



600 Families Prepare for
Life in Rawabi



A Wealth of Interest from
Potential Investors



Rawabi's New Municipal
Council Springs into Action

Live, Work and Grow in the First Palestinian Planned City



Rawabi is being developed by Bayti Real Estate Investment Company, jointly owned by Ramallah-based Massar International and Qatari government-owned Qatari Diar – two companies with unsurpassed real estate development experience and extensive knowledge of regional and international markets.

Rawabi will provide more than 5,000 well-priced contemporary housing units with nine different floor plans to choose from, spread across 23 neighborhoods. The city will also include a commercial center, a business district, a hotel and convention center, public and private schools, medical facilities, mosques, and a church, as well as extensive green recreation space. Initially, Rawabi will be home to 25,000 residents, with additional residential and commercial units slated for subsequent construction phases that will ultimately serve a city with a population of 40,000.

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Panoramic view
www.rawabi.ps/panorama.php



Watch us now on Rawabi Live 24 hours a day
www.rawabi.ps/cams.php

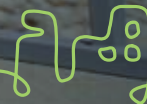
Ramadan Greetings from the City of Rawabi!

As the new city of Rawabi prepares to welcome its first residents, all of Palestine is abuzz with impressions and opinions. This year, two neighborhoods have completed the “hard construction” phase, which means building structures are fully in place and work on interior spaces – the finishing of apartments to owner specifications – is underway. As this newsletter goes to print, the third neighborhood will be nearing completion as well. No one should miss the opportunity to visit the city under construction – where the majestic Palestinian flag waves over a city that is a labor of love and a testament to our ability to persevere and to flourish. Indeed, many visitors have shed tears of pride at the sight of the flag - at the enormity of this achievement, one which we can all claim as our own.

With the new Rawabi Municipal Council in place, our progress will be even swifter and very capably guided. Our work has only begun. We believe at Rawabi, and for all of Palestine, the best is yet to come.



Live



Work



Grow

rawabi

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FROM AN IDEA... TO A PROJECT...



RAWABI'S NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SPRINGS INTO ACTION

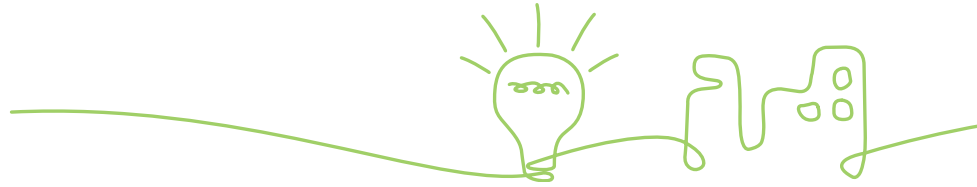
Rawabi's newly-formed Municipal Council had a full agenda of action items for its first meeting on June 30, 2013 held at the Council's temporary offices in the new city. Rawabi Mayor Majed Abd Al Fatah welcomed the group, reaffirmed the obligations and responsibilities of the Municipal Council and then moved quickly to the business at hand.

The Palestinian Cabinet appointed Mayor Abd Al Fatah to serve as the head of Rawabi's interim municipal council, pending election of permanent council members. The 11 councilmen and councilwomen were drawn from the Palestinian public and private sectors, civil society, academia, legal and regulatory agencies. The new council will serve until Rawabi's population reaches the legal threshold for

municipal elections established by the Local Council Elections Law, at which time general elections for the municipal council seats will be held.

The creation of the new Rawabi municipality set an important precedent showing the Cabinet's proactive stance towards the responsibilities of self-governance. It is generally agreed that 6 additional new municipalities are needed to effectively manage population growth as new urban centers are created and the Palestinian economy expands. Mayor Abd Al Fatah said, "The primary focus of the Rawabi Municipal Council is to help get the city built by creating a local governance infrastructure that ensures sustainability. The Rawabi municipality was established not a minute too soon, as evidenced by the number of items on

TO A CITY



the docket of our first meeting. Good governance begins the day you break ground, not after the city is fully built. Our job, which we take very seriously, is to aggregate the full range of perspectives and expertise that the council members bring to the table and to leverage them in the best interests of Rawabi residents and the surrounding communities."

Interim Council Functions

Rawabi's municipal council will undertake the same administrative and development obligations of Palestine's other established municipal councils. It will also work in close coordination with the Rawabi Homeowner Associations (HOAs) representing the city residents. Rawabi's HOAs will be an essential component of life in the new city, whereby residents will work together to effectively coordinate local community affairs. HOAs are a new concept in Palestine, and the Municipal Council will be their primary point of liaison for a wide range of issues.

