zone without an import permit.

Exemption from the minimum invested capital requirement stipulated in the Commercial Companies Law or any other law.

2

3

Allowing the Yemeni workforce to work in the Zone without obtaining an entry or permanent residency visas in the Sultanate.

Low Omanisation rate of %10 as the company is subject to the Sultanate's Labor Law.

4

5

Relying on the customs data issued by the Yemeni customs centre of the Zone's Customs Department for the purpose of entering the goods coming from the Republic of Yemen without the need to pass to Al Mazunah Customs Department is considered.

The issuance of certificates of origin (free zone products) or (foreign origin) by the Zone.

6

7

Obtaining work permits and entry visas for investors and their workers through the one-stop shop system.

Allowing the establishment of a commercial representative office for the company within the customs territory, provided that it is registered in accordance with the Commercial Registry Law.

8

9

Allowing goods to be imported into the zone without an import permit.

One-stop shop to provide all services to investors



Al Mazunah - :

The Investors Services Department (One-Stop Shop) in Al Mazunah Free Zone provides all services related to the permits required for projects that are established in Al Mazunah Free Zone.

The One-Stop Shop was established according to the requirements of Article (1) of the Free Zones Law promulgated by the Royal Decree No. (2002/56) and the regulatory bylaw issued by Decision No. (2010/22) to establish a system through which all licenses, permits, approvals, and visas are issued and registration procedures are completed. As well, other procedures are completed through the same system, including registration of operating company and the implementation of all rules and regulations related to both the operating entity and the companies operating in accordance with the Free Zones Law.

Al Mazunah Free Zone Management is working with the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) to implement the first phase

of the unified system for One-Stop Shop, which includes SEZAD and the free zones in Sohar, Salalah and Al Mazunah.

The system aims to accelerate the completion of investors applications related to commercial registration and all permits required by investment projects and companies operating in the free zone in Al Mazunah. This comes according to the Royal Decree No. (2020/105), which stipulated the implementation of One-Stop Shop system in the special economic and free zones. Further, the Royal Decree granted OPAZ the powers to issue all types of licenses, approvals and certificates related to conducting economic activities in the these zones. The One-Stop Shop in Al Mazunah Free Zone strives to reduces efforts, cost and time, and simplifies procedures for companies operating in the Zone, so investors could only have one focal entity to obtain all services.



The Services Building built over 11,000 sqm



Al Mazunah - :

Al Mazyona Free Zone is currently witnessing the development of the mixed-use service building, which is constructed by Shumookh Investment and Services Company, at a cost of more than OMR 3 million. The building is built over an area of over 11,000 sqm.

The building, which is expected to be completed next year, brings all services and facilities required by investment operations in Al Mazunah Free Zone. It introduces these operations to investors, business owners, auditors and customers in one place. This will create an added value for the Zone that works on integrating services, speeding up

the pace of business and facilitating procedures for completing transactions.

The project will be developed in two phases; the first phase includes 4 floors, while in the second phase two floors will be added according to the market's need at that time.

The building is located before the main gate of the Zone in a prime location that is easy to see, access and benefit from its services without the need to get inside the Zone. The project includes a multi-purpose hall, an office for the service centre - a path, restaurants, office spaces for import and export, and a free space for investment.





Misbah Qutb

An Egyptian writer specialised in economic affairs

mesbahkotb@gmail.com

The lost prospects

It is very normal for free zones located on the borders of countries to be different from those located inside, as every scenario has its own setting. Places clearly indicate that there is a difference in the nature of business and the objectives between the free zones.

As well, there are other differences in a percentage of cases between free border zones - which are the focus of this article - from each other even if they are within the same country. This is attributed to the neighbor, who falls on this border differs from the one on the other boarder, unless the country has a one neighbor only, which is a rare case, of course.

