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**DIAM SPECIAL FEATURE**



**Sulaiman bin Said Al-Hinai**

## Water security is the lifeblood

WATER is one of the most important resources that no one can live without. Water is the lifeblood and an important source on which many aspects of life depend. Life cannot continue without the existence of this basic resource. In order for water to reach us, there are efforts exerted, plans developed, strategies implemented, financial resources spent and staff working to deliver it easily to everyone living on this good land.

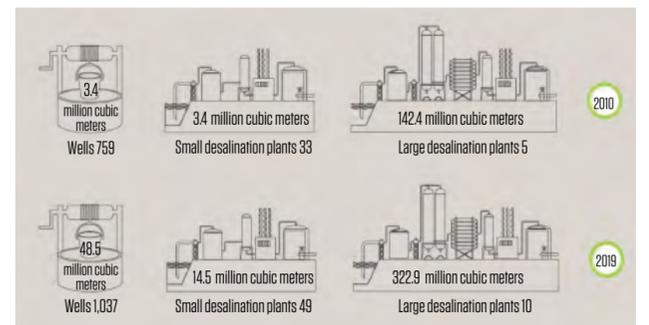
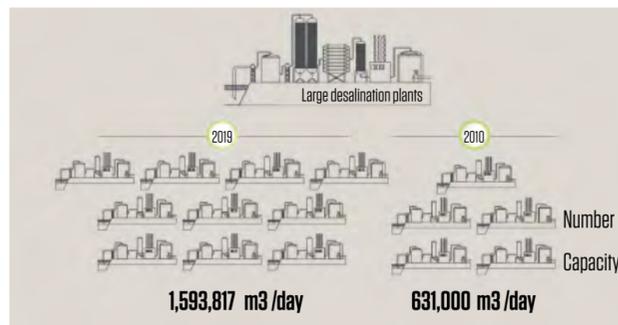
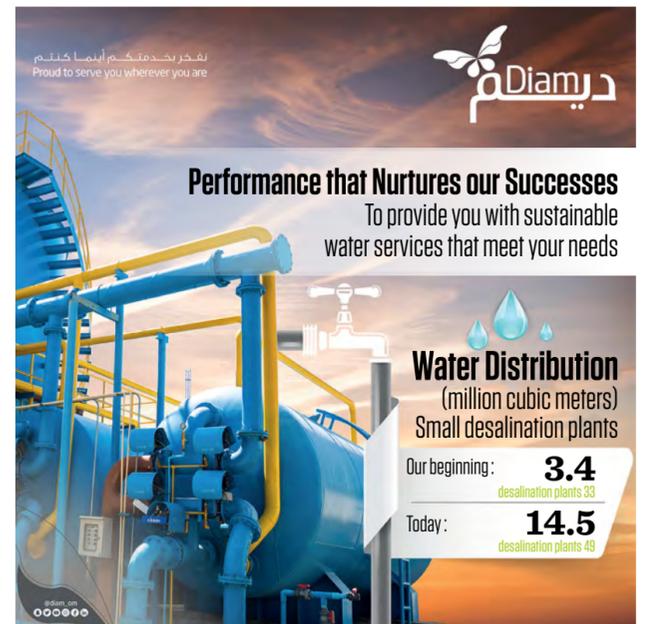
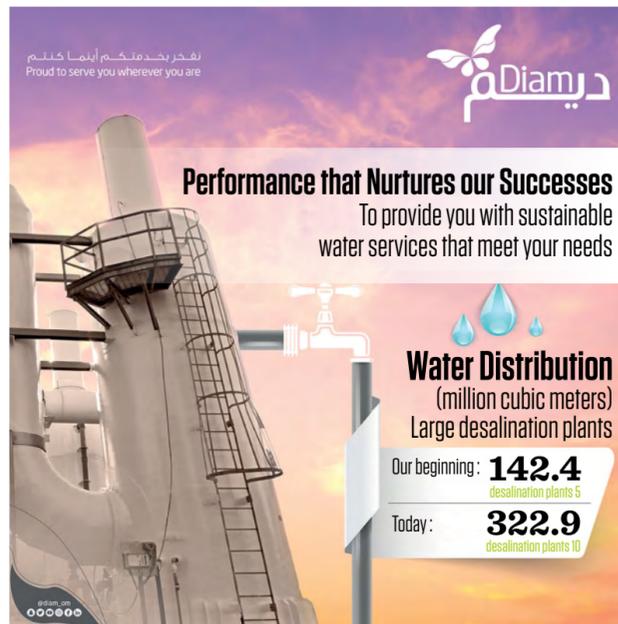
In order to enhance water security, the Public Authority for Water (Diam) works to overcome all obstacles to contribute to its pioneering role, on which everyone depends to obtain water comfortably and easily. Everyone can see the extent of effort and work done by Diam to expand desalination plants and water networks distributed all over the Sultanate. All these efforts are exerted for the comfort and welfare of all citizens and residents, so that water becomes within their reach despite all challenges and obstacles.

Diam's efforts and endeavors reflect the reality through which we see the extent of keenness to provide water to consumers in accordance with every stage of construction. We find this role at the top of the priorities adopted by competent authorities to provide water, and it is considered a basic pillar to be adopted within the foundations of modern life aimed at upgrading means of living. Anyone who keeps following would be aware of the role that the Public Authority for Water plays to harness all capabilities to keep pace with modern life and opening effective channels to activate desalination plants in most of the Sultanate's governorates to compete with time and meet the consumer's need everywhere in the Sultanate.

