



# Afghanistan's Economic Development

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"Afghanistan's Economic Development (Newsletter)" is an initiative of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Office that highlights Afghanistan's most significant and recent economic developments.

By reading this newsletter, which is prepared and published in three languages (Pashto, Dari, and English), you can stay informed about Afghanistan's latest economic progress.



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2. Initiation of Water Storage in Pashdan Dam
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# APPROVAL OF 30 STANDARDS

## BY THE HIGH COUNCIL FOR STANDARDS



The second meeting of the was held on November 30, 2024, at Marmarin Palace, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund.

The meeting was attended by Mullah Faizullah Tamim, the General Director of the National Standards Authority (ANSA), permanent members of the council, and representatives from the private sector.

The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the necessity of formulating and implementing standards to ensure the provision of quality products and imports to the

citizens. He stated that these standards would prevent the importation and domestic production of substandard goods, thereby ensuring the availability of quality products to the public. Deputy PM Mullah Baradar Akhund urged all institutions to rigorously implement and monitor the approved standards. During the council's second session, 30 standards were approved after thorough discussions. These standards pertain to construction, food and beverages, medical, mining, petroleum, textile, environmental, and electronic equipment sectors. This marked the second meeting of the High Council for Standards chaired by Deputy PM

Mullah Baradar Akhund. The first meeting, held on August 20, 2024, approved 24 standards in various fields.

The 30 standards approved during the second meeting were initially reviewed and endorsed by specialized committees within the National Standards Authority. They were subsequently presented to the High Council for Standards, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, for final approval.

Export, import, and production based on internationally recognized standards are crucial for the development of a national economy and maintaining trust in regional and global markets. One of the objectives of the High Council for Standards is to ensure the quality of Afghanistan's products and imports.

The approved standards aim to foster Afghanistan's economic growth and development. These standards can expand Afghanistan's trade relations with other countries. Accordingly, the Islamic Emirate is committed to effectively and efficiently implementing the approved standards.

## INITIATION OF WATER STORAGE IN PASHDAN DAM

Since coming to power, the Islamic Emirate has initiated swift efforts to manage Afghanistan's water resources and ensure their effective utilization. In this regard, evaluations of incomplete dam projects were conducted, followed by the development of comprehensive plans to resume

their construction.

Water management is a priority for the Islamic Emirate, and substantial efforts have been made to construct dams in various provinces. As part of these efforts, on April 28, 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, visited

Karukh district in Herat and inaugurated the resumption of construction work on the incomplete Pashdan Dam.

Deputy PM Mullah Baradar Akhund described the Pashdan Dam as a vital and significant project for the people of Herat, assuring them that the project would be completed with high quality. Currently, water storage has commenced in the Pashdan Dam, which will address the issue of groundwater depletion

in Herat city and surrounding areas and provide electricity to local communities.

The Pashdan Dam, located 25 kilometers from Herat city, is being constructed on the Karukh River. It will irrigate 13,000 hectares of land and generate two megawatts of electricity.

Decades of conflict have left Afghanistan facing severe environmental challenges, including groundwater depletion. In recent years, this issue has become particularly acute in some areas. Recognizing this, the Islamic Emirate has accelerated efforts to manage water resources effectively.

Numerous dam projects, including the Pashdan Dam, are progressing rapidly to address these challenges caused by conflicts and climate change. It is also worth mentioning that the Shah wa Arous Dam in Kabul is expected to become operational soon.

## INITIATION OF THE SECOND PARCEL OF PHASE ONE IN **NEW KABUL CITY**



Kabul's current city faces significant overcrowding, necessitating alternative solutions to reduce congestion. During the previous administration, the New Kabul City project was approved to address urban expansion and alleviate overcrowding. However, due to corruption, land usurpers, warlords, and the lack of seriousness by the previous government, the project was delayed.

After assuming power, the Islamic Emirate began efforts to implement this major national, social, and economic project. On August 17, 2023, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated the commencement of practical work for the second parcel of Phase One of the project.

Deputy PM Mullah Baradar Akhund

stated at the time that the Islamic Emirate is committed to making Afghanistan competitive with other nations and is tirelessly working toward this goal, with the New Kabul City project being a prime example. He highlighted that the project represents a significant partnership between the private sector and the Islamic Emirate at the national level, providing a favorable investment environment for domestic and foreign investors.

The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that New Kabul City will include all modern living facilities. Upon completion, the population will begin relocating from the current city to New Kabul, reducing congestion and preventing traffic accidents.

This project is being carried out by a private construction company

under the supervision of the Islamic Emirate. On December 10, 2024, the Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs, Maulvi Abdul Salam Hanafi, inaugurated the practical work for Parcel 2.6 of Phase One.

During the inauguration ceremony, Deputy PM Maulvi Abdul Salam Hanafi described the project as one of Afghanistan's major national and strategic initiatives, committed to its implementation by the Islamic Emirate. The project involves an investment of \$700 million in Parcel 2.6 of Phase One.

The New Kabul City project spans 740 square kilometers, equivalent to 370,000 jeribs, making it 1.5 times larger than the current city of Kabul. It will be completed in two phases over 15 years, accommodating 3.5 million residents.

The project has created a substantial opportunity for investment in Kabul, significantly contributing to reducing unemployment. Thousands of people are directly and indirectly employed in the project.

New Kabul City is located in the Deh Sabz district of Kabul Province, encompassing parts of Kalakan, Shakardara, Qarabagh, Estalif, and Bagram districts.