All data indicate that a free border zone can only succeed if there is mutual need and sustainability that justifies the investment cost that will be spent between the two countries sharing boarders, clear cooperation, and open prospects for more areas of exchange. We all recall the obstacles that prevented the establishment of a free zone between Egypt and Palestine, close to Gaza due to the unfortunate disagreement between Palestinians. However, all objective reasons that require its establishment and all the success factors are available.

It is also noteworthy that most of the free zones over the boarders, across the whole world, are mainly commercial, and are based on storage, warehouses, car showrooms or equipment, and logistics. Perhaps, there are some other simple manufacturing operations, not the industrial ones of course; such as sorting, packaging and canning. Such a free zone is could only be industrial if it enjoys a unique geographical location with very competitive advantages on one side or both sides of the zone.

As a theoretical example that if there is a mining industry on one side or having on the opposite side directly the possibility to establish manufacturing business for raw materials from which new products could be manufactured instead of transporting raw material or even making new investments to manage manufacturing it.

It is also noted that one of the most important success factors for the free zones is that being located close to a port or an airport and to be linked to a strong transport network or even a single strategic road. Al

Mazunah Free Zone stands a good example here, since its inception in 1999 between the Sultanate of Oman and Yemen.

The interesting thing is that the one might attribute the strong trade activity in Al Mazunah to the deadly war taking place in Yemen and the consequent increase in the needs of Yemenis for food, medicine, clothing, building materials, cars and in return their demand to import or export their agriculture and fish products overseas through Port of Salalah by Al Mazunah.

In addition, all international relief organisations are in need to offload aids in Salalah and then transport it to Yemen via Al Mazunah to be delivered to Yemen and distributed across the country there.

Moreover, one might think that Al Mazunah is just a temporary zone due to the crisis, which is totally not true. The history of its inception itself proves that, and in fact that Al Mazunah is a significant focal point to both countries, serving intra-regional trade and Yemeni trade to oversees on the other hand. I believe that it will take a long time before any party thinks about trying to build a different geographical equation through human action to change this reality, with its mountains and desert and in its complex relationship with the sea. Al Mazunah is more than 260 km far from the Port of Salalah.

The same is true for shipping as it is located in the upper northeast of Yemen, and far from the sea, and there is no indication that this distance can be challenged or linked to a Yemeni port that is closer than the Port of Salalah.

Assuming that Yemen could witness an extensive reconstruction and establishment of infrastructure, but we have not heard of any plans for establishing Yemeni ports close to the sea and heading to the Sultanate of Oman to be as an alternative to Al Mazunah or even compete with it.

However, it is only possible if the traditional Yemeni ports came back. This could only affect Al Mazunah in some aspects, but it opens other horizons for Al Mazunah because the condition of Yemen, its people, their production, consumption and trade at the time will be much better, and this will strengthen the status of Al Mazunah in the business of shipping.

1

Investment process in Al Mazunah Free Zone

Submitting the investment application online (www.mfz.om).

2

The application will be directly transferred to the one-stop shop:

- If the application is completed, an employee from the one-stop shop will complete the verification procedure and transfer the application for the initial approval.
- If the application is incomplete or there are deficiencies, the investor shall be informed to complete the required documents.

3

Post verification process, the application is presented for review and notifying the investor about the application's approval or rejection **within 3 working days**.

4

Upon approval of the application, the investor is called to inspect the land plot, sign the usufruct contract, issue the commercial register, handing the land krooki to the investor and the investor shall submit a timeline showing the period of land development to the Zone's Management.

7

The investor obtains a building completion certificate after completing the works on the project, provided that the project's insurance certificate is attached.

6

After approving the engineering plans, the investor obtains a building permit to start the construction works of the project.

5

After signing the usufruct contract, the investor, through the engineering consultancy office, sends the maps and engineering designs to the Zone's Management for approval.

8

The company obtains a license to practice the business activity after obtaining the building completion certificate.