For now, the Municipal Council will run its affairs from a temporary facility on the city site, until construction of the permanent municipal administration building is completed in the city center.

Municipal Council Vision

Rawabi's Municipal Council is the first Palestinian council to govern a master planned city. This will create its own set of challenges, as adherence to zoning mandates and best practices in urban planning will be top priority. In addition, serving as the central point of contact for the Rawabi HOAs is also a first for a Palestinian municipal council. The Rawabi Municipal Council envisions itself breaking new ground for Palestinian local governance, taking full advantage of opportunities to create important new standards and precedents in areas where none previously existed. The responsibilities are significant with far-reaching implications.

Local Government Committee:

Members: All of the Municipal Council. This committee will address day-to-day operations; ensuring compliance with regulations and local ordinances, issuing permits and licenses related to construction, administering penalties and overseeing correctional actions in case of infringement and a host of other wide-ranging tasks.

Financial Committee:

Members: Mayor Majed Abd al Fatah, Deputy Mayor Issa Kassis, Manal Zraiq and the council's full-time financial manager. This committee oversees day-to-day accounting operations of the Municipal Council.

Employment Committee:

Members: Mayor Majed Abd al Fatah, Dr. Omar Zumo, Sonia Zubaidi and Amal Moghrabi. This committee is responsible for employment of Municipal Council staff.

Public Relations Committee:

Head, Tami Rafidi. This committee is responsible for liaising with local, regional and international organizations and maintaining internal community relations within the new city.



Minister of Local Government Commends Rawabi for its Proactive Position on Cooperative Local Governance



Palestinian Minister of Local Government, H.E. Dr. Saed Al-Kuni visited the city of Rawabi to preside over the first meeting of the Rawabi Municipal Council. During his visit, the Minister praised the men and women of Rawabi for the great efforts made in creating an advanced, modern urban environment for Palestinians.

The minister's delegation included Assistant Undersecretary for Engineering Affairs Tawfiq Al-Buderi, Director General of Local Government in Ramallah Safwan Al-Halabi, Director General of Architectural Planning and Zoning Azzam Al-Hajjaj and staff members from the Directorate of Local Government. They were welcomed by Rawabi's new Mayor, The Honorable Majed Abd Al Fatah and the members of the Municipal Council.

Following the meeting, Mayor Abd Al Fatah accompanied Minister Al-Kuni and his delegation on a tour of the city. The Minister expressed admiration for the progress made on the city and its infrastructure. He said, "We've been waiting for quite some time for the work of the Rawabi Municipal Council to be launched. Obviously, looking at a project of this size, a city that will be home to so many, effective local governance is non-negotiable. This is an historic moment. Rawabi has forged a true partnership between the public and private sectors in this first masterplanned city. We are already reaping the benefits of the partnership, which is fostering a spirit of mutual cooperation among the citizens, the Municipal Council and the Ministry of Local Government."

INTERIM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rawabi Municipality



Majed Abd Al Fatah, Mayor

A graduate of Birzeit University, Mayor Abd Al Fatah is considered an expert in social development. He founded several NGOs in the course of his career dedicated to the advancement of youth and social causes and is well-versed in institutional capacity building. Since 2009, he served as strategic planning and international relations advisor for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. In previous posts, he managed humanitarian development projects for the Welfare Association and headed up UNDP's anti-poverty program. He participates on a number of non-profit boards on a voluntary basis. Mayor Abd Al Fatah holds a Master's degree from Birmingham University in the United Kingdom.



Issa Kassis, Deputy Mayor

Mr. Kassis is the head of the Palestine Mortgage Housing Corporation (PMHC) and serves on the boards of the Palestinian Monetary Authority and the Advisory Council on Housing for the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. He is also a member of the Ministry's Affordable Housing Subcommittee. Mr. Kassis serves as a voluntary board member for a number of private sector enterprises. He holds an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University.



Manal Zraiqa

Ms. Zraiqa currently serves as general director of Massar International and as deputy chair of the Palestine Business Woman Forum. In addition to her service on the Municipal Council, she has been appointed to positions on the board of many Massar International companies. In 2013, she received the Economic Empowerment Award from Vital Voices, a U.S.-based women's organization founded by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton identify extraordinary women with leadership potential and help them to promote peace and prosperity in their own countries.



Dr. Omar Zumo

Dr. Zumo is Dean of Civil Engineering at Birzeit University and head of its cooperative education program. He is an expert in environmental architecture, wastewater treatment and solid waste treatment systems. Dr. Zumo holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.



