

# MEW may be compelled to introduce water rationing

## *Ministry to renovate 100 stations*

KUWAIT CITY, June 11: The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) will be forced to introduce water rationing if the existing level of consumption continues throughout the summer, especially since it has already started using 9 million imperial gallons of water from the strategic reserves of the country daily, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Sources say the ministry may be forced to use 20 million imperial gallons from the strategic reserves, if the temperatures continue to soar and water consumption at homes and swimming pools in specific continues to increase.

The strategic reserves reduced to 2,029 million imperial gallons lately and sources warn that if the trend continues, the reserve will be reduced to less than half by the end of summer.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) has obtained approval from the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) to float a tender for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of sea water distillation units in South Al-Zour station to produce 30 million imperial gallons every day, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources asserted the ministry remains committed to its promise to increase total production of drinking water to meet the rising demand. Sources said the ministry has taken the necessary steps to increase production to 7,521 imperial gallons by 2012.

The Ahmadi Municipal Council Committee has recently approved relocation of the water filling station from Mangaf to South Sabahiya, provided that the site would be 12,000 square meters in dimension, reports Al-Dar daily.

Chairperson of the Committee Mane'I Al-Ajmi said the committee approved request by the Ministry of Electricity and Water to allocate space for the power generation and water distillation station at Jula'ia, after a meeting Thursday. Other approvals at the meeting included the building of parking lots for vulcanizing at Block 3 in Fintas, a proposed site for mosque beside the Multi-purpose Hall in South Sabahiya and another mosque in Dhahiya Fahad Al-Ahmad.

However, the committee rejected a proposal on building an exit and entry along the Egaila-Fintas Bridge, while it is still studying another proposal for the construction of schools at Sabah Al-Salem Residential Area, he explained.

The meeting went on to postpone discussion on allocating temporary sites for three wastewater treatment stations in Fintas, the daily quoted Al-Ajmi as saying.

Assistant Undersecretary of Distribution Networks at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Saleh Al-Musallam has unveiled a plan to renovate 100 stations, as well as relocate 500 secondary stations and 500 transformers every year.

Al-Musallam disclosed the ministry has started floating tenders for the implementation of its projects as it intends to obtain approval prior to the endorsement of the annual development program of the government to expedite procedures for the processing of the required documents. He affirmed the latest power disruption in Jahra has nothing to do with the programmed power cut off, stressing the ministry will inform the public in case it intends to implement the latter.

Attributing the power disruption to the weakness of medium pressure and protection networks, Al-Musallam explained the periodic maintenance works, which usually take place at the end of May and beginning of June, may have also contributed to the problem. He, however, was quick to add that these maintenance works are necessary in preparation for the summer. He admitted the medium pressure network requires more maintenance works and these had been included in the ministry's plan.