Al Mazunah Land Port, the beating heart of the free zone



Al Mazunah - :

In April 2020, Al Mazunah Free Zone Management signed an agreement with Al Madina Logistics Company to establish a specialised company to manage and operate the land port. This agreement aims at developing and improving services related to customs inspection and handling of goods to increase the flow of commercial traffic between the Sultanate and the Republic of Yemen.

The agreement includes improving and developing the system of logistics operations in the Zone in general and ensuring the flow of goods and containers, in a way that contributes to increasing the smooth flow of goods and containers handling in import and export operations to serve suppliers, exporters and various economic sectors.

Accordingly, Al Madina Logistics Company established the Al Mazunah Land Port Company to develop and provide these services, as well as to facilitate commercial traffic with high standards and quality.

Creating an added value

Hassan bin Ihsan Al Naseeb, Chairman of Al Madina Logistics Duqm Company, confirmed that partnering with "Madayn" Group and Al Mazunah Free Zone to manage, operate and develop the customs yard comes within the framework of being a specialised and experienced national company in managing dry ports. He stressed that the Company is working to create added values for the suppliers and exporters.



**Hassan bin Ihsan Al Naseeb:
Creating added values for
suppliers and exporters through
Al Mazunah Land Port**

Marketing the provided services

Mahmood bin Sakhi Al Balushi, CEO of Al Madina Logistics Services Company, commended the efforts made by the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones to develop the services system and work on its integration with the private sector to provide value-added services to the special economic zones and free zones in the field of supply chain and logistics services.

"Al Madina Logistics Services Company is one of the pioneering national companies specialised in managing land ports. The Company established the first land port in the Sultanate and its services were launched

Developing the logistics system in the Zone and ensuring the flow of goods and containers



Khalil Al Balushi: The Land Port connects the ports of the Sultanate and the northern land ports with the Republic of Yemen



Mahmood Al Balushi: Marketing the land port services in coordination with government bodies and shipping and navigation agencies

in 2010. As well, the Company is coordinating with its partners in the sector to market the added services provided by Al Mazunah Free Zone in cooperation with the concerned government bodies, as well as shipping and navigation agencies”, commented the CEO.

Growing shipping and handling services

Khalil bin Abdullah Al Balushi, Director General of Land Ports and Business Development at Al Madina Logistics Services Company, confirmed that the land port in Al Mazunah is witnessing growth in shipping, handling and associated logistics services.

Al Balushi pointed out that the land port in Al Mazunah Free Zone is an important addition to the Zone and is considered its beating heart and a great supporter of commercial traffic by connecting the land port with other ports in the Sultanate and the northern land ports of the Republic of Yemen through Al Mazunah Free Zone.

Through the land port, inspection services are provided for exported and imported

goods, and providing services to investors, exporters and importers across the free zone. As well, refrigerated warehouses for food products will be provided and developed, in addition to providing services with international standards through computer systems and providing data and statistics on commercial traffic.

Supporting SMEs

Since starting its operations in June 2020, Al Mazunah Land Port Company signed a number of contracts with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to provide a number of services, including providing manpower in the field of handling at the customs station, providing meals for workers, auditors and employees at the station, providing offices for companies and customs clearance offices. Moreover, other contracts are related to selecting establishments to provide handling equipment services, other establishments that provide grocery, café and fast food services at the station.

Providing agricultural and veterinary quarantine services, inspection of exported and imported goods