Sonia Zubaidi

Ms. Zubaidi currently serves as head of the Local Government Urban Planning Unit for the Ramallah/Al Bireh Directorate. Trained as an architect, Ms. Zubaidi began her career with the Ministry of Local Government as a junior architect and eventually rose to head the entire department. She maintains her architectural certifications and participates in international and regional conferences in her field.



Dr. Bassem Rimawi

Dr. Rimawi heads the Ministry of Health's Primary Care and Public Health Unit for the Ramallah/Al Bireh Directorate. A physician for more than 30 years, Dr. Rimawi holds a Master's degree in Emergency Medicine (ER) in addition to his specialization in Primary Care and General Medicine.



Amal Moghrabi, P.E.

Ms. Moghrabi is the founder and lead architect at Al Moghrabi Engineering. She is also the current chair of the Palestine Business Woman Forum. She consults on engineering and architectural issues to a number of public and private sector entities and has done extensive work with the Deir Dibwan Municipality as an architectural consultant.



Rasem Kamal, Esq.

Mr. Kamal is the founder of Kamal Law Firm and serves as a board member of the Palestine Affordable Housing Association. He is a local specialist in homeowner association and residential contract law. Mr. Kamal holds a Master's degree in law from San Francisco State University Law School in California.



Tami Rafidi

Ms. Rafidi is a principal associate at the Women's Center for Legal Aid and has been active in the community for years as a local youth activist and organizer. She has held previous posts at the Yasser Arafat Foundation and with the Palestinian Peace Coalition Initiative. Ms. Rafidi holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Birzeit University.



Ayoub Alian

Mr. Alian is the director of Education for the Ramallah/Al Bireh Governorate. He has more than 30 years of experience in the education sector in Palestine. Mr. Alian holds a Master's degree in Mathematics from Al Quds University, and he is also a specialist in the areas of strategic planning and management.



Islam Abd Al Jaber

Mr. Al Jaber is a professional construction management engineer from the Ministry of Housing and Public Works with more than 20 years of site management experience in the field. In 1996, he came to Palestine from Jordan to take on a number of large-scale construction management consultancies. Mr. Al Jaber has also served as director of transportation and roads at the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.

CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS RAWABI DURING REGIONAL TOUR IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Honorable John Baird visited Rawabi during his recent tour of the region. Minister Baird was accompanied by a high-level delegation that included Katherine Verrier-Frechette, Canada's Representative to the Palestinian Authority. Minister Baird and Representative Verrier-Frechette were taken on a tour of the first Palestinian masterplanned city by Massar International Chairman Bashar Masri.

The tour included an in-depth look at the infrastructure, utility grids and the layout of the city center and the residential neighborhoods. Minister Baird was interested in the city's contribution to job creation and its significant contribution to the Palestinian GDP. During his visit to the Show Room, he engaged with staff on mortgage policies in Palestine and home prices.

Mr. Masri noted that the visit from the Canadian Foreign Minister was a great honor. "Minister Baird's visit is of great interest to the international media, and we appreciate the favorable light it sheds on this project so close to our hearts. We think it showcases our will to bring about positive change and our determination to advance our society in spite of political and economic instability."

Minister Baird praised the masterplan, the city's modern infrastructure and the quality of building construction. He offered words of support for the long-term vision and planning that was evident in every aspect of the new city.

Rawabi's First

600

**FAMILIES
PREPARE FOR LIFE
IN THE NEW CITY**

Excitement builds day by day as the new city of Rawabi opens its arms to welcome 600 families to the neighborhoods of Suwan (flint) and Makmata (stone) later this year. Engineers, construction workers, masons, plumbers and electricians are now putting the finishing touches on the interiors of purchased apartments. In spite of the several years of effort it has taken to reach this point, homeowners and builders alike declare that the time passed more quickly than could be imagined. The pace of sales has in fact outstripped all

COME & SEE

Rawabi's showroom is open 7 days a week

expectations; new home buyers must be patient now as the first 600 homes are completed and delivered to their owners before they can place a reservation in the next offering of homes.

The wait will not be long. Thirty-eight residential buildings have been fully constructed and faced exteriors. More than 2/3 of the construction for the commercial center is fully completed, so that the first homeowners will reap the benefits of the retail and office space early occupancies. This first group of 600 happy homeowners have delivered their choices of finishes and fixtures to the marketing and engineering teams. The day they step over the threshold of their new homes, everything they asked for and dreamed of will be in place, ready for a new life at Rawabi to begin.

