

South Yemen Update

Dream no small dreams for they do not have the power to move the hearts of men

Newsletter of the Friends of South Yemen

South Yemen Update Issue - 31 January- 2023

New joint cooperation agreement for the production of electricity in Aden

President Aidaroos Qassem Al-Zubaidi, President of the Southern Transitional Council (STC), Deputy Head of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi, witnessed the ceremonial signing of a joint-cooperation agreement on Wednesday between the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in our country and Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company) to supply electricity to the capital, Aden, with a solar power plant with a generation capacity of 120 megawatt-hour (MWh).

The agreement was signed by our country's Minister of Electricity, Eng. Manea Bin Yameen, and the local authority in the capital, Aden, represented by the Minister of State and Governor of the capital, Mr. Ahmed Hamed Lamlas, and from the Emirati side, Eng. Fawaz Al-Muharrami, Executive Director of Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company), on behalf of the chief executive officer, Mr. Mohammed Jameel Al-Ramahi.



STC President Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi

The agreement for the establishment of a solar power plant with a generating capacity of 120 MWh has included the construction of lines of force and electrical substitutions for the transmission and distribution of the energy that will be generated by the station, in addition to a number of other items related to the conditions and obligations between the two parties.

The project can be considered the first and largest strategic project for electricity generation from clean and renewable energy in our country, as it will reduce the cost of generating electricity during daylight hours, as well as the fuel requirement for power plants, and will contribute to

preserving the environment by reducing carbon emissions.

The Minister of Electricity, Eng. Manea Bin Yameen, confirmed after signing the agreement that the survey work for the station had actually started a month ago, noting that there are tireless efforts being made to complete the project as soon as possible.

Eng. Bin Yameen expressed his gratitude to the official brothers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for their fraternal stances and unlimited support for our country in various fields, praising the immense efforts made by President Al-Zubaidi to assist the Ministry of Electricity so that it can overcome the difficulties related to electricity generation in the upcoming summer season.

For his part, Mr. Ahmed Hamid Lamlas, Minister of State and Governor of the Capital Aden, affirmed the strategic importance of the project, lauding the full support provided by the brothers in the UAE to rehabilitate the infrastructure in the capital, Aden.

Zenith Energy Ltd signs SPA for acquisition of OMV Yemen

Zenith Energy Ltd., has announced that a company in which it holds a 49% interest, Zenith Energy Netherlands B.V. has entered into a share purchase agreement with OMV Exploration and Production GmbH to acquire 100% of the outstanding share capital of OMV (Yemen Block S 2) Exploration GmbH, OMV Jordan Block 3 Upstream GmbH and OMV Block 70 Upstream GmbH, which are all companies incorporated and existing under the laws of Austria.

Andrea Cattaneo, Chief Executive of Zenith, commented: "The acquisition of OMV Yemen represents a very significant milestone for Zenith Energy."

"The existing production from the asset and, more importantly, the near-term future oil and natural gas production indicated by the size of the reserves, position Zenith on an extremely exciting organic growth trajectory."

"I take the chance to thank OMV and its management for its cooperation in this transaction. Our technical teams shall continue to work closely together as we enter the handover phase and welcome our new colleagues in Yemen to the Zenith family."

"Finally, we look forward with enthusiasm to establishing ourselves in Yemen and contributing to the prosperity of the local economy. It is our belief that the country has extraordinary economic potential, especially in respect of its oil and gas industry, and we shall seek to maximise our relationship with the local authorities to achieve our development objectives."

Terms of the SPA

Under the terms of the SPA, Zenith Netherlands will, subject to the conditions set forth in the SPA, acquire 100% of OMV's shares in OMV Yemen at completion for a total consideration of US\$21 619 000 (the 'Base Purchase Price').

Zenith Netherlands has paid a deposit of US\$4 323 800 which shall be credited by the seller to Zenith Netherlands as part of the purchase price upon completion.

The obligations set out in the SPA of the seller and Zenith Netherlands to consummate the sale and purchase of the shares in OMV Yemen at completion are subject to, inter alia, the approval of the authorities in Yemen, and the approval by the Federal Ministry of the Republic of Austria for Labour and Economy in respect of the transfer of shares from OMV to Zenith Netherlands. The SPA has a longstop date of nine months from the date of signing.

A Transitional Services Agreement may be signed between OMV and Zenith Netherlands at or around completion to govern certain services to be provided by OMV or its affiliates to Zenith Netherlands after completion if OMV and Zenith Netherlands determine that such agreement shall be required to optimise the handover of OMV Yemen.