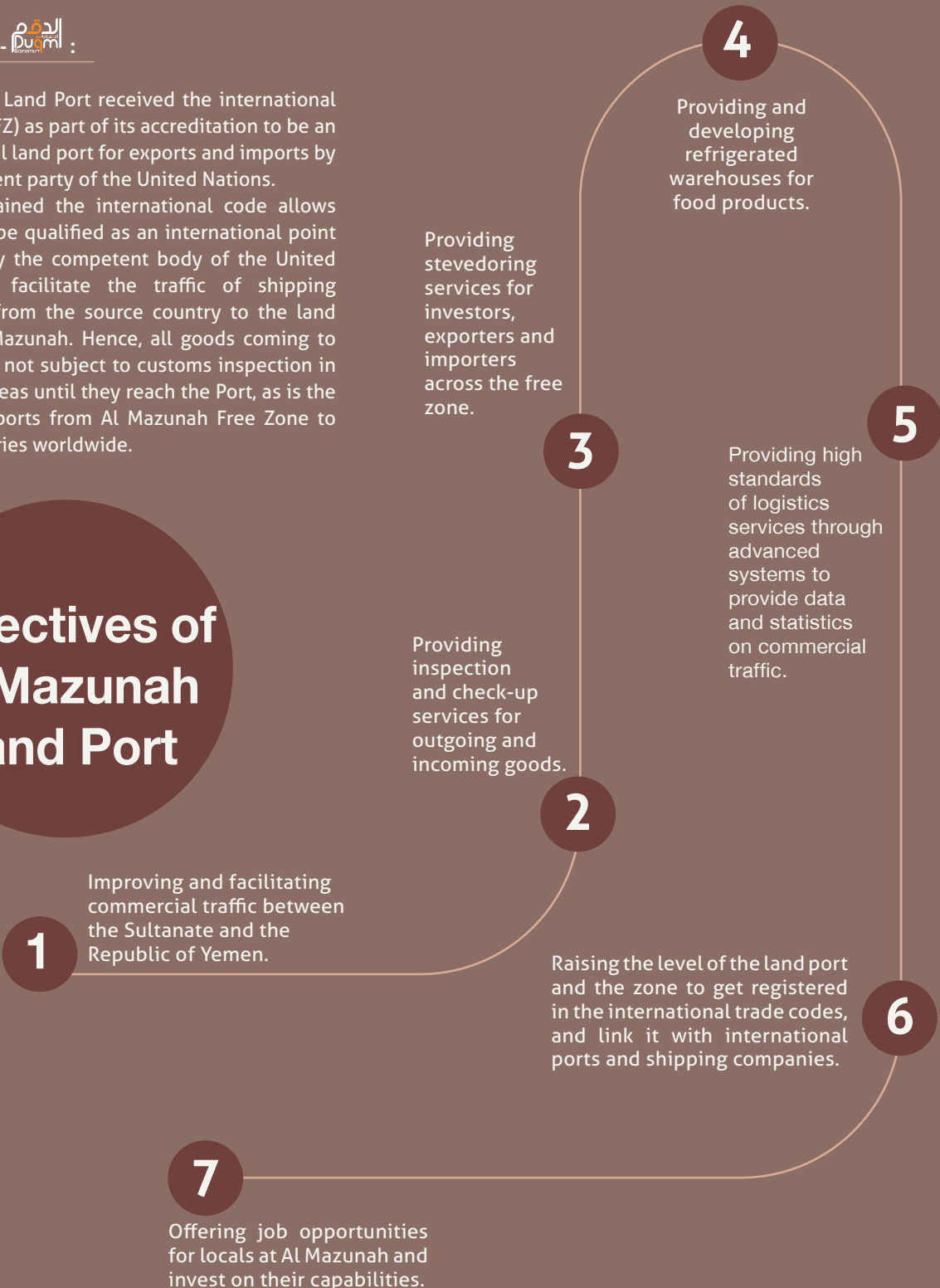
In the pipeline to be accredited as an international land port by the competent party of the United Nations

Al Mazunah Land Port receives an international code for container transport

Al Mazunah -  :

Al Mazunah Land Port received the international code (OMMFZ) as part of its accreditation to be an international land port for exports and imports by the competent party of the United Nations. Having obtained the international code allows the Port to be qualified as an international point approved by the competent body of the United Nations to facilitate the traffic of shipping containers from the source country to the land port in Al Mazunah. Hence, all goods coming to the Port are not subject to customs inspection in all transit areas until they reach the Port, as is the case for exports from Al Mazunah Free Zone to other countries worldwide.

