

Office of Deputy PM for Economic Affairs
Directorate of Media



ECONOMIC INITIATIVES AND PUBLIC FEEDBACK

4rd Report

21 December 2025 to 22 March 2026





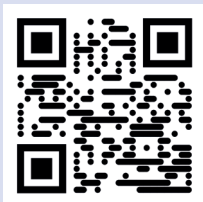
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Office of Deputy PM for Economic Affairs

Economic Initiatives and Public Feedback

22 Dec 2025 to 20 March 2026

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Major Power Projects Launched by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs



Introduction

Electricity is essential for a country's industrialization, as all industrial activities depend on reliable power supply. The Islamic Emirate has recognized this necessity and has therefore placed significant emphasis on increasing electricity generation and distribution across the country. Progress updates in this sector are regularly announced, and several projects have recently been inaugurated in Herat Province. On December 25, 2026, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, launched construction work on four projects and officially offered for use five others out of nine major electricity projects in Herat Province, with a total value of 3.98 billion Afghanis. The Deputy PM described these projects as vital for Afghanistan's industrial and economic growth, stating that they will ensure 24-hour electricity supply to all industrial parks in Herat Province. In addition, commercial centers, rural areas, and residential neighborhoods will benefit from electricity access, contributing to stable domestic power availability. He also announced incentives for investors in cold storage facilities, stating that such investors will receive a five-year tax exemption. At the same time, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat will guarantee continuous electricity supply to them under all circumstances.

He encouraged both domestic and foreign investors to take advantage of this opportunity. Furthermore, the Deputy PM urged all countries to adopt an engagement-based approach toward Afghanistan instead of restrictive policies and to view the country's current security stability as a significant opportunity. He emphasized that the Islamic Emirate does not expect interaction at the expense of its values. According to him, the Islamic Emirate has adopted a balanced foreign policy and is fully focused on Afghanistan's economic development, security stability, and good governance. In conclusion, he called upon contracting companies and technical teams to complete the newly initiated projects within the specified timeframe and in full compliance with quality standards. It is noteworthy that the projects offered for use include the extension of a 130-kilometer 220-kilovolt transmission line from Turkmenistan and the construction of four substations in the districts of Karukh, Pashtun Zarghun, Obei, and Chisht-e Sharif. These projects will supply electricity to 40,000 households.

The newly launched projects include the construction of the Pul-e-Hashimi substation, expansion of the 24 Houth Martyrs substation, installation of a B-line at the Noorul Jihad substation, and the extension of transmission lines connecting the Pul-e-Hashimi, Noorul Jihad, and 24 Houth Martyrs substations.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Supplying electricity to industrial parks and the public

A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 772
- Negative comments: 167
- Constructive recommendations: 13

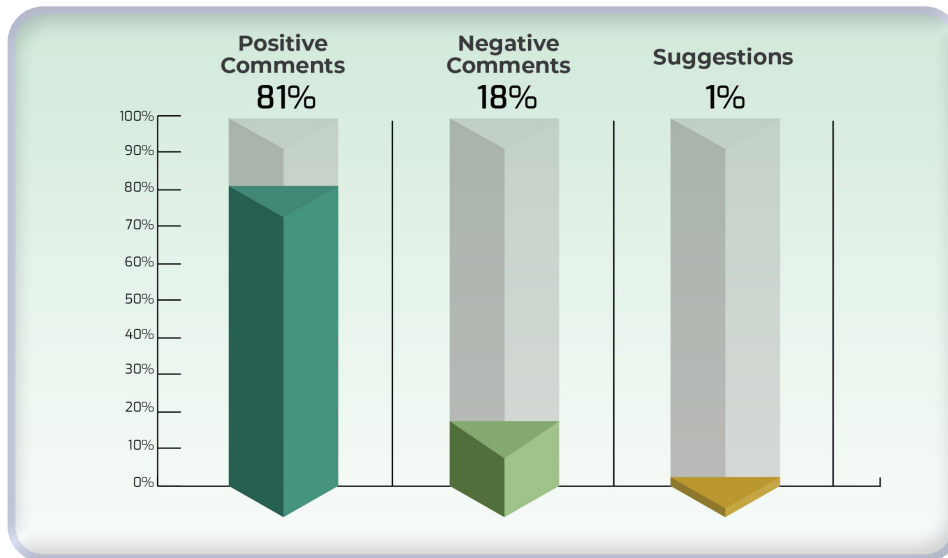
In percentage

Positive comments: 81

Negative comments: 18

Constructive recommendations: 1

Evaluation of people's comments on private and state media



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- ⦿ Electricity eliminates unemployment; with electricity, factories become operational.
- ⦿ The activation of these factories in Herat will lead the people of Herat toward self-sufficiency in agricultural products, clothing, essential food items, electricity, and other sectors.
- ⦿ In the hope of national development, greater attention should be given to Kabul's electricity supply.
- ⦿ Do not establish factories only in Herat; attention should also be given to other provinces.
- ⦿ Citizens should recognize that a favorable opportunity for investment is now available and should take practical steps to invest.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, the majority of citizens expressed positive views regarding the launch and offer-for-use of several electricity projects in Herat, describing them as a major achievement. In their view, electricity plays a crucial role in reducing unemployment, as factories become operational with reliable power supply. This observation reflects reality. Nearly all industrial activities worldwide depend on electricity. In today's world, countries that have achieved development have done so largely due to sufficient electricity for industrial operations.

When industrial activity increases in a country, employment opportunities expand and more people are engaged in work. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan recognizes that one of the main reasons for the country's economic underdevelopment has been the lack of sufficient and stable electricity. For this reason, it has initiated various power generation projects and seeks to utilize Afghanistan's water, solar, wind, and other energy resources. The objective is both to make effective use of national capacities and to generate adequate electricity for industrial growth, while also reducing dependence on external sources. With domestic electricity production, more factories will be established, more goods will be produced, and the country will move toward self-sufficiency in multiple sectors.