Rawabi's first residents will form the nucleus of a growing, thriving Rawabi community. From the north, south, east and west they are coming, fresh with ideas and skills and a common dream of diverse yet closely knit culture of inclusiveness integral to the Palestinian identity. Some are newlyweds starting a

"200 new homes in the pipeline and many more to come!"

new life together, some are single young professionals, some have busy families ranging from toddlers to teens and still more are couples whose children already have families of their own, and who now plan to spend their golden years in an active, vibrant community.

What draws them all to Rawabi, from different parts of the country and at different stages of life? The answer lies in the fact that Rawabi has something to offer each and every family. Whether the selling point is a city full of parks and green spaces for active children, a short walk to work, the promise of a bustling nightlife or a garden apartment with a private entrance and underground parking; it can be found at Rawabi.

So when 2013 draws to a close and 2014 begins, Rawabi's first families will begin moving in. The pleasure of life's new beginnings will be theirs. And not so very long afterwards, these happy pioneers will be followed by thousands more who will flock to Rawabi with similar hopes, dreams and plans for the future. For those families to come, we know you will be warmly welcomed and embraced by those who led the way.



Ramallah - Al Bireh Governor **Dr. Laila Ghannam** Visits Rawabi

“THIS CITY IS A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR ALL PALESTINIANS”

In her visit to the City of Rawabi, the Governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Her Excellency Dr. Laila Ghannam, offered powerful words of commendation to the Palestinian private sector. “The capability and creativity (of the Palestinian private sector) is a source of pride for all Palestinians; a reaffirmation of our identity and culture. What’s more, it’s also clear that our very strong private sector is truly the right arm of our government, the Palestinian Authority.”

Dr. Ghannam was accompanied by a delegation of administrative officers from the Governorate and the Civil Defense Authority, headed by the Director of Civil Defense, Colonel Mu’aweya Daraghmah, and the Deputy Chief of Police for Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Lieutenant Colonel Bashar Al-Barghouthi. The delegation was welcomed by Rawabi Mayor Majed Abd Al Fatah and the full members of the Rawabi Municipal Council. It was the first high-level delegation to be welcomed by the Mayor and the Council since the formal establishment of the Rawabi Municipality.

Governor Ghannam praised the Council’s work in her remarks. “The members of the new Rawabi Municipal Council have not wasted a minute in getting down to the business of laying the foundations of good governance at Rawabi.” She expressed admiration for the city’s forward-looking urban vision and its proactive stance towards planning, zoning, and public safety. The governor noted that new homeowners would enjoy peace of mind knowing that municipal functions such





as a local police force will be up and running as new families move in. The governor also stressed the importance of Rawabi's role in strengthening the Palestinian economy, citing the thousands of new jobs created in its construction and the many opportunities it has offered our educated workforce, particularly for new engineering, architecture and business graduates. She stated "This city is a source of pride for the Palestinians for many reasons, but one of the most critical is how it shows our young people that you indeed can have a full, productive career right here in Palestine."

Mayor Abd Al Fatah expressed his gratitude to Governor Ghannam and her delegation for their praise and encouragement, stating "This visit sets the stage for what I know will be decades of collaborative effort between the governorate and the Rawabi Municipality. On behalf of all members of the Municipal Council, I pledge that we will work to the best of our ability to dispatch our responsibilities with care and in the spirit of mutual cooperation for the benefit of present and future generations of Palestinians."

RAWABI'S COMMERCIAL CENTER: A WEALTH OF INTEREST FROM POTENTIAL INVESTORS

Since the day plans to build the new city of Rawabi were announced, entrepreneurs and business owners have been submitting ideas and applications for permits to operate in the city. Some are established enterprises, others are start-ups; retail, professional services and light manufacturing projects are all seeking space in the new city's environs. Many of these hopeful investors are registered on the "Open a Business" database on the Rawabi web portal, others have contacted our business development team directly to open discussions.

By far the largest category of applicants come from retailers, with Palestine's well-known names in casual and fine dining along with worldwide international brands all expressing interest in setting up shops in the downtown pedestrian district. Retailers are joined by applicants from various sectors including IT and communications companies. The Rawabi commercial development team estimates that as many as 5,000 new job opportunities will be created by the time all of the commercially-zoned areas of Rawabi are at full occupancy.

The downtown area and other outlying commercial districts of Rawabi will embody the aesthetic and environmental vision of the city; sustainable spaces that will be renowned for professionalism, dynamism, cleanliness and efficiency. The advanced infrastructure will allow first-ever types of services in Rawabi, such as free public Wi-Fi, pedestrian-only zones and top-notch building access delivered in comfort and security.