Objectives of Al Mazunah Land Port



Al Mazunah Land Port receives 540,000 tonnes of cargo in 9 months



Faiz Qumsit: The Port witnesses active traffic and we receives 170 trucks daily at peak times



One of the customers processing his transaction at the One-Stop Shop in the land port

Al Mazunah - :

Since starting its operations on June 2020, until the end of last March, the land port in Al Mazunah Free Zone received over 540,000 tonnes of exports and imports, loaded on 35,000 trucks.

Faiz Awaidan Qumsit, Operations Supervisor at Al Mazunah Land Port, said, "The Port witnesses a daily active traffic. It receives an average of 100 trucks daily, while at peak times the number reaches 170. The Directorate General of Customs makes great efforts along with other government bodies, handling good inspection operations prior the importing or exporting companies obtain customs release data. The inspection process of each truck and delivering its customs declaration takes less than 30 minutes" He explained.

Faiz Qumsit is from the Wilayat of Al Mazunah and one of those who benefited from the job opportunities provided by Al Mazunah Free Zone. He joined the company after obtaining a Bachelor's degree in International Business Administration from the Netherlands.

Goods diversity

Qumsit said that the land port receives different goods like cars, fish, fruits and vegetables, and food and consumer goods. Exporting fish through the port is of high interest to importers and exporters, as more than 2,146 fish trucks carrying over 16,000 tonnes have been received, exporting fish outside Oman through the ports of Salalah, Sohar and other land ports. More than 2,000 truckloads of agricultural products of fruits and vegetables with a load of about 50,000 tonnes were received in the port.

One-Stop Shop services

The Company attends exporters and importers in the land port through One-Stop Shop, located in the customs yard. It serves customers and investors in the Zone in cooperation with the Directorate General of Customs, Al Mazunah Free Zone Management and other government bodies concerned with the release of shipments of foodstuffs, vegetables and fruits and food safety.


Goods are smoothly cleared by the Directorate General of Customs


The One-Stop Shop provides all necessary services to exporters and importers across the Port

Omani cadres manage all port's operations

Al Mazunah - :

Al Mazunah Land Port Company has employed 10 young Omani cadres from the Wilayat of Al Mazunah, trained them on the systems used in managing land ports and familiarised them with the operations being conducted by the company. Those cadres are now managing the day-to-day operations of the Port. This marks a great added value to this project in terms of providing job opportunities for Omanis and benefiting from their capabilities.



A number of Omani employees on duty at the land port

One is for water and another for producing paper tissue

Manahel Al Saeed invests OMR 2 million to establish two factories in Al Mazunah



The provided facilities encouraged the Company to invest in the Zone

Al Mazunah's location on the Omani-Yemeni borders facilitates the quick reach of our products to the target markets

Al Mazunah -

Manahel Al Saeed Company is one of those companies investing in Al Mazunah Free Zone by setting up two factories; one for bottling water and another for producing paper tissue. Eng. Mohammed Jamal, Operations Manager at the Company, said that the volume of investment in these two projects is about OMR 2 million.

In an interview with Duqm Economist Magazine, he described the Company's investment in the factories as a feasible and successful investment. "The products have received good attention in the markets since starting production in late 2019. We are expecting the Company to reach the break-even point by the end of this year", He explained.

He also noted that choosing Al Mazunah Free Zone to establish the two factories was highly attracted by the facilities provided by the Zone and its proximity to the Republic of Yemen, which marks the main market for the Company's products. As well, products are also mostly promoted in the Dhofar



Mohammed Jamal: Our investment is successful and Company's products are of interest to customers in the Sultanate and Yemen

Governorate, where products are very well-received by consumers there.

