

# AL SIDRAH

August 2017 | Vol .3 | Issue 8

## **EPDA** suspended one of the cement factory

The Environmental Protection and Development Authority (EPDA) in Ras Al Khaimah suspended one of the cement factory operating in the emirate until further notice, following the sudden emission of dust from the factory crater of a cement company. Dr. Saif Al Ghais, ED of EPDA, said that the Authority has decided to stop the plant until the cause of dust or emissions has been verified and to ensure that it does not recur. Investigated the situation and conducted a direct and quick field study on the causes of emissions from Cement factory chimneys, sent a specialized team of environmental inspectors to the factory and the surrounding sites, where the team members monitored the situation and environmental violation closely, in response to the complaints and observations of the parents, and in order to protect the environment and to maintain public health, especially the health and safety of people in nearby areas Of the industrial facility, and a quick reaction to the images and "video", which have spread since yesterday morning to the scenes of "dust" from the factory.

Dr. Al-Ghais said: What happened in the factory is an emergency, and not a normal daily situation to operate the plant, the cessation of one of the "ovens" operating in the industrial facility, and then when it was re-blocked the ports leading to filters , which resulted in the emission of dust at the beginning, pointing to the continuous and continuous follow-up of the plant throughout the hours and the next days, to find out the reasons accurately.

He confirmed that the Authority will take environmental, regulatory and legal measures with the factory and other industrial facilities and will deal firmly with the violation and the latest situation to prevent the recurrence of the occurrence of "emissions" and avoid harming the environment and public safety, stressing the seriousness of the Commission in dealing with environmental violations committed by it. Any facility, environmental protection and public health, and non-compliance with all relevant parties. A number of residents were spotted the emissions from plant were made by video, complaining of dust blowing on a number of nearby residential areas.

### **Enhancement initiative in Ras Al Khaimah.**

EPDA coordinated with the Marine Environment Research Department of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in UAQ to release 400000 fish fingerlings of Gabit (*Rhabdosargus sarba*) , with an average body weight of 4 grams , Also EPDA released 300000 fish fingerlings Sheim (*Acanthopagrus datnia*) with an average body weight of 8 grams , 33000 fish fingerlings of Hammour (*Epinephelus coioides*) was released with an average body weight of 12.2 grams , all in khor Rams, RAK.



#### **VISION**

**Protection of the environment & sustainability of resources.**

#### **MISSION**

**Uniqueness in providing, monitoring and environmental awareness services through the application of laws and regulations and investing relationship with partners and conduct studies and research that contribute to the protection of our natural resources.**

## **D**ubai's RTA endorses deal for 554 hybrid taxis



Dubai's Road and Transport Authority has endorsed a contract for procuring 554 environment-friendly hybrid vehicles.

These vehicles, which are fitted with a combination of fuel engine and electric motors, make up about 11 per cent the Dubai Taxi Corporation's fleet. The move is part of a plan to curb pollution from exhausts and make vehicles friendly to the environment of Dubai. DTC plans to increase the proportion of hybrid vehicles to 17 per cent of its taxi fleet, which currently comprises 503 vehicles, by

year end. Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, said the move illustrated the RTA's commitment to curbing carbon emissions from the taxi by 2 per cent - as required by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and the Green Economy initiative.

"The underlying objective of using hybrid vehicles operation is to support Dubai's initiative themed 'Green Vehicles for a Cleaner Environment,' besides assessing the feasibility of using hybrid vehicles in the Dubai Taxi fleet."

He said the RTA is the first government entity in the region to experiment with the operation of hybrid taxicabs fitted with electric-fuel engines in Dubai taxi from 2008 to 2011.

"Results of the experiment revealed that such vehicles had covered 550,000 kilometres without faults or requiring maintenance of major parts. Fuel efficiency reached 30 percent and carbon emission dropped by 30 percent as well," said Mr Al Tayer.

The RTA had endorsed a plan for converting 50 percent of Dubai taxicabs into hybrid vehicles by 2021.

## **A**bu Dhabi to replace streetlights with LEDs

The Abu Dhabi City Municipality will soon replace the existing lighting system in the UAE capital with LED lights. The step is part of the municipality's efforts to reduce energy consumption, achieve sustainable development standards and conserve energy, said a Wam news agency report. The civic body will hold an induction workshop for companies specialised in lighting on September 10 and 11 in Abu Dhabi. Special focus will be placed on the flagship project in Abu Dhabi Island to be tendered later this year, the report said. The municipality expressed its keen interest to involve companies, professional associations and licensed institutions in Abu Dhabi to supply, install, operate, maintain and finance approximately 43,000 LED luminaires as a flagship project. The scope of work will also include the design, supply, installation and financing a smart central control system for the new lighting units, it said.

## **Ministry of Climate Change and Environment Warns of Japanese Soya Sauce Due To Alcohol Content**

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) has issued a warning prohibiting the imports of Japanese Kikkoman 'soya sauce' product due to its alcohol content. The ministry also prevented its circulation in the UAE markets in accordance with Ministerial Resolution No. (539) of 2012 on the Standard Guide to the Procedures for the Prohibition of Handling and Banning of Food. The decision came based on the results of the specialized and accredited laboratories tests, which confirmed the violation of the product with different production dates.



