

## Major Oman water project started

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MUSCAT - One of the biggest water schemes to be carried out in Oman -- costing RO90 million and which will supply 25 million gallons of water daily to the districts of the interior Dhakhliya region -- has been commissioned.

The Dhakhliya Water Supply Project was inaugurated by senior royal family member Sayyid Asad bin Tareq Al Said at a high-profile ceremony attended by ministers, state advisors and other notables.

The potable water for the project, including 288-kilometre pipelines, is supplied by the Barka water desalination plant.

Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Mahrouqi, Chairman of the Public Authority for Electricity and Water, or PAEW, said the pipelines, starting from Barka and ending at Bid Bid, passed through the wilayats, or districts, of Sumayil, Izki, Nizwa, Manah, Bahla and Al Hamra, providing residents with piped water for the first time.

"PAEW has taken all measures to ensure the cleanliness and security of the pipelines, water stations and tankers before the water reaches consumers," Al Mahrouqi added.

"The Dhakhliya Water Supply Project is one of PAEW's strategic schemes envisaged to supply the region with its daily needs of water," he added, pointing out that the Dhakhliya region was undergoing rapid development, especially in terms of trade and commerce and tourism.

He said work on the Adam Water Supply Project was now under way, involving the expansion of expansion of a major 60-kilometre long water supply line from the Barka plant to citizens' homes in Adam. A similar scheme in Jebel Al Akhdhar had also been initiated, he added.

Meanwhile, the Tender Board has completed formalities to award another major water scheme, the Bahla Water Supply Project.

In comments to reporters, Sayyid Asad said the Dhakhliya project was "vital and important" for the overall development of the region and a key component in the government's strategy to provide clean drinking water to citizens in all parts of the country.

Dr Zahir bin Khalid Al Sulaimani, Director-general of Projects of the PAEW, underlined the significance of the project in the aftermath of the droughts that hit the region.

"The project which took several years to implement covered the wilayats of Sumayil and Bid Bid in the first phase. Today (Monday) the project has been completed," he said.