The efforts exerted by the Public Authority for Water (Diam) enhance its active role through existing projects, including building desalination plants and linking artesian wells to obtain water to areas that have not been served. This in itself indicates the extent to which the capabilities are harnessed to provide water service.

WITH AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 6%, WATER PRODUCED IN 2019 INCREASED TO 386 MILLION CUBIC METERS

## DIAM ... AN AMBITIOUS VISION TO PROMOTE AND GUARANTEE WATER SECURITY IN THE SULTANATE



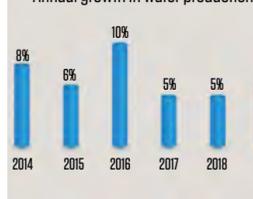
TO keep pace with the increasing demand for water as a result of the population increase and urban expansion that the Sultanate witnesses every year, Diam developed its long-term strategy to cover 98% of the Sultanate's population in 2040 and achieve water security for the Sultanate by increasing the sources of water production. Diam relies on two main sources to secure water for customers: large and small water desalination plants, and groundwater wells. Diam is going on in its work and plans to reduce dependence on wells for water production and focuses their use for emergency situations in the future. The produced water increased by 6% in 2019 to reach 386 million cubic meters, compared to 364.5 million cubic meters in 2018.

### Production of large and small desalination plants

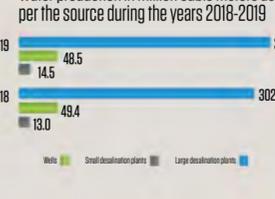
The large desalination plants connected to the main transportation system are made for more comprehensive water supply. This water is transported through the system linking the plants to cover the areas with high population density in the Sultanate which are fed by the plants of Al Ghubra, Sohar and Barka or from the water transmission systems that are not connected to the main network of the desalination plant in Sur in North and South Al Sharqiyah governorates. The total water production from large desalination plants in 2019 reached 322.9 million cubic meters, compared to 302.1 million cubic meters in 2018.

The quantity of water produced from wells fields decreased during 2019 to 48.5 million cubic meters, compared to 49.4 million cubic meters in 2018. The wells fields connected to the networks contributed effectively during stopping times of desalination plants. The water of such wells is used after ensuring its quality and conformity to Omani specifications in addition to injecting it with chlorine to ensure its quality until it reaches consumer. Small well fields are also used to feed the remote areas that are not connected to the network.

### Annual growth in water production



### Water production in million cubic meters as per the source during the years 2018-2019



Desalination plants are the strategic choice for providing high-quality potable water. Water is currently produced from the existing plants, with the continuation of construction of new plants, which have been studied in accordance with the next stage. Existing plants on which Diam relies in promoting water security include the new Al Ghubra plant in Muscat Governorate, which has a production capacity of 191,000 cubic meters. There is also the desalination plant in Sohar that produces 150,000 cubic meters of water per day. There are also a number of desalination capacities in Barka, with total water production of 595,000 cubic meters per day. The fourth desalination plant in Barka has a production capacity of 281,000 cubic meters per day to provide water supply to the governorates of South Al Batinah and Al Dakhiliyah governorates and parts of Muscat Governorate. In South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, the desalination plant in Sur produces 130,000 cubic meters of water per day. The desalination plant in Qurayyat has a production capacity of 200,000 cubic meters per day. The desalination plant in Sohar has a production capacity of 150,000 cubic meters per day in addition to the commercial operation of the new desalination plant in Sohar which has a production capacity of 250,000 cubic meters.

Diam also established a number of small desalination plants to serve the remote areas that are not connected to the main water transport system. The number of these plants reached 55 small desalination plants with a total production of 11.5 million cubic

meters in 2019 compared to 13 million cubic meters in 2018. The production capacities of these plants decreased as a number of large desalination plants entered service and their water production increased. These plants are distributed over seven governorates of the Sultanate: Musandam Governorate, Al Wusta Governorate, North and South Al Sharqiyah Governorates, Al Dhahirah Governorate, Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, and Muscat Governorate. Diam also purchases production capacities from some of the small stations operated by the Rural Areas Electricity Company (Tanweer) in the governorates of Al Wusta, Musandam and South Al Sharqiyah. Production capacities received during 2019 increased to 3.35 million cubic meters, compared to 3.32 million cubic meters in 2018.

### Production of groundwater wells

Diam works to use well fields to feed the remote areas that are not connected to the network. The amount of water produced from wells in 2019 reached about 48.9 million cubic meters compared to 49.4 million cubic meters during 2018. The level of production from groundwater wells decreased with the entry of a number of large desalination plants into commercial operation and linking a number of areas with the main transportation system. A large number of these wells are used to feed remote areas networks and tanker filling stations. Diam continues to extend its networks to these areas, and it is expected in the near future that they will be fed through the main network,

which is fed from desalination plants, and stop feeding them from wells. These wells are distributed in various regions and wilayats of the Sultanate.

### Future desalination plants

It is hoped in the coming years to significantly reduce the use of groundwater wells and depend entirely on desalination plants, which will be completed during the next few years. Work is underway on a number of desalination plants in a number of governorates of the Sultanate. Four new desalination plants will be opened in 2021 in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate in the wilayat of Jalan Bani Bu Ali and Masirah Island, with a total production of the two plants amounting to 90,000 cubic meters per day. In Musandam Governorate, a desalination plant will be opened in Khasab, with a daily production capacity of 16,000 cubic meters. In 2022, the second desalination plant will be opened in Al Ghubrah, with a production capacity of 300,000 cubic meters per day. In the following year, a desalination plant will be opened in Shinas, with a production capacity of 150,000 cubic meters per day.