In coordination with the concerned authorities, the ministry has received notifications of alcohol content in Kikkoman Soya Sauce and urges consumers to dispose of any Japan made Kikkoman Soya Sauce they may have purchased.

The ministry also clarifies that this decision targets the Kikkoman Soya Sauce made in Japan only and does not include Kikkoman brand produced in other countries.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment emphasizes that all food products in the UAE, whether locally produced or imported, are safe for consumption as they are strictly monitored by the ministry and relevant local authorities.

## **Kenya imposes world's toughest law against plastic bags**

Kenyans producing, selling or even using plastic bags will risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40,000, as the world's toughest law aimed at reducing plastic pollution came into effect.

The East African nation joins more than 40 other countries that have banned, partly banned or taxed single use plastic bags, including China, France, Rwanda, and Italy.

Many bags drift into the ocean, strangling turtles, suffocating seabirds and filling the stomachs of dolphins and whales with waste until they die of starvation.

"If we continue like this, by 2050, we will have more plastic in the ocean than fish," said Habib El-Habr, an expert on marine litter working with the U.N. Environment Programme in Kenya.

Plastic bags, which El-Habr says take between 500 to 1,000 years to break down, also enter the human food chain through fish and other animals. In Nairobi's slaughterhouses, some cows destined for human consumption had 20 bags removed from their stomachs.

"This is something we didn't get ten years ago but now its almost on a daily basis," said county vet Mbuti Kinyanjui as he watched men in bloodied white uniforms scoop sodden plastic bags from the stomachs of cow carcasses. Kenya's law allows police to go after anyone even carrying a plastic bag. But Judy Wakhungu, Kenya's environment minister, said enforcement would initially be directed at manufacturers and suppliers. "Ordinary wananchi will not be harmed," she told Reuters, using a Kiswahili word for "common man".

It took Kenya three attempts over ten years to finally pass the ban, and not everyone is a fan.

Samuel Matonda, spokesman for the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, said it would cost 60,000 jobs and force 176 manufacturers to close. Kenya is a major exporter of plastic bags to the region.

"The knock-on effects will be very severe," Matonda said.

"It will even affect the women who sell vegetables in the market - how will their customers carry their shopping home?" Big Kenyan supermarket chains like France's Carrefour and Nakumatt have already started offering customers cloth bags as alternatives

## **Ozone air pollution causes the death of one million people annually**

Air pollution with ozone is linked to the premature death of 1 million people a year, according to a new study. The number of deaths was double the number of deaths reported in previous estimates.

Scientists at Stockholm Institute for the Environment of the University of York revealed that the figures in the study results show that prolonged exposure to ozone outside air pollution is responsible for the deaths of about one in five people affected by respiratory diseases around the world.

The results also showed that the levels were much higher than previous estimates dating back to 2003, indicating an early death of about 400,000 people due to respiratory diseases.

The results of the study, published in a journal on environmental health, were based on information from a recent US analysis of long-term exposure to ozone and death from respiratory illness to 670,000 adults.

Statistics also showed that India's share of the total death toll is about 400,000 deaths, followed by China, which recorded about 270 thousand deaths. While the continents of Africa, Europe and North America recorded a number of deaths ranging from 50 thousand to 60 thousand individual deaths, and the figures in Latin America and Oceania.

"This study sheds light on the fact that exposure to ozone may contribute significantly to the risk of developing the disease globally, contrary to belief," said Chris Malley, lead author of the study.

There was an area of uncertainty because the analysis was based on the study of ozone exposure in the United States, and the risk factors for respiratory diseases vary widely from one region to another in the world.

"To reduce ozone pollution, we need to control emissions from many different sources, including emissions from transportation, the use of domestic energy, as well as methane emissions from agriculture," he said.



# Protecting the ozone layer is everyone's responsibility

The ozone layer is part of the Earth's atmosphere, largely concentrated in the lower part of the stratosphere, discovered by Charles Fabry and Henry Boisson in 1913. It is a blue layer, and the ozone layer plays an important role in Our life, where the ultraviolet rays are short-circuited with great concentration to the Earth's surface. The ozone gas contains three atoms of oxygen when it interacts with the ultraviolet rays and releases the oxygen necessary to breathe



Causes of ozone hole.  
**Industrial causes:**  
 Resulting from human activities such as: combustion of oil, coal, natural gas, aircraft and carbon dioxide emissions, nuclear and atomic explosions that produce large quantities of nitrogen oxides, and sprays used in cleaning or insecticide containing chemicals Gas, and rocket launches into space, which produce nitrogen and chlorine gas.

## Ozone Layer Protection Methods

- ✓ Promote health and environmental awareness of the importance of the ozone layer.
- ✓ Reduce the use of chemicals containing chlorine, bromine, fluorine and carbon as the main cause of ozone gas disintegration.
- ✓ Replace air fresheners, aerosols and chemical fertilizers with ozone- and environment friendly.
- ✓ Reduce the use of fire extinguishers containing halons, avoid discharge without reason.
- ✓ Maintenance of air conditioners and refrigerators continuously, because they contain compounds that affect the ozone layer.

Dear Student,

While you washing hands in school toilets please, close the taps when soap is placed.

Dear student

Try to reuse the rest of your school meals instead of getting rid of them, such as feeding them to cats or using them as fertilizer for agriculture.

Dear student

Turn off the lights and all electronic equipment when you are outside of classroom.



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