Water bottling factory

Commenting on Al Mazunah Water Factory, Eng. Mohammed Jamal, Operations Manager at Manahel Al Saeed Company, said: "The Company has two production lines with a production capacity of about 6000 cartoons of water per day, branded as "Mazunah". The bottles of water are categorised into 4



An employee is checking the production line at water bottling factory

different sizes that are 33ml, 600ml, 760ml and 1.5 liters, which are all very well-received by consumers”.

The Operations Manager stressed on the Company's keenness to always ensure providing quality bottled water through the Company's water quality laboratories, as the produced water is examined regularly to comply with the Omani and GCC standard specifications.

“Most of the factory's products are promoted in the Republic of Yemen, while some products are directed to Al Mazunah markets and other Wilayats in Dhofar Governorate. The Company has a plan to increase its products in the Sultanate's markets during the coming period” stated the Operations Manager.

Al Mazunah paper tissue factory

Eng. Mohammed Jamal, Operations Manager at Manahel Al Saeed Company, touched on Al Mazunah Paper Tissue Factory, which produces about 8,000 packages per day. The Factory was opened in late 2019 and its products are well received in export markets. The Company will, during the coming period, develop the production line to be fully automated”, He explained.

He praised the potentials of Al Mazunah Free Zone, which is located on the Omani-Yemeni borders. The location of the Zone contributes to the quick reach of our products to the Yemeni markets, which are the main markets for the Company's products.

◆◆◆
 Checking the produced water regularly to ensure compliance with Omani and GCC standards

◆◆◆
 Soon to have an automated paper tissue production line



Employees of the paper tissue factory are categorising products before storing them



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

On the way to Al Mazunah

(1)

As we reached Al Mazunah, it was around four in the afternoon, so we headed directly to the hotel to check-in and afterward started our tour in this city, which we are visiting for the first time. We had the thrill of exploring the city since we pushed off from Salalah, while looking at the billboards, reading the names of the villages we were passing by on the way; some of which were familiar while others were new to us.

(2)

The road was quiet despite the trucks and cars heading towards or returning from Al Mazunah. On the way, we were attracted by the Niyabat of Moudi in the Wilayat of Thumrait, where we stopped for a short break. We enjoyed shopping in a foodstuff store, which was full of goods despite its far distance from the city of Salalah.

(3)

We were very motivated to explore the city before the sunset of our first day in Al Mazunah, which enjoys all aspects of development, education, health and economy while being located at the farthest borders of Oman. Actually, we have been surprised of meeting one of the young Omanis from Al Mazunah, a newly graduated citizen from the Netherlands in International Business Administration. He works as a Supervisor of Al Mazunah Land Port, one of the most important facilities in Al Mazunah Free Zone. Many other examples of young Omanis from Al Mazunah working in different public and private establishments.

(4)

On the first day, we visited the public park in Al Mazunah and roamed around the local markets. We were very much attracted by the artistic coffee booths on the roadsides. This was a quick city tour before starting our second day on duty in Al Mazunah.

(5)

Over the last two days of our visit, we got to know more about the people of Al Mazunah, the investors and those working there. They all expressed their sincere interest to work on making Al Mazunah, a thriving city with various economic components and one of the investment destinations in the Sultanate.

(6)

Some people often look at the areas located nearby the borders, which are far from capitals and major cities as "dead villages" leaning only on what comes from others. However, Al Mazunah proved the opposite as everything there reflects its prosperity and today it is more than ever qualified to be a major economic and tourist destination in the Sultanate. Al Mazunah is benefiting from its vast plains, sand dunes, tourist elements, rich climate and terrain, as well as the active commercial traffic, being led by Al Mazunah Free Zone, the beating heart of this city, which is getting brighter day after another.



However, Al-Mazunah proved the opposite as everything there reflects its prosperity and today it is more than ever qualified to be a major economic and tourist destination in the Sultanate.

*mohammed.alshezawi@duqm.gov.om