- **Second**, some citizens commented that factories should not be established only in Herat but that other provinces should also receive attention. Indeed, this is a reasonable point. However, in response, it should be stated that the Islamic Emirate does not pursue discriminatory policies by prioritizing one region while neglecting others. Rather, it considers all of Afghanistan as one entity and gives priority to areas where the need is greater. Herat is among the provinces where the private sector has made significant investments, and it has developed into one of Afghanistan's industrial hubs. Therefore, its demand for electricity is comparatively higher. Nonetheless, other provinces have not been overlooked, and electricity generation projects are ongoing in many parts of the country. The Islamic Emirate considers balanced economic development across the entire country as its responsibility.
- **Third**, a number of citizens noted that favorable conditions for investment currently exist in Afghanistan and encouraged taking action to invest. The reality is that, after four decades, the developments of 2021 led to nationwide security and created a suitable environment for investment. Over the past nearly four years, investment levels across various sectors in Afghanistan have increased, with both domestic and foreign investors committing billions of Afghanis. These investments have contributed to economic growth and have played a significant role in reducing unemployment. To encourage investors and industrialists, the Islamic Emirate has introduced various incentives and facilities that can be utilized.

Conclusion

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has prioritized electricity generation and implemented multiple energy projects aimed at meeting domestic energy demands, expanding industrial activity, and reducing unemployment. Citizens have welcomed the launch and commissioning of electricity generation and distribution projects in Herat and have called for similar initiatives in other provinces. The Islamic Emirate remains committed to balanced national development and has initiated projects in various provinces based on assessed needs.

Proposal to Supply Water from the Kunar River to the Darunta Dam Deemed Approvable



Introduction

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has prioritized water resource management in the country. To this end, it has launched numerous projects across various provinces, some aimed at electricity generation and others at agricultural development.

The regular meeting of the Technical Committee of the Economic Commission was held on December 15, 2026, at the Marmarin Palace. During the meeting, a proposal to supply water from the Kunar River, along the route of the lower section of the Gambiri Plain, to the reservoir of the Darunta Dam was presented for discussion. After comprehensive deliberation, the proposal was deemed approvable and referred to the Economic Commission for final decision-making.

With the transfer of water from the Kunar River to the Darunta Dam, the problem of water shortage affecting a large portion of agricultural lands in Nangarhar Province will be resolved.

Additionally, the meeting discussed the fifth section (25 kilometers) of the Badghis Ring Road project. A designated committee was assigned to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the project and to present its report at the following meeting of the Technical Committee of the Economic Commission.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Agricultural development

A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

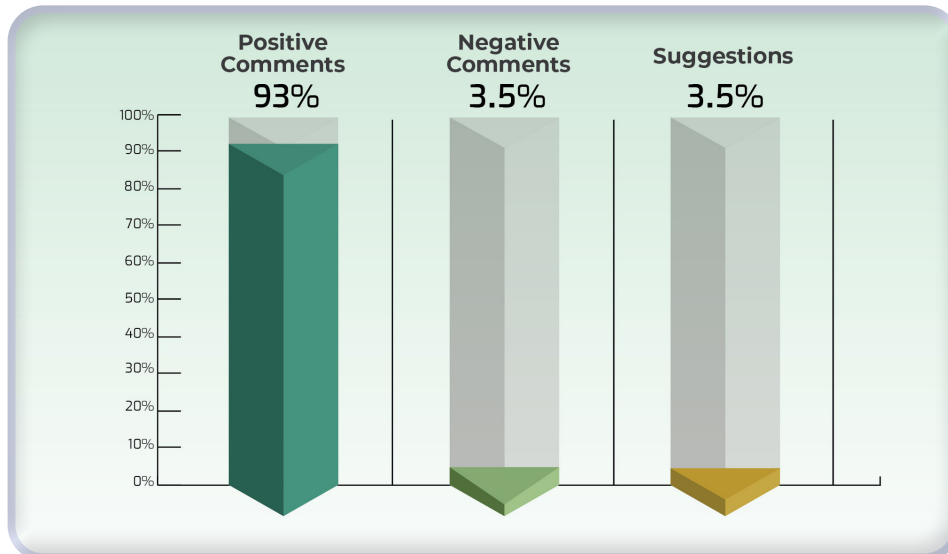
Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 955
- Negative comments: 34
- Constructive recommendations: 34

In percentage

- Positive comments: 93
- Negative comments: 3.5
- Constructive recommendations: 3.5

Evaluation of people's comments on private and state media



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- ⦿ This decision is a highly valuable and commendable step in the interest of national welfare, agriculture, and sustainable development. Through the transfer of water from the Kunar River to the Darunta Dam, the drought problem affecting the agricultural areas of Nangarhar will largely be reduced.
- ⦿ This project lays the foundation for the prosperity, self-sufficiency, and progress of future generations. Supporting such national projects is the responsibility of every Afghan.
- ⦿ May it not be like the Kabul–Jalalabad highway.
- ⦿ It is a positive initiative; however, at a time when the world is facing a water crisis, Afghanistan’s water resources must be managed properly.
- ⦿ The implementation of this plan will strengthen self-sufficiency in food production, particularly in the production of oranges and citrus fruits.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, the overwhelming majority of citizens, in their comments, expressed satisfaction with the approval of the proposal to transfer water from the Kunar River to the Darunta Dam, describing it as an important step toward agricultural development in the region. The reality is that Afghanistan possesses abundant water resources for agricultural expansion, which, if properly managed, can enable the country to achieve self-sufficiency in many sectors through effective utilization of water. Currently, large areas of the country’s land remain uncultivated, with the primary reason being the lack of water availability. The Islamic Emirate has recognized this challenge and has therefore prioritized water management to ensure both the proper utilization of national water resources and the expansion of agriculture. In Nangarhar and Laghman provinces, the Gambiri area, which has remained largely uncultivated due to insufficient water, will, with the commencement of this project, see a significant portion prepared for agricultural use. This will generate employment opportunities, increase agricultural production, and contribute to the expansion of trade.
- **Second**, some citizens have expressed doubts regarding the completion of the project, stating that it should not face delays similar to the second road of Kabul–Jalalabad. First, it should be clarified that construction of that road is ongoing. Major construction works are progressing from both directions—Kabul and Jalalabad—and officials from the Ministry