Rawabi's three foundational pillars of Live, Work and Grow extend not just to its new homeowners, but to its commercial residents as well. The economic development strategy of the new city is to attract and retain local and foreign direct investment, which will help catalyze a growth trend that will invigorate and sustain our national economy.

To submit your investment idea please follow the link below:
www.rawabi.ps/ar/business_form.php



Technology, the Foundational Pillar of Rawabi's Infrastructure

One of the most exciting aspects of Rawabi is its vast technological infrastructure that will shape the way we live, work and grow in the new city. From a high-speed fiber optic cable network to a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) distribution grid to smart controls for water conservation, building a new city from the ground up allows us to deliver exponential quality of life improvements for Palestinians.

Fiber optic cabling uses bundles of glass threads to carry voice and data signals (phone and internet) from one place to another. Fiber optic networks are more expensive than traditional metal cable networks to install; however, they are far superior in terms of bandwidth capacity and life expectancy. Fiber optic transmissions travel at a rate of up to 100 gigabytes per second and the durable glass fiber cable can last up to 50 years before it has to be replaced. Industries that use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) such as television and radio stations, bank branches and ICT-related firms will reap the benefits of high-speed, high-quality and ultra-secure data

transmission. At Rawabi, every home and business will be linked to this modern underground communications network that will connect us to each other and to the world.

Fiber optic technology is also the engine of Rawabi's central safety hub: the Rawabi Systems Monitoring Center (SMC). Every building in every neighborhood will be equipped with fire, smoke and gas leak detection systems that are directly connected to the SMC via the underground fiber optic network. If an alarm sounds anywhere in Rawabi, the SMC is immediately alerted and safety crews dispatched, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The SMC is staffed by engineers and technical experts who can accurately and quickly decode the stress level of any alert and mobilize the appropriate safety crews from the Rawabi Municipality.

The SMC can also detect unusual usage patterns in utilities such as a break in an underground water main or an interruption in service on the power grid. Central shut-off controls can stop and

start the flow of gas, water or electricity to the affected area in the event of a break or fire. Safety teams can initiate evacuation alerts and fire alarms and dispatch security personnel in the span of a few minutes from the command center to any part of the city.

Another benefit of the fiber optic network is the added protection it affords to enterprise information. Large bandwidth capacity and stable underground connections will allow companies to run servers that can house vast repositories of digitized information – a capacity that enables web hosting, remote site backups, Internet TV broadcasting and Software as a Service (SAAS).

Visitors to Rawabi don't find it surprising to know that a world of technological wonder hums beneath the magnificent architecture and well-planned neighborhoods, helping a new generation of Palestinians live safe, happy and productive lives in a city they can truly call their own.



COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM AT RAWABI SCORES HIGH MARKS WITH STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS

For the first time in Palestine and in the region, university students are being given the opportunity to earn academic credit for work-study experience gained through the Rawabi Cooperative Education Program (CO-OP). Through CO-OP, Birzeit University students majoring in engineering, architecture, business, economics and information technology are eligible to participate in a work-study curriculum that combines the theoretical classroom training with in-the-field practical application work modules. The work modules are on site at Rawabi, where second through fourth year students are assigned individual and group tasks under the supervision of a senior staff member.

The CO-OP program, like many others throughout the world, is designed to give students hands-on work experience in their chosen field of study. The student educational experience is improved in many ways. From the perspective of the professor, concepts taught in the classroom come alive for the student and are better retained when students see, feel and experience theory in practice. Students are given a real taste of what a career in their chosen field may be like; while most come away more excited than ever about their major, it also happens that occasionally a student will re-direct to another program, or will choose to focus in on a sub-specialty within a broad category of study.

Rawabi benefits in many ways from the presence of CO-OP students on site. Senior team members are actually more productive when they have a staff of willing interns who have some knowledge of the field already. It also creates a



direct line of communication between the university and the private sector that will eventually employ its students – senior engineers can provide feedback, for instance, on what types of topical areas need focus for the industries that are most prevalent in Palestine.

The CO-OP program was originally founded by Massar International in cooperation with Birzeit University. In addition to the Rawabi CO-OP program, Birzeit students engage in work-study at a number of other of Massar International companies. CO-OP also offers students individual modules to prepare them to enter the local work force, with sessions on interviewing for a job, resume-writing, communications and on-the-job corporate etiquette.

While not every student lands a job in his or her CO-OP company, many do – or they find another job via the professional network they established in their time spent in the “real world”. In either case, CO-OP students usually enjoy a great competitive advantage in the local job market.

