

## Long-awaited waste-water treatment plant opened in Sidon

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SIDON: A long-delayed waste-water recycling plant was inaugurated in Siniq in Sidon Monday, as officials expect the facility to alleviate disastrous environmental problems.

Sidon Mayor Mohammad Saudi inaugurated the recycling plant, which will gather sewage water from Sidon and purify it before it pours into the sea.

The construction of the plant was concluded in 2006 but its opening was repeatedly delayed due to technical problems. The main network of waste-water canals was finally successfully diverted to the factory Monday, after a failed attempt earlier this summer.

"I hope this will bring good news to Sidon locals and will be the start of eliminating the city's environmental problems," Saudi said during the inauguration ceremony. "We have been suffering from these problems for more than 40 years."

Work on rerouting the canals started two months ago, and five pipe lines from the main network have so far been redirected. Saudi promised the remaining three would soon follow and hoped no more waste water would be dumped on the shores.

Electromechanical engineer Ashraf Adwi explained that the purified water from the plant would be dumped in the sea, 2 kilometers from the beach.