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EGYPT

DRINKING WATER SITUATION FOR MARSA MATRUH

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[Article by Jabir al-Maj'awi: "Cost of Providing Drinking Water to Marsa Matruh Is 54 Million Pounds; New Water Desalination Condenser, New Pipeline"]

[Text] Engineer Ibrahim Sa'd, deputy minister of reconstruction for the north-west coast of Egypt stated that Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction and housing decided that construction of the coastal pipeline from kilometer 24 to kilometer 108 would end next year. This would be the first stage of the project, which is 74 kilometers long. A decision has also been made to complete this pipeline to Marsa Matruh. This decision was made after an agreement was reached to furnish the pipes that are necessary for the major project. Bids to complete construction of the pipeline at a cost of 54 million pounds will be solicited. Experts from Japan, from the Alexandria Water Utility and from the governorate of Marsa Matruh are participating in the research for this pipeline.

Mr Fu'ad al-'Ashari, first deputy minister of housing and president of the Agency for the Reconstruction of the Northern Coast added, "The new pipeline will carry water to Marsa Matruh at a rate of 50,000 cubic meters per day. These quantities are sufficient for providing the governorate of Marsa Matruh with water for drinking and irrigation. In addition, a new condenser for desalinating sea water has recently arrived in Alexandria, and it is being transported to Marsa Matruh. The capacity of this condenser is 1,500 tons per day. This will be added to the production capacity of the old condenser.

Governor Yusri al-Shami announced that the project to provide drinking water to Marsa Matruh includes reinforcing the existing pipeline so it could provide water to all the residential communities and all the new existing communities between West Alexandria and Marsa Matruh. This includes the coastal cities, the tourist areas, the new villages and the establishments of societies and professional associations and organizations.

It also includes the areas of al-'Amiriyah, Bahij, Burj al-'Arab, al-Hamam, al-'Alamayn, Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahman, al-Dab'ah and Ra's al-Hikmah.

Engineer Sa'd Kamil, secretary general of the governorate adds that the Council of Ministers and the armed forces are financing this project which will be furnished with pumping stations all along the road from al-Nubariyah Canal to Marsa Matruh. Strategic tanks will be set up for storing surplus water. An agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Reconstruction to set up a special device for treating ground water (semi-sweet water) and making it potable.