At Rawabi, participating students are given the opportunity to work on the largest private sector project in Palestinian history. They explore urban planning methodologies, infrastructure development, resource conservation, real estate marketing and sales and many other different types of fields. Third-year marketing student Daoud Sahili commented on his Rawabi experience.

“Working at Rawabi has taught me to prioritize my goals, to work on a tight deadline, to respect working hours but most importantly, it has taught me to work cooperatively with my colleagues and how to interact effectively with prospective customers.”

Sahili added, “I learned a lot of marketing techniques while studying in the classroom. But there’s nothing that compares to actually applying what you know to a real-life situation, with customers from different demographics and with different needs and preferences. The text book comes to life in the Rawabi Show Room. I knew I was going to be a success in this field when I closed my first deal. It was a great moment.”



A CALL FOR FREEDOM:

LUTFI BUSHNAQ PERFORMS TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF PALESTINIAN DETAINEES

In Palestine, we have drunk from the spring of poetry and artistic authenticity for generations, using song, language and art to preserve our long history; to tell future generations of our conflict, our misfortunes, our hopes and our joys. Through our art, we join past and present, east and west, hope and sorrow.

Throughout our history, we've used our music to mark life events and special occasions. We sing songs for a bride who leaves her father's home to take up a new life with her husband. We pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in this long conflict. As Palestinians, we find it easy to express ourselves through song and have embraced this artistic form as a means of preserving our heritage and our cultural identity in the face of a repressive occupation.

This spring, the city of Rawabi sponsored the Call to Freedom Operetta, which was jointly organized by the Palestinian Ministry of Detainees and Former Detainees and the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA). Call to Freedom proceeds benefited the families of those who have suffered prolonged periods

of detention, political prisoners who languish in Israeli prisons, held without charge or trial for years.

It's easy for us to go about the business of our daily lives and to forget the sacrifice made by these men and women for the cause of the Palestinian homeland. We can't see the difficulties faced by families who've lost their major breadwinners, or the sadness of children growing up without a father or a mother. For this reason, we need to sing – to remind ourselves of the stories of our brothers and sisters and their families, and to assure them we have not forgotten them.

Tunisian artist Lutfi Bushnaq and Dalal Abu Abneh, one of Palestine's most gifted female vocalists, led an evening of solidarity, pride and emotion. The audience was drawn into the stories of our far-away, but not forgotten family members, and the songs inspired a sense of nationalism and strength.

The audience was filled with men and women who'd been held in prison, some recently released, whose costumes told their name and their story. The song and dance on the stage conveyed the reality

of imprisonment, while also sending a message of hope and encouragement to those who are still held. After his performance, Mr. Bushnaq visited Rawabi. He offered valuable insights from a performer's perspective to the engineers constructing the outdoor amphitheater and the cultural center.

The Minister of Detainees and Ex-detainees, His Excellency Issa Qaraqe, welcomed the audience and the former detainees. In his remarks, he acknowledged the sacrifice made by prisoners and their families, and called upon every Palestinian to stand in solidarity with them.

Bashar Masri, Chairman of Massar International, spoke of his commitment to the issue of Palestinian prisoners. He said, "It's absolutely critical that we show our support to prisoners and their families, and to carry the story of the injustices they face to every corner of the world. Whether it is through art or music or opera or journalism, we have to use every possible tool to shed light on this intolerable situation, and to liberate our fellow Palestinians whose only crime was to seek justice for their people."



LEAD INVESTOR QATARI DIAR VISITS RAWABI TO GET A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT OUR PROGRESS

Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company (Qatari Diar), the real estate investment arm of the Government of Qatar, is the largest single investor in the City of Rawabi. This Ramadan, Qatari Diar CEO Khaled Al Sayed led a top level delegation to Palestine to see how construction works are progressing. The delegation included Abdulaziz Al Theyab, Mr. Al Sayed's senior advisor, and Rick Dattani, Development Manager.

Mr. Al Sayed and his delegation's visit included a full-day, intensive site tour, where the visiting experts delved deep into the details of the utility and infrastructure networks, the on-site factory processes, work-flows and other internal systems. Back at the Show Room overlooking the new city in progress,

our investors joined in the monthly Rawabi management meeting, where the lively exchange included valuable advice, commentary and insight from the delegation. The Diar team took advantage of the visit to Palestine during Ramadan by praying several times at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and touring the many religious sites in the Old City.

Qatari Diar partnered with Massar International to form the jointly-held Bayti Real Estate Investment Company in 2008. Qatari Diar is building 49 major developments around the world in 29 different countries. The company has invested more than \$35 Billion USD in real estate projects around the world that aim to enhance quality of life and create sustainability in development.