of Public Works, along with Nangarhar provincial authorities, conduct regular site visits to ensure that the project is completed with proper quality standards. Secondly, in response to these concerns, it must be stated that whenever the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan commits to initiating and completing a project, it carries it through to completion. In the absence of technical obstacles, projects have been finalized within the designated timeframe. The successful completion of various projects across the country serves as clear evidence of the Islamic Emirate's seriousness regarding national development.

- **Third**, some citizens have noted in their comments that this project will lead Afghanistan toward self-sufficiency in the production of oranges and other citrus fruits in the region. Indeed, this is an evident reality. Certain areas of Nangarhar and Laghman are highly suitable for citrus cultivation and yield strong harvests. Upon completion of this project, numerous orange and citrus orchards are expected to be established, and their produce will meet a considerable portion of domestic demand. The Islamic Emirate seeks to achieve self-sufficiency in various sectors, and agriculture—which forms the backbone of Afghanistan's economy—requires substantial attention. For this reason, the Islamic Emirate is prioritizing water management to promote agricultural development throughout the country.

Conclusion

Afghanistan possesses vast stretches of uncultivated land which, once developed, can significantly expand agricultural production and consequently improve the country's overall economic condition. Water is essential for the development of these barren plains.

Afghanistan is endowed with flowing rivers suitable for agricultural use, and their proper management can transform barren lands into productive fields. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is making efforts to expand agriculture nationwide and has initiated the construction of canals for this purpose. These measures are expected to enhance agricultural growth and lead to self-sufficiency in certain sectors.

Construction of an Overpass in Front of Kabul Provincial Office Begins



Introduction

Kabul city is one of Afghanistan's most populous cities, and its unplanned urban growth has created numerous traffic challenges for residents. The Kabul Municipality is striving to reduce traffic congestion, provide necessary facilities to citizens, and ensure orderly urban development.

On December 30, 2026, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, inaugurated the construction of an overpass for vehicle traffic in front of the Kabul Provincial Office. Considering the city's growing population, the volume of economic activities, and the current urban conditions, he emphasized that urban development, transport infrastructure, and city planning are essential and that Kabul should develop according to a modern and organized urban plan.

The Deputy PM praised the Kabul Municipality for recognizing these needs and carrying out remarkable work in transport and urban management, describing it as commendable. He also called on Kabul residents to fulfill their responsibilities in maintaining city cleanliness and order and to fully cooperate in infrastructure projects.

The Deputy PM urged the project engineers to complete the overpass in full compliance with all standards and quality measures.

Project Details

- Length: 235 meters
- Width: 18 meters
- Height: 6.8 meters
- Estimated Cost: 462 million Afghanis
- Expected Completion: 15 months

This overpass aims to improve traffic flow, enhance urban mobility, and contribute to the orderly development of Kabul city.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Supplying electricity to industrial parks and the public

A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

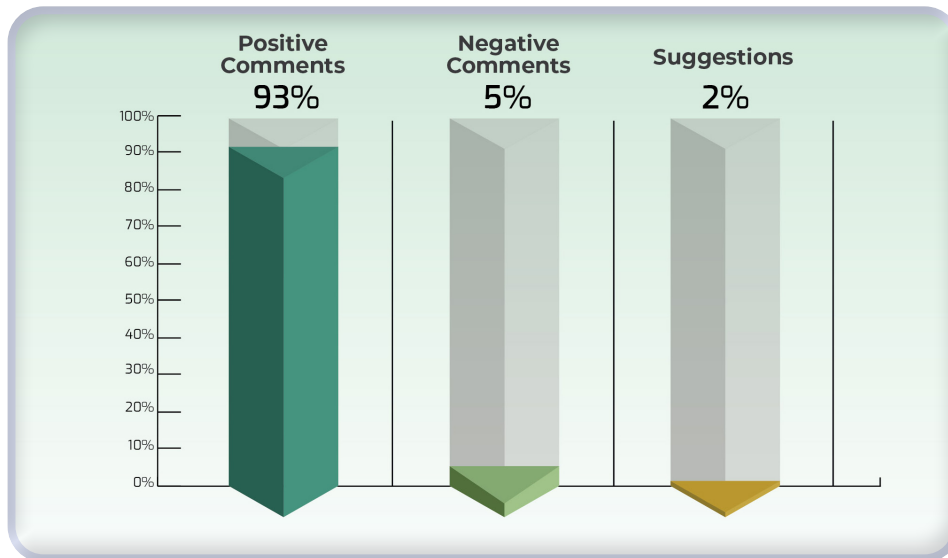
Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 2412
- Negative comments: 122
- Constructive recommendations: 53

