

## Al Madina A'Zarqa Offices Graced by Dignitaries from Australia



**Muscat, 14 February 2009.** Former Lord Mayor of Sydney, Lucy Turnbull graced the office of Al Madina A'Zarqa recently. The prestigious guest was also accompanied by the renowned architect Bridget Smyth, the Executive Director of Design at the City of Sydney. The visit to Muscat was organized to strengthen and promote the business relationships between the two cities of Muscat and Sydney. They were welcomed in the Al Madina A'Zarqa offices by Richard Russell, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Blue City Company 1.

Turnbull visited Al Madina A'Zarqa offices and was impressed by the presentation of the new city being developed in Oman.

"Oman is such a distinctive country in the Gulf; people's hospitality is genuine and unparalleled. I am inspired by the unique concept of Al Madina A'Zarqa and I am sure that the city will quickly emerge as a prominent international destination for business and tourism. The location of the new city is premium, and it will surely bring a new lifestyle experience to people in Oman, with its state of the art facilities and pioneering concepts."

Turnbull has followed the progress of Oman over the recent years and was overwhelmed by the rapid growth of the Sultanate.

During her visit to Al Madina A' Zarqa, Richard Russell along with the other executives explained the vision of the new city through the integration of the different economic sectors such as tourism, trade, sports & wellness, medicine & healthcare, education and entertainment in this sustainable development.

“For a country to grow, job creation is the number one factor. It seems that Al Madina A’Zarqa will create 20,000 – 30,000 jobs through its different business activities in the city and will substantially contribute to the country’s goals for tourism,” added Turnbull.

Commenting on the visit, Richard Russell said, “We are very proud of Al Madina A’Zarqa and it has been a pleasure to showcase our emerging city to Former Mayor Turnbull. We appreciate her in-depth knowledge related to cities development and we are very pleased that she shares our enthusiasm with our concept. We expect many prestigious guests to visit our site and we are looking forward to similar opportunities in the future”.

Located on a natural peninsula, 60 minutes from Muscat, Al Madina A’Zarqa (previously known as The Blue City) is a 32 square kilometre (12.36 square mile) waterfront city being built along 16 kilometres (9.95 miles) of shoreline adjacent to the Gulf of Oman. Al Madina A’Zarqa is more than just a resort real estate development; the city is being designed and built to include all the elements needed for a thriving metropolitan community. When complete, the city will be home to 200,000 people who will live, learn, work, relax and play in surroundings that are harmonious with the existing Omani landscape, architecture and culture.

Al Madina A’Zarqa is already providing a growth engine for the Omani economy and will radically expand the tourism facilities in Oman. The city will generate large scale employment opportunities for Omani nationals, promote freehold property ownership for nationals and expatriates alike and serve as a hub for business and leisure activities in the Sultanate.

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