Bayti Real Estate Investment Company plans to establish further projects in Palestine to boost the Palestinian national economy and to continue to create thousands of new jobs. Jump-starting the construction sector in Palestine with large-scale projects like Rawabi also catalyzes growth in related services and industries.

Rawabi is featured on the Qatari Diar web site as one of its capstone projects. The web site describes Rawabi as "...the first masterplanned city in the heart of Palestine which truly emphasizes Qatari Diar's mission of enriching the quality of people's lives."



Simba, Rawabi's Mascot

One of the most fascinating and endearing stories of Rawabi comes in the form of a small female dog, who'd made her life in the hills around Rawabi, but stayed clear of human beings and traffic. She'd been seen around the construction areas before, but she never bothered anyone and was quite shy.

One morning, workers discovered that she'd somehow fallen into an excavation hole on site. How she ended up in the hole was a mystery. She'd suffered a fractured leg and had a piece of wire twined around her neck when she was found. Rawabi's workers came to the dog's assistance, removing the wire and helping her recuperate from her leg injury. In a short time, she lost her shyness and fear and became a sweet, gentle dog who is a friend to anyone who has time to give her a pat.

Simba, as she is known, is now the Rawabi mascot and a fixture at the Show Room. She greets visitors with a tail wagging so vigorously that it moves her entire body. Show Room staff is quick to assure visitors that she is clean, gentle and friendly, and can be easily shoo'ed away if her presence is not welcome.

But most children are enamored of Simba, the friendly dog. In early April, Simba gave birth to no less than 8 bouncing puppies, who now tumble over each other in a pen close to the Show Room, delighting children and their parents with their playful antics. The adorable 10-week old pups are well-fed and looked after by the Show Room team. So if your kids are in need of a little puppy play time, pay a visit to Rawabi to meet Simba and her family today!



KNOW THY HERITAGE: PALESTINIAN YOUTH ABROAD RETURN TO PLANT OLIVE TREES



Millions of Palestinians live in the Diaspora. Since 1948, those who fled or were exiled have made their homes in every corner of the world, raising new generations of Palestinians who hold the country near and dear to their hearts, no matter how long they have been gone. Many tell their children stories of their youth, preserve cultural traditions and speak to their children in Arabic at home so that no matter where they are, the connection to their homeland is maintained.

But there's nothing like an actual visit to Palestine to make all the stories come to life. This year, the "Know Thy Heritage" project, which is organized by the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation based in Washington, DC, brought more than a dozen young Palestinian youth from abroad for an extended visit to their ancestral homeland.

The visit took the youth from village to town to city, from ancient archaeological sites to bustling new corporate enterprises. Know Thy Heritage isn't about the past only; it also showcases the miraculous achievements of the Palestinian people

through the generations. One of those achievements was recognized with a visit to the new city of Rawabi.

The Know Thy Heritage group also took part in a large-scale tree planting project on site. The kids joined with Rawabi's urban landscape design team to place several dozen new trees in a planting site. Each participant was encouraged to make the connection to the earth of their homeland that they will carry with them for years to come – and to return to check on the size and health of their trees on every subsequent visit to Palestine.




RAMADAN LANTERNS

Our Facebook page has attracted thousands of new visitors with its brand-new, ultra-fun gaming app called "Ramadan Lanterns". In the game, Ramadan lantern icons are hidden throughout an interactive map of Rawabi. The faster you find them, the more points you get! Try your luck on our new app and to learn more about Rawabi while having fun!

Visit us on facebook: [Facebook.com/RawabiCity](https://www.facebook.com/RawabiCity)

PALESTINIAN FLAG WAVES PROUDLY FROM ATOP RAWABI'S HIGHEST HILL



On the approach to Rawabi from the west, visitors are welcomed by the sight of Palestine's largest flag, sitting atop Rawabi's tallest hill at 800 meters above sea level. At 24 meters tall, the pole flies a flag that measures 12 meters long by 9 meters wide, Rawabi's flag can be seen from tens of kilometers around.

The flag stands the plaza just outside the Show Room, where visitors have a "photo op" with Rawabi's* first family...life-size outdoor sculptures of a Palestinian father, mother and children created by the artists Suleiman Mansour and Nabil Anani.

Unfortunately, though, what is a beautiful sight to Palestinians appears to bother some of our closeby Israeli

neighbors. One night recently, an unknown group used the cover of darkness to cut the 8 millimeter suspension wire and steal the flag. It was too dark to identify faces, but a group of suspicious individuals and a white car were identified on the security cameras and the footage turned over to authorities for investigation.