*Published by Emily Thomas, Deputy Editor
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The Yemen conflict

The illusion of a political solution

There is much discussion in the United Nations about a political solution to the conflict in Yemen. But the reality is that the world is looking the other way, continuing to nurture the illusion that something is being done at international level and that the Yemeni people have not been abandoned



Just as no reasonable person in Europe could have believed during the Second World War that there could be a political solution to the war with an unreasonable fascist regime, no reasonable person today believes that there can be a political solution in Yemen with the Houthis intransigence. Neither with them nor with the state of Iran who continuously support them:

The seven four years are proof of this point. The Houthis through their political wing Insar Allah are basically conducting their politics by waging war with the intention of gaining more influence and becoming the Hizb Allah of Yemen. The Houthis for almost a decade have never approached the people with anything but violence and the pressure to submit.

The existing Houthi regime is built upon the hegemony and dominance of a mafia-like extremist religious clique, that knows no alternative to the language of a suicidal escalation, their motto of which is "kill or be killed". Hundreds of thousands of people in Yemen have been killed in their senseless and continued war

Meanwhile Iran's rulers are chasing the mirage of a re-establishment of the Persian Empire in Eastern Arabia built on religion, the aim of which is to challenge not only history but also the entire region and geography. Regardless of the consequences. Iran sees Yemen as a cornerstone in its plans for ascendancy as a great power in the middle east.

Houthis in Yemen abduct social media influencers in a crackdown on dissent

Stories continue to emerge of ongoing gross abuses by the Yemeni Houthi movement against Yemeni civil society activists in the capital Sanaa, and in other areas under their control.

This week, three well-known Yemeni YouTubers have been kidnapped by Houthis in Sanaa, as the militia steps up its crackdown on online influencers who expose its leaders' flaws, according to the newspaper Arab News, published on Wednesday, (4 January). Activists reported that Houthis abducted Mustafa Al-Mumari, Hamoud Al-Mesbahi, and Ahmed Elaw for posting videos on social media which support prominent YouTuber Ahmed Hajar, who was seized from a Sanaa street more than 10 days ago. The social media posts also criticized widespread corruption and the failure to address famine. Al-Mumari is a popular social media personality in Yemen with more than 2 million YouTube subscribers and tens of thousands of Facebook fans. He had earlier appeared in a video in which he sharply criticized the Houthis for kidnapping his friend, Hajar. He urged the Houthis to combat rampant institutional corruption, and named some "corrupt" Houthi leaders. He added: "If you are trustworthy and searching for the corrupt, I will provide you with evidence." "If my claims are untrue, put me to death; if they are genuine, hold those (corrupt officials) responsible."



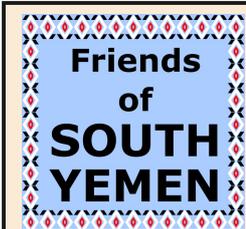
Al-Mumari and Al-Mesbahi were kidnapped from a street in Sanaa and taken to a security facility shortly after the video was posted. Elaw had made a video on his channel three days ago demanding the release of his detained friends, and warning the Houthis against ignoring corruption or popular unrest.

He said: "We shall not forget our imprisoned brethren and will continue to advocate for their release." The Houthis quickly stormed his home and kidnapped him. The abductions came as a

Yemeni attorney in Sanaa said on Tuesday that Houthi intelligence, security personnel and prosecutors had begun interrogating Hajar in preparation for his trial. Lawyer Abdul Majeed Sabra told the Saudi newspaper Arab News: "The specialized criminal prosecution is now interrogating Ahmed Hajar at the Shamlan building of the Security and Intelligence Service."

The Houthis have not yet claimed responsibility for the abduction of the recent set of YouTubers, but their supporters claimed their social media posts had been backed by the militia's adversaries. Abdulsalam Jahaf, a member of the Houthi Shoura Council, said: "Anyone who serves the enemy is an enemy, and the security services are tasked with apprehending anyone who attempts to compromise our security."

Yemeni officials and analysts believe that the campaign by the Houthis against social media influencers is aimed at silencing prominent figures who can reach millions of Yemenis. Yemen's Minister of Information Muammar Al-Eryani said the Houthis fear an uprising owing to their repressive rule, inability to pay public wages, and failure to provide services. He added: "These frantic campaigns serve as confirmation of the hysteria that has engulfed the Houthi militia's leaders following calls for a popular uprising to remove this scourge." He condemned the Houthi policy of "poverty and starvation against residents" in the areas it controlled "that destroyed everything lovely in Yemen in order to further the goals of its Iranian overlords." The Houthi's, a militant group supported by Iran, seized control of the Yemeni capital Sanaa, and large swaths of the country's territory in 2014 and unseated the legitimate government, resulting in a civil war that neither side appears able to win.



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