

DP WORLD, UAE REGION PLAYS PIVOTAL ROLE IN ENABLING TRADE BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA

New 2,500 km transport corridor from Jebel Ali to Naseeb border opens new intra-region opportunities

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 22nd December 2018: - Global trade enabler DP World has helped establish a 2,500 km long transport corridor from Jebel Ali to the Naseeb-Jaber border crossing between Jordan and Syria.

Trucks loaded with goods at its flagship Jebel Ali Port and Free Zone in the UAE have travelled through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon in close collaboration with all customs authorities and customers.

The Naseeb-Jaber crossing was once one of the busiest checkpoints on the Damascus-Amman international highway and is the main crossing for Syrian exports to Jordan and Gulf countries.

The first convoy of three Dubai-registered trucks set off from Jafza loaded with dry and reefer cargo from Green Cedar Company, DP World's partner in the transnational humanitarian operation and a Jafza-based logistics provider.

Their transit time of six days was just a fourth of the 24 days it used to take during the height of the political conflict that had shut down the border. On their return leg the trucks brought back fruits and vegetables to Dubai.

As many as 350 commercial trucks carrying electronics, detergent, chocolate, other foodstuffs and cars used to enter Syria and pass through to other countries daily before the closer of the border in the last three years.

The Naseeb border is the lifeline of the Jordanian economy as 70 per cent of its imports and exports pass through Syria under normal circumstances. The closing of the border in 2015 dealt a severe blow to the Jordanian economy, with the loss to Jordan's logistics and transport sector alone estimated at around half a billion US dollars. Jordanian businesses also prefer the land route since exporting goods through the Naseeb crossing is three times cheaper than exporting through the Gulf of Aqaba.

Connecting Lebanon to this focussed and purposeful supply chain route was highly significant because its trade with the GCC region had suffered due to the regional upheavals in recent

years. Lebanon's trade deficit widened in the first 6 months of the year to reach \$8.04B, compared to \$7.94B, during the same period in 2017. Lebanese exports to Gulf markets decreased by half since the Naseeb crossing was closed by rebels in 2015.

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About DP World, UAE Region

DP World, UAE Region is part of DP World – the leading enabler of global trade. The DP World, UAE Region portfolio includes Jebel Ali Port, Mina Rashid Cruise Terminal and Coastal Berth, Mina Al Hamriya in Dubai city and three Zones: Jebel Ali Free Zone "Jafza", National industries Park "NIP" and Dubai Auto Zone "DAZ", Dubai Trade & World Security.

DP World, UAE Region operates Jebel Ali Port – our poly-functional flagship facility. Jebel Ali Port is the largest seaport in the Middle East and a premier gateway for over 80 weekly services connecting more than 140 ports worldwide. Jebel Ali port has been voted "Best Seaport in the Middle East" for 24 consecutive years and is ranked amongst the largest container ports worldwide. It has the world's largest man-made harbour.

Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza) is one of the world's leading free trade zones, home to over 7,500 multinational companies. Jafza accounts for almost 32% of total FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) flow into the country and it sustains the employment of more than 150,000 people in the United Arab Emirates. In 2017, Jafza generated trade worth USD 83.1 billion.

Jebel Ali Port & Free Zone are strategically located at the crossroads of a region providing market access to **over 2.5 billion** people. As an integrated multi-modal hub it offers sea, air and land connectivity,

complemented by extensive logistics facilities. Jebel Ali Port & free zone contribute 21% of Dubai's GDP on a yearly basis.

DP World, UAE Region plays a vital role in the economy of Dubai and the UAE. We aim to be essential to the bright future of regional trade, by setting the standard for technological and logistical capabilities.

By thinking ahead, foreseeing change and innovating, we aim to create the most productive, efficient and safe trade solutions for our customers. For further information, please visit our website: www.dpworld.ae