In percentage

- Positive comments: 93
- Negative comments: 5
- Constructive recommendations: 2

Evaluation of people's comments on private and state media



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- The officials have worked tirelessly day and night. In the past forty years, so much service has not been provided as has been accomplished in these past four years.
- If this project is implemented in a proper and organized manner, it will be counted among the major achievements and services of the officials.
- These projects will provide conveniences for citizens and reduce unemployment, God willing.
- Kabul is truly a crowded city, and this step is commendable.
- First, construct dams so that both agriculture and electricity generation can benefit.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, the majority of citizens expressed satisfaction with the construction of the overpass in front of Kabul Provincial Office and praised the Kabul Municipality for this step. According to them, nothing comparable had been accomplished in the past forty years as has been achieved by the Islamic Emirate in its four-year period. Indeed, despite limited resources and international sanctions, the Islamic Emirate has completed major works in just four years. The achievements of the Kabul Municipality alone are remarkable. The recovery of usurped properties in Kabul and the construction of numerous roads for urban development are tasks that were not completed previously, despite the presence of widespread corruption

and substantial financial resources. These accomplishments have been possible due to the resolute stance of Islamic Emirate officials and their commitment to national development. Observably, Kabul has undergone significant transformation compared to its state before the Islamic Emirate took power four years ago. Roads have been expanded, greater attention has been given to city cleanliness, and efforts for overall urban order have been strengthened. With the continued governance of the Islamic Emirate, not only Kabul but the entire country is expected to witness visible improvements and development in multiple sectors.

- **Second**, some citizens noted that such projects provide convenience to citizens and help reduce unemployment. Indeed, national development projects not only provide facilities for citizens but also generate employment opportunities. For example, projects like the Qosh Tapa Canal, electricity generation initiatives, and road construction projects have significantly contributed to reducing unemployment. The Islamic Emirate is actively working to bring unemployment to near zero through both domestic and foreign investment. Over the past four years, substantial efforts have attracted billions of Afghanis in investments across multiple sectors, creating jobs and supporting economic growth.
- **Third**, several citizens called on the Islamic Emirate to construct dams, noting that these would benefit both agriculture and electricity production. This is an excellent suggestion. The Islamic Emirate is committed to the proper utilization of the country's water resources. Construction of dams is ongoing in various provinces, which, once completed, will increase electricity production and expand agricultural activity. Some dams, such as the Shah wa Aros Dam, Pashdan Dam, and other medium and small dams, have already been offered for use. The Islamic Emirate plans to use national resources to generate electricity and supply water to the country's arid plains, which will further enhance agricultural development.

Conclusion

The Islamic Emirate is working to provide residents of Kabul, a densely populated city, with improved facilities and orderly urban development, reducing traffic congestion and enhancing the city's appearance. Citizens have expressed gratitude and appreciation for the Islamic Emirate's efforts and have requested similar projects in other areas. The Islamic Emirate is committed to promoting economic development across the country and aims to position Afghanistan alongside the world's developing nations.

Regular Sessions of the Economic Commission Held



Introduction

Under the leadership of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a regular session of the Economic Commission was held on February 10, 2026, at the Marmarin Palace. During this session, the national policy for the development of the agriculture and livestock sector was presented, discussed, and approved.

The key objectives of this policy include:

- Mechanization of agriculture and livestock sectors
- Development of research and extension systems in agriculture, irrigation, and livestock
- Management of irrigation systems
- Support for investment in agriculture, irrigation, and livestock
- Ensuring public access to high-quality agricultural and animal products

Additionally, the session discussed and approved a development plan for the aquaculture (fish farming) sector. According to the plan, through private sector investment across various

provinces, 7,700 small, medium, and large fish farms will be established on 6,500 hectares of land. Implementation of this plan will directly create employment for 50,000 people and indirectly for 250,000 citizens.

At the end of the session, reports on several follow-up issues were presented, and relevant agencies were given necessary recommendations.

Another regular session of the Economic Commission was held on January 18, 2026 at the Marmarin Palace, also under the leadership of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. Topics discussed included:

- Reopening of the civilian airport in Shorab, Helmand province, and its existing cold storage facilities
- Implementation of the rotation law for cargo vehicles
- Installment schedules for land prices in industrial parks
- Categorization of industrial park lands by province
- Tax exemptions for investors making new investments in Afghanistan to promote employment opportunities

Following the discussion, committees were assigned to conduct comprehensive studies on these topics and submit reports to the Economic Commission on the scheduled dates.

At the conclusion of the session, reports on several follow-up issues were also presented, approved, and recommendations for implementation were issued to the relevant agencies.

The above decisions were forwarded to the office of the esteemed Amir al-Mu'minin, may Allah protect him, for final approval.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Supplying electricity to industrial parks and the public

A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 269
- Negative comments: 21
- Constructive recommendations: 10

In percentage

- Positive comments: 90
- Negative comments: 7
- Constructive recommendations: 3

Evaluation of people's comments on private and state media**Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:**

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- Due to road closures with Pakistan, fish prices have risen significantly, making them unaffordable for poor people.
- Nangarhar and Helmand have suitable climates for fish farms. Lessons from other countries should be utilized to achieve self-sufficiency.
- In addition to building farms, the protection of fish in local rivers should also be ensured.
- Poisonous substances are being used to catch fish in rivers, and this must be prevented.
- The Wakhan railway line is very important and must be fully connected.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, some citizens, in their comments, stated that due to road closures with Pakistan, fish have become expensive in the country and suggested that fish farms be established in some provinces to achieve self-sufficiency in the fisheries sector. In response to these citizens, it should be noted that the temporary increase in fish prices may have been caused by the suspension of trade with Pakistan. However, thanks to the efforts of the officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the establishment of trade relations with other countries, fish prices quickly returned to normal, and for a long time now, fish have been available in the market at reasonable prices. The Islamic Emirate is striving to meet domestic demand through alternative markets while also aiming for self-sufficiency across various sectors, including fisheries. Recently, efforts have accelerated, and fish production farms have been established in different provinces. Alongside imported fish, locally farmed fish are also available in the market. The Islamic Emirate aims to develop the fisheries sector in the country and has taken serious steps in this regard, as evidenced by the approval of the fisheries development plan at a recent meeting of the Economic Commission.
- **Second**, some citizens noted in their comments that alongside the construction of farms, attention should also be given to protecting fish in the country's rivers and preventing the use of poisonous substances. Indeed, the Islamic Emirate is fully attentive to this matter and has banned illegal fishing nationwide. The primary objective is to preserve fish populations in rivers. The Islamic Emirate enforces legal measures against illegal fishermen, with examples across various provinces, and anyone who violates these regulations is held accountable. Citizens are urged to avoid illegal activities and cooperate with Islamic Emirate officials in protecting fish populations.
- **Third**, several citizens expressed that constructing the Wakhan railway line is essential and requested its implementation. Afghanistan occupies a strategic geographic location with great potential for regional connectivity and can link various neighboring countries. Iranian officials have mentioned connecting China through Afghanistan's Badakhshan (Wakhan), and meetings have been held with Islamic Emirate officials regarding this project. The Islamic Emirate also seeks to implement this project, and once work begins and progresses promptly, this railway line will benefit not only Afghanistan but all neighboring countries. The Islamic Emirate assures citizens that, similar to the TAPI project, it is serious about implementing other regional connectivity projects and aims to transform Afghanistan into a regional economic hub, though some projects require time and will advance at the appropriate pace.

