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WATER COLLECTION BENEFITS FROM NEW DAMS NOTED

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[Article by Muhammad Hawari: "Quarter Million Cubic Meters of Rain Water Collected by Wadi Qurayyat Dam"]

[Text] The country has received its first benefit from dams collecting rain water and subterranean feeding. During the recent rainfalls which were witnessed by the country, Wadi Qurayyat dam in Bahla, and al-Himayah dam in (Khawr al-Risagh) in Sur collected great amounts of rain water.

'UMAN also was informed that the amount of water that was collected by the Wadi Qurayyat dam in Bahla has reached 1/4 million cubic meters, and it is the estimated collectible amount for every stream in the valley. It is estimated that this dam twice annually collects 1/2 million cubic meters of water and protects the agricultural land nearby from flooding.

Furthermore, the water level in al-Himayah dam in (Khawr al-Risagh) in the state of Sur had risen the day following the end of the rainfall to 20 cm.

It is also known that al-Himayah dam in (Khawr al-Risagh) in the state of Sur was inaugurated in the last quarter of last year, and was built at a distance of 6 km west of the state of Sur. Its goal is to prevent salty sea water from entering the inner (Khawr al-Risagh), threatening the farm lands, and preventing the flow of the valley's fresh water. The goal is also to accumulate part of the fresh water during flooding long enough to wash the salts and to reclaim new farm lands.

The Wadi Qurayyat dam in the state of Bahla was completed by the builder in the middle of the current February, and aims at accumulating rain waters in order to benefit from the 1/2 million cubic meters of water annually. The length of the dam in the Wadi Sayfam is 417 meters and its length in the eastern sector is 330 meters, plus a mud dam whose length is 975 meters.

Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries embarked on an inspection visit to the dam following the recent rains, ensuring that there were no cracks in it which may have been caused by the strength of the water pressure which rose during the rains and covered all segments of the dam, proving its effectiveness against the goals set for its completion.

The amounts of water which were accumulated by the Wadi Qurayyat and al-Himayah dam in (Khawr al-Risagh) in Sur, are considered the first true benefits from the subterranean feeding dams which were built in the country in accordance with the plans to build many dams in the most important valleys in the Sultanate in order to accumulate and store the largest amount of rain water instead of wasting it in the sea.

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