



# KPMG Real Estate and Infrastructure Monthly Pulse

October 2018

Dear all,

We are very pleased to share the latest issue of the **KPMG Real Estate and Infrastructure Monthly Pulse**. In this issue we bring you the key news highlights from within the Real Estate and Infrastructure space in Qatar for September 2018. We hope you will find this issue an invaluable read, helping you to stay connected with the sector.

## Real Estate and Infrastructure

- Qatar's Real Estate sector showed strong performance in July. The value of sold properties jumped by about 224 percent in July compared to previous month. The total value of sold properties reached around QAR4.3bn in July, showing a significant rise of around QAR3bn compared to QAR1.3bn in June, according to the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics data. [Read more](#)
- The Minister of Municipality and Environment, H.E. Mohamed bin Abdullah Al Rumaihi revealed that construction projects worth about QAR20bn are to be implemented next year as part of the internal road development program. These projects include reconstruction and rebuilding of internal roads in Doha and the surrounding areas, development of pavements, walkways and cycling-path and other related facilities. [Read more](#)
- Qatar Rail announced that the progress of Doha Metro Phase 1 now stands at approximately 90 percent. It said that the civil works, MEP and Architectural works are progressing at all stations and the official opening of the network will be in 2020. [Read more](#)
- The combined value of Qatar's proposed projects in the Infrastructure and Real Estate sectors for the next four years is QAR60bn. This is in addition to a QAR2bn in terms of developing food security projects for the same period, according to the Chairman, Private Sector Development and Support. [Read more](#)
- Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) opened its fourth power substation at a cost of about QR165mn to supply electricity to the Green Line of Doha Metro

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of Qatar Rail at Doha West near Mall of Qatar. The Green Line runs east from Al Riffa to Al Mansoura in the west, serving 11 stations along the line. [Read more](#)

- Hamad Port achieved yet another milestone as it received more than 1,000 vessels in 8 months of the current year. The Port, which is one of the largest in the region, received 128 ships in August. It received 936 ships during January to July period, taking the total count of ships called at the port to 1,064 so far this year. [Read more](#)
- The Public Works Authority 'Ashghal' received gold achievement award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) for Doha South Sewage Infrastructure Program. The award acknowledges the outstanding occupational health and safety performance during 2017. [Read more](#)

### Tourism and Hospitality

- Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) and Mowasalat have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further develop tourist transport services as Qatar's cruise tourism sector is expected to receive 200,000 visitors by 2020. The MoU will ensure the growth in cruise tourism demand is matched with flexible and reliable transport services. [Read more](#)
- Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with German Aida Cruises and Italian Costa Cruises to establish a partnership aimed at developing cruise tourism with Qatar. The MoU includes the possibility of cooperation to build attractive packages and special services dedicated to Costa Cruises and Aida guests, in addition to joint communications, co-marketing actions and familiarization trips. [Read more](#)
- Qatar Airways has launched 24 new destinations since the start of the blockade, expanding its network to over 150 destinations around the world. Qatar's national carrier opened 14 new destinations during the fiscal year, replacing 18 mature routes that were closed due to the illegal blockade. [Read more](#)
- Qatar has become the most open country in the Middle East and the 8th most open in the world in terms of visa facilitation according to The World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) recently updated visa openness rankings. The high ranking reflects a string of visa facilitation measures introduced by Qatar, including allowing nationals of 88 countries to enter Qatar visa-free and free-of-charge. [Read more](#)

### Industrial and Manufacturing

- The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) started the pilot testing of electric buses in Qatar in collaboration with Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (Kahramaa), Mowasalat 'Karwa' and China Harbor Engineering Co. This initiative comes within Ministry's ongoing endeavors to provide eco-friendly and sustainable transport modes that help reduce carbon emissions from public transport. [Read more](#)
- Prime Minister and Interior Minister H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani honored a number of owners and representatives of the factories who expanded their industrial activity after the blockade. In a ceremony, held at the Doha Sheraton Hotel, the Prime Minister inaugurated Qatar industrial portal, an interactive portal of strategic importance in industrial

planning that aims at enabling decision-makers and investors to make appropriate decisions for their different projects. [Read more](#)

### Healthcare

- The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) signed contracts to build five new health centres at Al Khor, Al Wakra South, Al Sadd, Al Mashaf and Ain Khalid, and another contract to build the National Health Laboratories. The total value of six new health projects is estimated to be around QAR1bn. [Read more](#)
- Prime Minister and Interior Minister H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani inaugurated the Primary Health Care Corporation's (PHCC) new health center with a capacity to cater to 35,000 patients in Al Waab. With the inauguration of new facility, the number of PHCC health centers has increased to 26. [Read more](#)

### Agriculture

- The Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME) has offered 34 new strategic projects for private investors to produce vegetables using greenhouse technology with an area of about 100,000sqm per project. [Read more](#)
- Qatar is expected to achieve 100 percent self-sufficiency in terms of the production of most popular fruits and vegetables by 2019, as the country's largest greenhouse facility built on a budget of QAR430mn is likely to be operational by next year. [Read more](#)

### Regulatory

- The Amir H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued the Law No. 10 of 2018 on permanent residency. A permanent committee called the "Committee for Granting Permanent Residency Permit" will be set up at the Ministry of Interior to look into the application, as per the provisions of this law. According to the law, expatriates in Qatar could obtain permanent residency permit (PRP) of Qatar under certain rules and conditions. [Read more](#)
- The Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs (MADLSA) have called on all private companies and employers to prepare for the implementation of the amendment of the law regulating entry, exit and residency of expatriates. The law allows the employees of private companies to leave without exit permit except the proportion of five percent of their workers, which are determined by the employer due to the nature of their work like those who work in money exchange companies and gold shops etc. [Read more](#)

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