Conclusion

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is committed to developing the agriculture and livestock sector and creating job opportunities through it. Agriculture and livestock are vital pillars of the country's economy, employing a large portion of the population. Most citizens have expressed satisfaction with the Islamic Emirate's actions in the fisheries sector and have praised the officials' efforts. The Islamic Emirate has banned illegal fishing in the country, and anyone who violates the law is held accountable.

National Procurement Commission Approves 21 Projects Worth Approximately 2.5 Billion Afghanis



Introduction

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has not only focused on the country's industry, agriculture, electricity, and other sectors, but has also paid special attention to the health sector and taken necessary measures to provide healthcare services to citizens. One such measure is the construction of health centers in deprived areas of the country, the projects of which are approved by the National Procurement Commission.

During the regular meeting of the National Procurement Commission, chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Abdul Ghani Baradar, held on January 7, 2026, at the Marmarin Palace, 33 projects were presented for approval. Of these, 21 projects worth approximately 2.5 billion Afghanis were approved.

Amendments were introduced to seven projects. One project was reopened for national competitive bidding, while another was suspended due to previous contractual deficiencies of the winning company. A committee was appointed to conduct a comprehensive review of all existing contracts of the said company and to submit its report to the leadership of the National Procurement Commission.

Additionally, one project was returned to the relevant ministry due to procurement-related issues, and designated committees were tasked with negotiating price matters concerning two projects with the winning companies and presenting their findings to the Commission's leadership.

The approved and amended projects include:

- Procurement of scanners for customs at the airports of Kabul, Herat, Nangarhar, Balkh, and Khost;
- Rehabilitation of the main road from Gardez to Khost;
- Construction of police headquarters buildings in Ghazni and Farah provinces;
- Detailed design and feasibility studies for the irrigation system of the Sultan Ibrahim Dam in Sar-e-Pul;
- Power supply projects for Sancharak, Sozma Qala, and Gosfandi districts of Sar-e-Pul;
- Construction of general hospitals in Qala-e-Zal (Kunduz), Gereshk (Helmand), Shinwari (Parwan), Parchaman (Farah), Lakan (Khost), Warsaj (Takhar), Alasay (Kapisa), Shakardara (Kabul), and Daraim (Badakhshan);
- Completion of remaining works on several electricity supply and distribution projects in various provinces.

The approved projects are funded by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Providing facilities and services for the citizens

A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

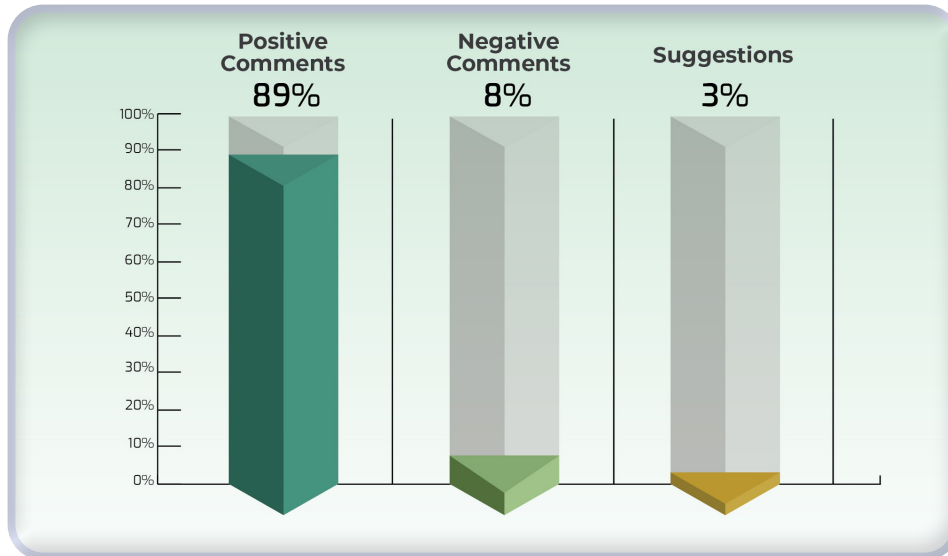
Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 696
- Negative comments: 61
- Constructive recommendations: 25

In percentage

- Positive comments: 89%
- Negative comments: 8%
- Constructive recommendations: 3%

Evaluation of people's comments on private and state media



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- Such projects make people's lives easier and improve the quality of healthcare services.
- May Almighty Allah grant that these projects are implemented and that the healthcare challenges of the people are resolved.
- Hospitals should also be constructed in other areas, as the need is significant.
- Hospitals should also be built in certain districts of Kandahar, Faryab, Takhar, Nimroz, Helmand, Nangarhar, and Paktia, as critically ill patients are often unable to be transferred to other areas in a timely manner.
- The health sector requires serious attention; however, alongside this, greater focus should also be placed on the electricity sector to ensure sustainable, domestically generated power and to prevent future challenges.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, the majority of citizens, in their comments, have expressed positive views regarding the approval by the National Procurement Commission of general hospitals in various districts across different provinces of the country. They have considered these projects important for improving healthcare services for local residents and have expressed hope for their effective implementation.

