

PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION

AREA KNOWN AS

MAI WUUY

(Geothermal Waters)

Prepared By

Emnetu Tesfay

January 1992

Stavanger, Norway

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background Information

Preliminary study

Data aquisition

Professionals assessment

Cost analysis

Preparation of project document

Application for fund

Location map

Background Information

It has always been knocking in my head about the necessity of developing the May Wuuy area after Eritrea becomes independent. This could be done by constructing modern bathing complex, by building hotels, shops, pools and recreational centers like cinemas and theaters. Having all these facilities would give many Eritreans the chance to travel to this area both for natural medication and recreation. In the 60th, 70th and partly the 80th, although the area lacked even some basic facilities, May Wuuy was still a popular resort area for people complaining about their health and those who wanted to be physically and mentally refreshed.

Now after the long closure of the area due to war conditions, developing it with modern facilities should be considered as one of the most important tasks for the new national government. This will require making studies on the reservoir characteristics of the geothermal field and its capacity for sustainable steam production. A proper understanding of the reservoir will help to make the assessment potential of the field for the development and operation plan.

As a starting point a group consisting of ground water engineers, geologists, building engineers and economic planners need to be formed. A two-fold effort to coordinate rural economic benefit with the primary aim of making the area available for natural medication should be the objective of the study. For project realization the study should include reserve estimates, rainfall records and estimates of operating cost.

Based only on observation in the 60's and 70's the area seems to be covered by sand rivers and other shallow groundwater aquifers.

As the weather condition is rather hostile, ground water estimates and sources for potable water need be part of the primary development plan. Alternative development schemes aiming parallel at the rural local population need to be considered. Depending on the outcome of the study consideration has also to be made for exploring geothermal energy for power generation.

Originally I was thinking in terms of constructing low cost hotels bearing in mind that it should be available for all sectors of the Eritrean public. However in the course of my enquiry I discovered that places of geothermal waters are popular tourist attractions generating enormous foreign currency income to the state. In Yugoslavia (before its breakup) many people from all over Europe complaining against different types of sicknesses like romatism used to travel there regularly for bathing and staying in hotels for a longer time. I was told that Yugoslavia which can offer such visitors only two seasons in a year used to earn about 200.000.000 kroners (1 \$ = 6 kroner) annually solely from tourists who came to bath in the geothermal waters.

Since there is a great need of foreign currency for the government of our new country the study should consider planning a center that can accomodate Eritreans and foreigners. The study will focus on the size of the geothermal water reservoir to determine the size of the complex to be built. Once the size of the reservoir or water source is confirmed then development of this area would aim at making May Wuuy available to the eritrean for natural medication and a source of huge foreign currency for the national economy.

Of course the big question that should be addressed at the outset is if development of the area should be left to the private sector or the state.

MAY WUUY DEVELOPMENT

Rough Planning Scenario

- Clear area about 4 km²
- Build 2 identical "high class" hotels containing 20 rooms each. No high blocks, no elevators, maximum height 4 floors.
- Build 2 identical "middle cost" hotels containing 50 rooms each.
- Build 2 identical "low cost" hotels containing 100 rooms each.
- Construct a big pool and several bathrooms for each hotel class.
- A bus terminal with a gas station.
- A cinema / theater hall.
- Various size buildings for shops
- One building to accommodate residence to all employees.
- One building to be used as store house
- Enlarge and asphalt the road connecting May Wuuy with the Asmara - Massana road.
- Plant in rows and circles tropical fruits all around the area to be developed.
- Potable water system network
- Electricity supply network
- --- and so on, and so forth ---

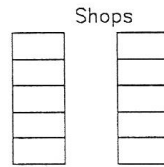
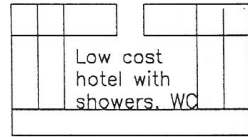
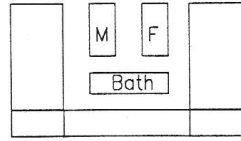
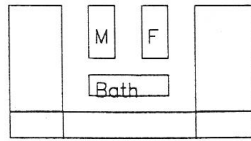


☐
Potable
water supply

☐ Residence for administr.
staff

☐ Store

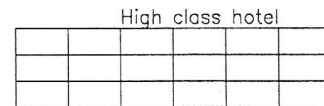
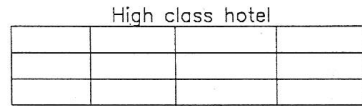
☐ Power supply



☐ Benzin
station

☐ Bus terminal

☐ Cinema



☐ Welcome to
MAI - WUUY