But because every story at Rawabi has a happy ending, the answer was to immediately raise a brand new flag aloft first thing the next morning. Employees laughed and cheered as the flag rose again. As for the perpetrators, little do they know...there are a lot more flags where that one came from.



Rawabi Visitors

زوار روابي



1. British Member of Parliament Ed Balls, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.
2. Kingsley Aikins, Diaspora Expert.
3. Delegation from Xavier University.

Rawabi Visitors



- 4. Delegation from United Church of Christ.
- 5. Edgar Lampert, Developer from New York.
- 6. Fang Fang, CEO of JP Morgan China.
- 7. Dr. Ruth Westheimer, American Psychologist.
- 8. Delegation of Rabbis from USA.

زوار روابي



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9. Michael Alan Ratney, U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem & Yael Lempert, Deputy Principal Officer at US Consulate General.

10. Delegation from Alshaya Kuwaiti Company.

11. Christian Leadership Initiative from the USA.

Rawabi Visitors



12. Sir Harry Solomon, Vice Chairman of The Portland Trust.

13. Rick Jacobs, President of Union for Reform Judaism & Jo Ann Mort, CEO of Change Communication.

14. University Professors from Boston-USA.

15. Nader & Rami Moghrabi, Legal Consultants of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem.

16. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

زوار روابي

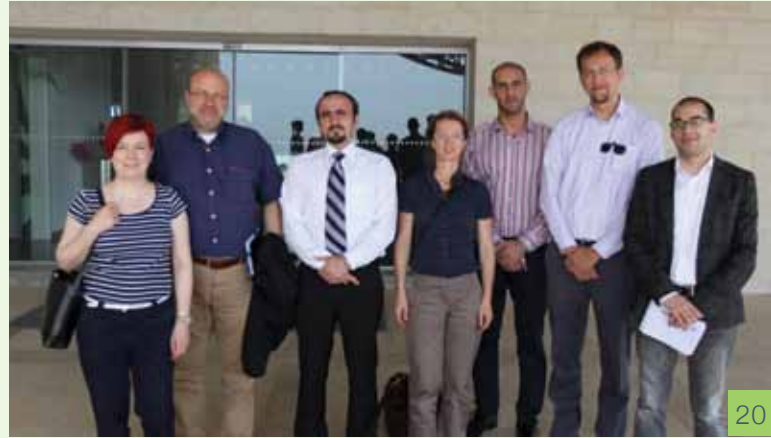


17. Hussein Al-Sheikh, Palestinian Civil Affairs Minister.
18. Wexner Fellows-USA.

Rawabi Visitors



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19. Patrick Horend, Senior Investment Analyst at Abu Dhabi Investment Council.

20. gwSaar Delegation, the Economic Promotion Agency of the Federal State of Saarland of Germany.

21. Community and Business Leaders from South Florida.

22. Delegation from Baqa El Gharbiya.

زوار روابي



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23. Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO of Mercy Corps.

24. Marc Ginsberg - CEO of One Voice Movement.

25. Delegation from Phoenix Mission - USA.

26. Delegation of Businesswomen/men from Britain.

27. Unipal General Trading Company (UNIPAL) & Medical Supplies and Service (MSS).

Rawabi Visitors

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28. Safa'a Nasereddin, Minister of Information & Communications Technology & Majida Masri, Former Minister of Social Affairs.

29. Jerius Samawi, Writer and Poet.

30. Professors from Brandies University-USA.

زوار روابي



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31. Delegation from Bank of Palestine.

32. Go Palestine Camp.

33. Delegation of Political Bloggers from the United Kingdom.

34. Dr. Ghawi Ghawi, Former Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts & Ammar Qadamani, Head of Music Department & Rami Arafat, Music Teacher at An-Najah University.

Rawabi Visitors



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- 35. Martti Ainola, Finland Representative to the State of Palestine.
- 36. Dr. Hans Heyn, Head of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation from Germany.
- 37. EhsanTurabaz, Andreas von der Heide, Henrik Ekman from the Swedish Company - IKEA.

زوار روابي



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38. Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, Sarah Kreimer & Seth Kreimer - USA.

39. Mohammad Al-Hidfah, Former Qatari Diyar CEO.

40. Delegation of Businessmen from USA.

زوار روابي

Rawabi Visitors



41. Delegation from SEAF - Small Enterprise Assistance Funds.

42. David Harden, USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission Director.

43. Geography Master's Students from An-Najah University.