

Saudi capital city to get \$23 billion makeover

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Photo by Maher Najim - Public Domain

Saudi Arabia's government has announced it will invest a whopping \$23 billion in a massive makeover for its capital city, Riyadh. The huge investment is part of a project to beautify the city, create hundreds of

thousands of jobs, boost leisure and tourism, and transform Riyadh into "one of the world's most livable cities". In addition to the government's cash injection, a further \$15 billion in private sector funding will help finance huge investment opportunities for businesses. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will head the committee overseeing the ambitious project. It is part of the Crown Prince's Vision 2030 initiative aimed at diversifying the kingdom's revenue sources and reducing its reliance on oil.

The plan is set to be the envy of other world capitals, which can only dream of being awarded such vast amounts of money. It aims to improve the quality of life for the capital's 5 million residents. A focus on leisure is integral to making people happier. The plan includes the construction of over 130km of cycling track, a park that will be quadruple the size of New York's Central Park, and hundreds of art installations. Riyadh will be a greener city as the amount of green space per person will be increased by 16-fold. This will be achieved by planting 7.5 million trees and creating dozens of community gardens. Work will begin in the second half of the year. It will create 70,000 jobs and take up to a decade to complete.

Sources: cnbc.com / bloomberg.com / reuters.com

Writing

A capital city is the best city in a country. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / massive / makeover / investment / project / cash / injection / revenue / plan / envy / vast / residents / integral / quadruple / art installations / community

True / False

- a) The Saudi government wants to spend money on beautifying Riyadh. T / F
- b) The Saudi government said Riyadh is the world's most livable city. T / F
- c) Saudi's King will head and oversee the beautification project. T / F
- d) Saudi wants to maintain its reliance on oil. T / F
- e) The article said the project will be the envy of other capital cities. T / F
- f) There will be 1,300km of cycle track in Riyadh. T / F
- g) Part of the project is to plant 7.5 million trees. T / F
- h) The beautification project will take up to 10 years to finish. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. announced | a. enhance |
| 2. makeover | b. grown |
| 3. beautify | c. huge |
| 4. injection | d. infusion |
| 5. reliance | e. transformation |
| 6. vast | f. attained |
| 7. integral | g. declared |
| 8. increased | h. finish |
| 9. achieved | i. fundamental |
| 10. complete | j. dependence |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of your capital city?
- b) How is your capital city different to other cities?
- c) What do you know about Riyadh?
- d) What would you like to know about Riyadh?
- e) How could \$23 billion improve your capital city?
- f) How beautiful is your capital city?
- g) How livable is your capital city?
- h) How would you boost leisure in your city?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. a massive | a. injection |
| 2. boost leisure | b. on oil |
| 3. In addition to the government's cash | c. making people happier |
| 4. diversifying the kingdom's | d. amounts of money |
| 5. reducing its reliance | e. makeover |
| 6. be the envy of | f. fold |
| 7. awarded such vast | g. half of the year |
| 8. integral to | h. revenue sources |
| 9. be increased by 16- | i. other world capitals |
| 10. in the second | j. and tourism |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What other world cities do you envy?
- What is the quality of life like in your city?
- How important are city parks?
- How important are art installations?
- How could you make your city greener?
- What three adjectives best describe your city?
- What questions would you like to ask a city planner?

Spelling

- a ivemsas makeover
- In addition to the government's cash onitejcn
- huge investment rpsnptuotoiei
- the committee overseeing the ombtuisia project
- the Crown Prince's Vision 2030 iitnaeiivt
- reducing its celearni on oil
- the capital's 5 million stsneerid
- A focus on leisure is rengtail
- aquplurde the size
- hundreds of art stntlsiniaalo
- creating dozens of uomiycntm gardens
- take up to a acedd to complete

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. g | 2. e | 3. a | 4. d | 5. j |
| 6. c | 7. i | 8. b | 9. f | 10. h |

Role Play

Role A – Cheap Buses

You think cheap buses make city people the happiest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't make people happy. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to make people happy (and why): art galleries, clean air or lots of police.

Role B – Art Galleries

You think art galleries make city people the happiest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't make people happy. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to make people happy (and why): cheap buses, clean air or lots of police.

Role C – Clean Air

You think clean air make city people the happiest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't make people happy. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to make people happy (and why): art galleries, cheap buses or lots of police.

Role D – Lots of Police

You think lots of police make city people the happiest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't make people happy. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to make people happy (and why): art galleries, clean air or cheap buses.

Speaking – Happy City

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that make city people happy most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| • lots of police | • cheap buses |
| • malls | • parks |
| • clean air | • art galleries |
| • festivals | • libraries |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | T | b | F | c | F | d | F | e | T | f | F | g | T | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.