

## **EGYPT WILL BE THE LEATHER PROCESSING HUB IN THE MIDDLE EAST AFTER ROBBIKI LEATHER CITY**



**Mostafa Hussein Abdel Khalek inside "El Genih Tannery"**

"The difference between Robbiki Leather City and Magra El Eyoun is the difference between the sky and the earth. Robbiki Leather City is a place that is industrially qualified in terms of constructions, roads, spaces, water treatment plants and machinery installation," says Mostafa Hussein Abdel khalek, CEO of El Genih tannery and member of Leather Export Council.

Born on 1962, Abdel Khalek inherited El Genih tannery from his father who started the tannery in the same year. After graduating from the faculty of commerce, Abdel Khalek began working with his father in 1983, and started exporting in 1997 as he says, "the most difficulty thing in any industry is to develop it. The Industrialist is exactly like the physician who can't proceed in his career without further learning continuously, developing his skills and knowing what's new in his field. We always need to do a research, watch, listen, travel and know the latest trends to improve the quality of our products."

Abdel Khalek was used to export all the products of his tannery when it was in Magra El Eyoun (MEE) area, but after relocating to the Robbiki Leather City (RLC), the production capacity of El Genih tannery increased by 30%, the finish section was added, and instead of exporting crust leather only now the tannery exports crust and finished leather, and 10% of the production goes to the local market. "We export 80% of our exports to Italy, Spain and Portugal and 20% to china and India. We process cow and buffalo leather, and we are looking forward to work on other kinds of leather in our development plan," says Abdel Khalek.



Workers drying hides inside "El Genih Tannery"

Abdel Khalek believes that there are lots of good raw leather in the Middle East but not all the countries there have tanneries, "with the RLC, Egypt could import most if not all the raw leather from the Middle East countries and process it to be the hub of leather tanning in the area. We also need to take care of our livestock and enhance the small manufacturers."

Abdel Khalek clarified that studies are being made in the Leather Export Council on how to put the leather products on the exportation list by launching the third phase of the Robbiki Project. When asked about the technical assistance he needs from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation "AICS", Abdel Khalek said: "We need to maintain our machinery as there are no technicians who can recondition and maintain machines, and we also want to see skilled people managing the Leather Tanning Technology Centre which will help small manufacturers improve their products."



Workers of "El Genih Tannery" while shaving the leather