The reality is that limited work has been done for the health sector in the country, and many challenges were inherited by the Islamic Emirate. The Islamic Emirate intends, as in other sectors, to give due attention to the health sector and to provide healthcare services in areas where such services are currently unavailable, so as to create greater convenience in the lives of citizens. The Islamic Emirate is committed to ensuring that all citizens benefit from healthcare services, to further improve healthcare standards in the country, and to enable the treatment of serious illnesses within the country.

- **Second**, some citizens have also called for the construction of hospitals in other parts of the country. In response, it should be stated that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan gives attention to the entire country and seeks to extend healthcare services nationwide, particularly to address the needs of deprived areas.

Since development and construction projects cannot commence simultaneously across the entire country, and since project requirements and procurement processes require time in each area, hospitals have currently been approved in certain districts of specific provinces. However, this does not mean that other deprived areas will be left without healthcare services. With the help of Almighty Allah, and as processes are completed over time, hospitals will be constructed in all underserved regions of the country, and citizens will benefit from healthcare services. The Islamic Emirate remains committed to balanced development and considers the delivery of services to all parts of Afghanistan its responsibility.

- **Third**, a number of citizens have noted that alongside attention to the health sector, the electricity sector should also receive greater focus, so that Afghanistan can rely on its own energy sources. This observation is entirely valid, and it is indeed essential to develop domestic electricity generation, as Afghanistan possesses significant potential for power production. There are substantial opportunities to generate electricity from water, solar, wind, and other resources.

The Islamic Emirate has not remained inactive in this regard; it has also prioritized this sector. As observed, some electricity generation projects have been completed, while others are currently underway. The officials of the Islamic Emirate are working day and night to serve the people and to provide necessary facilities, striving to move Afghanistan toward self-sufficiency in the electricity sector and to fully utilize the country's internal capacities.

Conclusion

In view of the current condition of the health sector in the country, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has decided to give increased attention to this sector in order to provide healthcare facilities to those citizens who are deprived of such services and to resolve their challenges. The Islamic Emirate aims to gradually expand healthcare services across the country in accordance with available resources and capacities.

Many citizens have praised the construction of hospitals in various provinces as an important step toward addressing healthcare challenges. They have also expressed hope for similar initiatives in other provinces, and the Islamic Emirate is determined to fulfill these expectations, God willing.

Meeting Between Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund and Turkmenistan's Deputy PM and Foreign Minister



Introduction

Based on its economy-oriented policy, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is striving to enhance regional connectivity and seeks for Afghanistan to play a key role in linking the region. In addition to the TAPI Pipeline, TAP Power Project, CASA-1000, and railway projects, several other initiatives pass through Afghan territory, in which Afghanistan plays a central role. Therefore, meetings are held with key neighboring countries and stakeholders involved in these projects to strengthen relations and advance implementation.

On February 1, 2026, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met in Herat with Turkmenistan's Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rashid Meredov.

The meeting was also attended by Afghanistan's Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Mullah Hedayatullah Badri; Minister of Water and Energy, Mullah Mohammad Yunus Akhundzada; Turkmenistan's Minister of Transport and Railways; the Minister of State; the Head of the Turkmengaz State-owned enterprise; and several other Afghan and Turkmen officials.

The two sides discussed the TAPI project, the TAP power project, railway development, and electricity initiatives.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that the launch of the TAPI project has created opportunities for expanding relations among Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and regional countries. He noted that Delta International from Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in investing in the project. According to him, the company is willing to invest in purchasing gas under the TAPI project, increasing the capacity of Turkmenistan's major gas block, constructing and extending the gas pipeline from Guzara district of Herat to Spin Boldak district of Kandahar, and from Spin Boldak to the Indian border, as well as establishing a large and modern gas hub at Gwadar Port in Pakistan.

He also requested Turkmenistan to clarify its position regarding the construction of the Torghundi–Herat railway project, noting that Kazakhstan has shown strong interest in implementing the project.

Furthermore, he expressed Afghanistan's full readiness to finalize the route map of the TAP project and assured full cooperation for the transmission of electricity to Bala Murghab, Khamyab, and Qarqin districts, as well as for launching other regional connectivity projects. He also emphasized the importance of creating employment opportunities for Afghans within ongoing bilateral projects. Subsequently, Turkmenistan's Deputy PM and Foreign Minister, Rashid Meredov, thanked the Islamic Emirate for providing a favorable environment for the implementation of the TAPI project and stated that work on the project would reach Herat city by the end of the current Gregorian year. He welcomed the interest of foreign companies in investing in TAPI and emphasized the need for close coordination.

He also expressed Turkmenistan's readiness to invest in the Torghundi–Herat railway project, noting that practical work has already commenced in Torghundi. Additionally, he stated that Turkmenistan is prepared to transmit electricity to Afghanistan through five routes and to enhance its capacity. Moreover, both sides discussed expanding trade, strengthening banking cooperation, creating employment opportunities, and jointly managing economic projects in various sectors.

