



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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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL ZONES LAW



The Industrial Zones Law was ratified by His Excellency Amir al-Mu'minin Sheikh Hibatullah Akhundzada (may Allah protect him) on August 04, 2024. The law consists of a preamble, six chapters, 11 sections, and 67 articles.

The purpose of this law is to enhance and develop Afghanistan's economy through the regulation of industrial zones. Other objectives include creating an environment conducive

to attracting and encouraging private investment, as well as ensuring the management, maintenance, and oversight of industrial zones.

The law clearly outlines the governance and supervision of industrial zones, the composition, responsibilities, and authorities of the designated board, and the procedures for establishing Emirate, private, and joint industrial zones. It

also details the allocation of land for such zones and specifies the criteria for distributing land to applicants seeking to establish industrial areas. The law obligates industrialists to adhere to environmental protection, labor-related provisions, and other legislative documents, ensuring that industrial and production unit waste and surplus materials are not disposed of in places other than specified.

The need for a dedicated law governing industrial zones was strongly felt. With the enactment of this law, industrial zones and their activities are now brought under a defined framework and governed by established principles.

Laws are enacted in a country to improve the well-being of its people and promote societal progress. This law is expected to advance Afghanistan's industrial sector, create new job opportunities, reduce unemployment, and play a significant role in environmental protection.

Additionally, the implementation of this law will systematize and attract investments, leading to further economic growth in the country.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PRIVILEGES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED TO RETURNING INDUSTRIALISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS



The Islamic Emirate is committed to fostering industrial growth in the country. It aims to encourage Afghan industrialists and investors

residing abroad to return and contribute to Afghanistan's economic development. In this regard, under the directive of

His Excellency Amir al-Mu'minin Sheikh Hibatullah Akhundzada (may Allah protect him), the "Regulation for Organizing the Privileges and Facilities for Returning Industrialists and Entrepreneurs" was established. This regulation provides numerous privileges and facilities to industrialists and entrepreneurs returning to Afghanistan.

One of the key incentives in the regulation is a five-year exemption from taxes, excluding employee taxes, for medium- and large-scale returning industrialists and entrepreneurs. Additionally, customs duties on imported machinery and equipment for these industrialists and entrepreneurs are also waived.

Returning industrialists and entrepreneurs are permitted to import up to two personal vehicles

duty-free. Furthermore, if they wish to bring foreign engineers or skilled professionals to Afghanistan, they will be granted two-year visas for these individuals.

Other privileges include the allocation of a plot of land in New City (Deh Sabz) or other Emirate-developed townships, access to necessary banking facilities, and the provision of

agricultural and mineral lands for development.

Afghan industrialists and entrepreneurs residing abroad are encouraged to seize this opportunity and transfer their industries and businesses to Afghanistan to support the country's economic growth and reduce unemployment.

The Afghan people, having suffered

greatly during the occupation and still grappling with economic challenges, now have a unique chance to rebuild as the war has ended. It is not only the responsibility of the Islamic Emirate but also of all wealthy Afghans, both at home and abroad, to work toward the prosperity of the nation and its people.

APPROVAL OF PROJECTS WORTH APPROXIMATELY 3 BILLION AFGHANIS BY THE NATIONAL PROCUREMENT COMMISSION



The regular session of the National Procurement Commission, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, was held on January 11, 2025 at Marmarin Palace.

In this session, 32 projects were presented for discussion. Among them, contracts for 17 projects were approved, amendments for nine projects were endorsed, and two projects were rejected due to procurement issues. It was instructed that the two rejected projects be re-tendered in accordance with procurement regulations.

Regarding the pricing of four other project contracts, specific committees were assigned to negotiate with the winning companies and submit their reports to the commission's leadership. Several significant projects were approved in this session. For instance, the construction of three terminals in Argandi (Kabul province), Guzara district (Herat province), and Faizabad (Badakhshan province) was sanctioned.

The Argandi vehicle terminal will be constructed on 914 jeribs of land, the Guzara district terminal on 734 jeribs, and the Faizabad

terminal on 20 jeribs. These three terminals will cost a total of 1.5 billion Afghanis. They will have the capacity to accommodate hundreds of vehicles, facilitating both passengers and freight transport. These terminals will save people time and provide modern facilities, such as centralized ticket purchasing and access to multiple services in one place, significantly reducing public inconvenience. Additionally, the construction of these terminals will create employment opportunities for hundreds of Afghans.

Currently, Afghanistan lacks modern and well-equipped terminals. To establish order in the transport sector, the Islamic Emirate decided to build these terminals.

Other approved projects included the maintenance of the Aqina-Andkhai and Tor Ghundi railway lines, the expansion of fiber optic networks in Kandahar, Helmand, and Farah provinces, and several other initiatives.