



Palestinians fill bottles and buckets with water at a communal water tank at al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City

UAE to fund \$15m monthly to Gaza

Gaza City

The United Arab Emirates will provide \$15 million a month to Gaza, a Palestinian politician said yesterday.

Mohammed Dahlan has been based in exile in the UAE since falling out with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and being expelled from his Fatah movement.

He has been improving relations with Hamas to the chagrin of the West Bank-based Abbas.

“Fifteen million dollars will be pumped monthly from the beginning

of next month to the Palestinian Joint Liability Committee in support of relief, humanitarian and development projects in the Gaza Strip to alleviate their suffering,” Samir Al-Mashharawi, an ally of Dahlan, said in a statement.

The committee was established in the wake of agreements made between Dahlan and Hamas in early July in Cairo.

Hamas is considered a terrorist organisation by the United States, European Union and Israel.

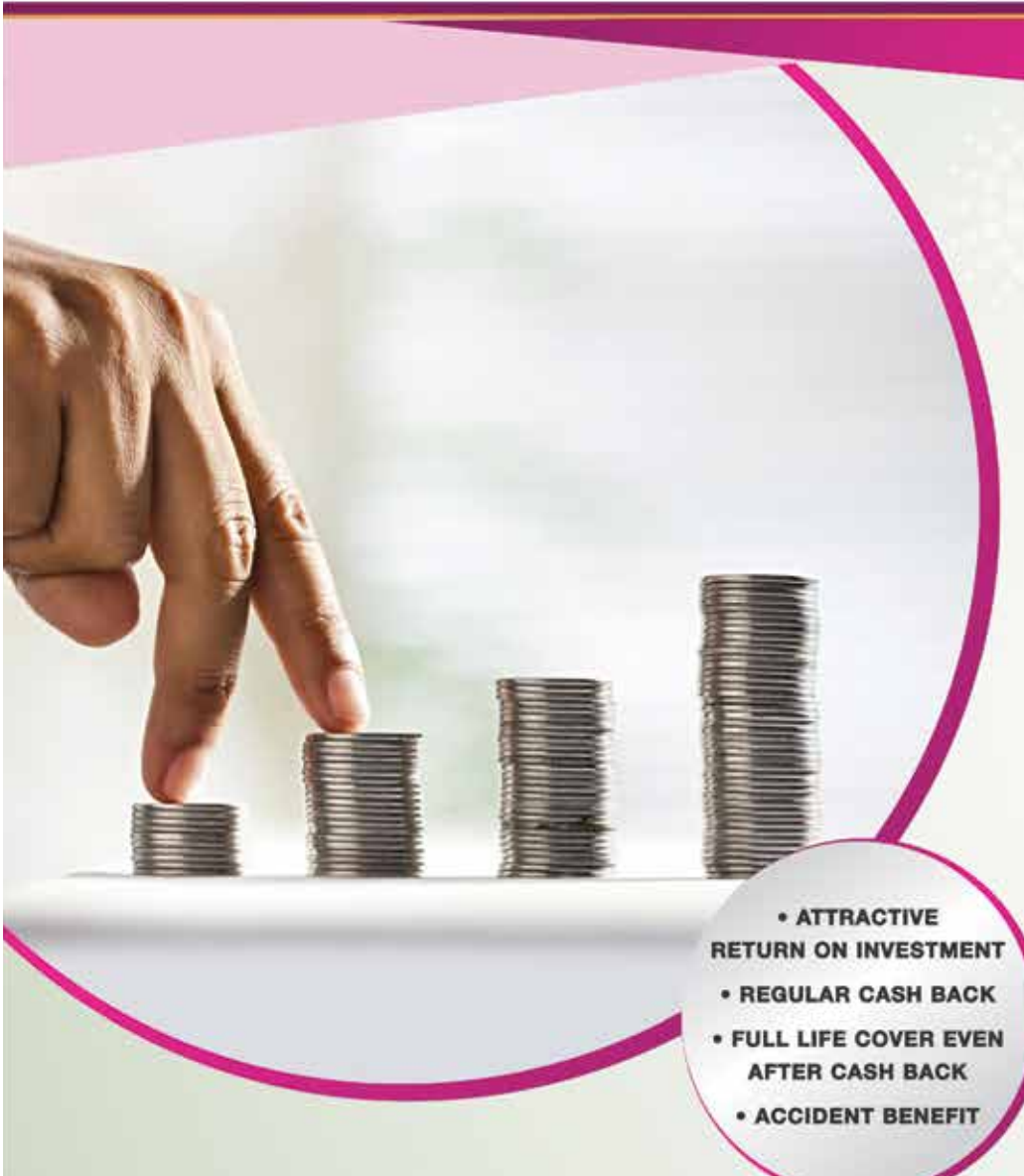
On Friday, Hamas leaders and Dahlan

allies again met in Cairo to discuss easing the blockade of Gaza with Egyptian officials.

The Rafah crossing from Egypt has been largely closed in recent years due to disputes between Hamas and Cairo.

Israel has maintained a crippling blockade on Gaza for a decade.

Seeing his two longtime adversaries moving closer, Abbas has sought to weaken Hamas -- reducing electricity funding for the strip and cutting salaries of state employees there. (AFP)



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