It is noteworthy that, at the conclusion of the meeting, technical teams from both countries provided detailed briefings on the progress of ongoing projects.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Strengthening regional connectivity

A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

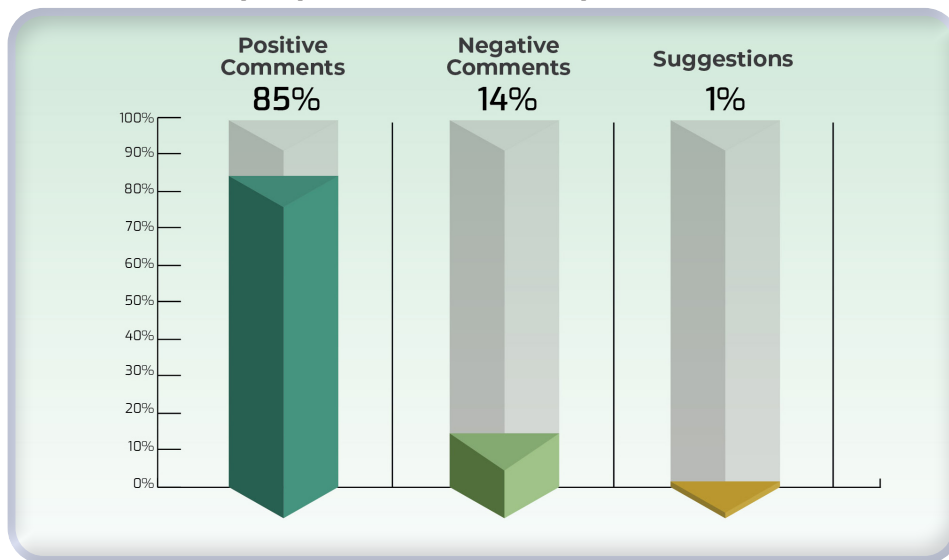
Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 194
- Negative comments: 32
- Constructive recommendations: 14

In percentage

- Positive comments: 85%
- Negative comments: 14%
- Constructive recommendations: 1%

Evaluation of people’s comments on private and state media



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- ⦿ It would be highly beneficial if a significant portion of the TAPI project’s gas is utilized within Afghanistan.
- ⦿ The implementation of the TAPI project should be accelerated.
- ⦿ The TAPI project will create employment opportunities for many citizens.
- ⦿ Greater efforts should be made to reduce unemployment.
- ⦿ Secure and guaranteed transit routes should be established with Pakistan.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, the majority of citizens, in their comments, have expressed positive views regarding the meeting of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs with Turkmenistan's Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs, particularly emphasizing the TAPI Pipeline. They have called for the acceleration of work on the project and stressed that a substantial portion of the gas should be utilized within Afghanistan.

Regional connectivity projects such as TAPI are of great importance to Afghanistan. The TAPI project, which transports Turkmenistan's gas through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India, offers significant benefits to Afghanistan. One of its key advantages is the allocation of gas to Afghanistan, which will not only supply gas to many households and create convenience in people's lives, but will also contribute to industrial growth. Work on the project is progressing rapidly in Herat, and as pledged, it will continue accordingly. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan intends, with the help of Almighty Allah, to fulfill its commitments to the people.

- **Second**, some citizens have stated that the TAPI project is important for reducing unemployment in the country and have called on the Islamic Emirate to intensify efforts to eliminate unemployment. Indeed, the TAPI project plays a vital role in lowering unemployment. Currently, a number of citizens are already employed in the project. Once the project becomes operational and gas is supplied to industrial factories, the expansion of industrial activities will create employment opportunities for many more people.

Over the past four years, the Islamic Emirate has made considerable efforts to reduce unemployment by attracting domestic and foreign investment, launching various industrial factories, and implementing projects related to electricity generation and agricultural development, among other sectoral initiatives. These efforts have resulted in job creation for many citizens. The Islamic Emirate also seeks to initiate additional regional connectivity projects alongside TAPI, as such initiatives improve the country's economic condition and generate substantial employment opportunities.

- **Third**, some citizens have commented on the closure of trade routes between Afghanistan and Pakistan and have requested that the routes be reopened after obtaining firm guarantees. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, along with other officials of the Islamic Emirate, has stated that the routes will be reopened once strong guarantees are provided.

The Islamic Emirate remains committed to its position and believes that trade between countries should continue under all circumstances and that trade and politics should be kept separate. The Islamic Emirate assures its citizens that it will stand firm in its stance

and that all decisions will be made with Afghanistan's national interests in mind.

Conclusion

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan considers domestic and foreign investment, as well as regional connectivity projects, essential for job creation within the country. Such projects are regarded as highly significant not only for employment generation, but also for Afghanistan's economic growth, regional stability, and cooperation. The Islamic Emirate is prepared to play its important role in these initiatives.

The majority of citizens have praised the progress of the TAPI project and described it as crucial for job creation and reducing unemployment. They have called for the acceleration of its implementation. The Islamic Emirate reaffirms its commitment to completing the project in accordance with its pledges.

Discussion Held on Granting Residency in Afghanistan to Foreign Investors in Exchange for Investment



Introduction

The regular meeting of the Economic Commission was held on February 7, 2026, at the Marmarin Palace chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund.

During the meeting, the issue of granting Afghan residency to foreign investors for a period ranging from one to ten years in return for investment in Afghanistan was presented for discussion. After deliberation, the proposal was approved, and a designated committee was assigned to categorize the duration of residency based on the amount of investment. The committee was also tasked with considering all aspects of the matter and presenting its report to the next meeting of the Economic Commission.

Additionally, the meeting discussed the implementation of the starting and ending procedures of the TIR system operations at the country's customs offices. A committee was appointed to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the issue and to submit its report to the Economic Commission within the specified timeframe.

Furthermore, at the end of the meeting, the committees assigned to review the Lala and Sadaf townships presented their evaluation reports. In light of these reports, the relevant authorities tasked the designated committee with conducting a comprehensive review of the matters related to these townships and sharing their findings with the Economic Commission.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Attracting foreign investment and supporting investors

A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

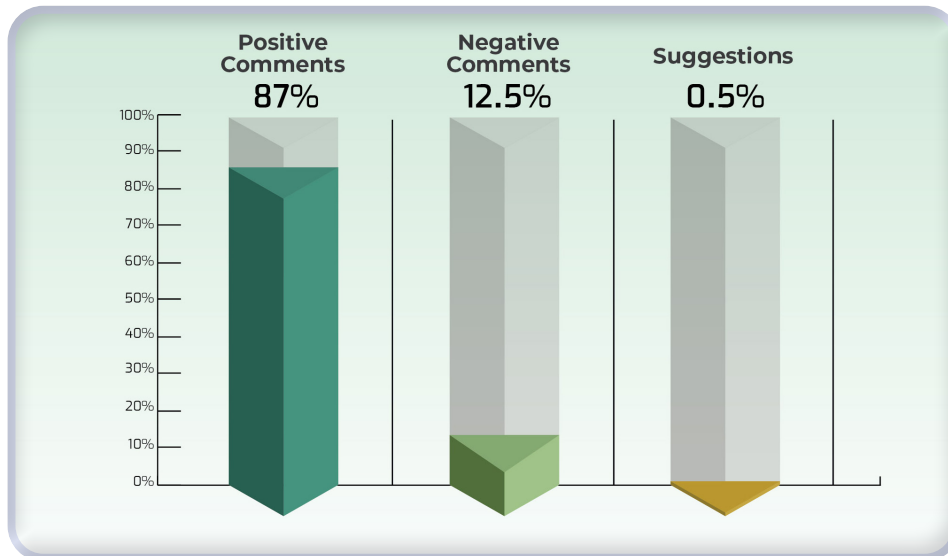
Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 3400
- Negative comments: 490
- Constructive recommendations: 7

In percentage

- Positive comments: 87%
- Negative comments: 12.5%
- Constructive recommendations: 0.5%

Evaluation of people’s comments on private and state media



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- It is a wise step and an important economic decision. It can create new opportunities for investment.
- It is a positive initiative. In this way, security should be extended across the entire country, and foreigners should be encouraged to invest.
- Investment takes place in a country that is self-sufficient in terms of energy.
- Pay greater attention to energy projects and the private sector.
- This step is very important for the country's economic stability.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, the majority of citizens, in their comments, have described the granting of residency to foreign investors as a positive step and have considered it a good opportunity for attracting foreign investment. The truth is that the Islamic Emirate has made significant efforts to attract foreign investment. In addition to providing numerous privileges, facilities, and exemptions, the main objective of granting residency to foreign investors in the country is to attract foreign investment to Afghanistan. By granting residency, foreign industrialists and investors who wish to invest in Afghanistan will receive permission to stay for longer periods. They will have sufficient time to reside in the country and oversee their activities, enabling them to carry out their work without facing visa-related or other difficulties. In this way, with these facilities, foreign investment will enter the country, and Afghanistan will develop through foreign investment.
- **Second**, some citizens, in their remarks, have pointed to the shortage of energy in the country and stated that investment takes place in countries that are self-sufficient in terms of energy. According to them, greater attention should be given to energy projects and the development of the private sector. The reality is that the shortage of energy in the country is noticeable, and Afghanistan currently does not possess the amount of energy it should ideally have. In the past, energy production projects did not receive sufficient attention; however, the Islamic Emirate is making efforts to increase the country's energy production capacity. Efforts are being made both at the governmental level and through the private sector to increase energy production in the country, because it is energy and electricity that operate industrial factories. If sufficient energy is not available, adequate investment cannot be attracted. The Islamic Emirate is working to enhance electricity production capacity from the country's internal resources and, through support for both domestic and foreign investment, has initiated numerous electricity production projects and completed

some of them. The full support for the 10,000-megawatt electricity generation projects by Azizi Energy is clear evidence that the Islamic Emirate is serious about increasing the level of electricity in the country, because without electricity the country's economic cycle faces serious challenges.

- **Third**, some citizens have also stated in their remarks that this step is very important for the country's economic stability. Indeed, granting residency to foreign investors will bring positive changes to the country's economic situation. Foreign investors and industrialists will come to the country without facing residency-related problems and will invest while benefiting from numerous privileges and facilities, which will have a profound impact on the country's economic stability. Through foreign investment, the country's economic growth and gross domestic product (GDP) will increase, employment opportunities will be created, and as a result the income level of citizens will rise and poverty will decrease. Likewise, domestic production will increase, and the level of exports will also rise. On this basis, foreign investment has a significant impact on the country's economic stability. Recently, the Islamic Emirate has made considerable efforts to attract foreign investment.

Conclusion

Granting residency to foreign investors by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is considered an important step toward the country's economic development. As a result, foreign investment in the country will increase, which will accelerate the country's economic growth.

The majority of citizens, in their comments, have expressed positive views regarding the granting of residency to foreign investors by the Islamic Emirate and have described it as an important step for improving the country's economic situation, particularly for reducing unemployment.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund: History Testifies that Afghanistan Is Not a Soft Morsel but a Zaqqum Tree



Introduction

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, attended the graduation ceremony of the 17th cohort of the Muadh ibn Jabal National Military Academy, which operates under the command of the Abu Ubaida ibn al Jarrah National Defense University, on February 8, 2026.

The Deputy PM congratulated the graduates for receiving education during the academy's training program not only in professional studies but also in understanding the importance of national defense, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political sovereignty. He urged them to demonstrate this spirit and knowledge in practice by safeguarding Islamic and high Afghan values and by firmly defending the Islamic system and every inch of the country's land. He also emphasized the importance of correcting intentions, adopting piety, and caring for the people of the country.

He stated that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, within the framework of its economy-oriented policy, believes in regional and international cooperation and is committed to engagement with

every country within the framework of its principles. He stressed that in order to safeguard long-term political and economic interests, it is necessary for countries to respect each other's values and sensitive boundaries.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund also gave good news to investors that in the coming days the Islamic Emirate will announce full tax exemptions ranging from one to five years for both domestic and foreign investors, depending on the scale of investment in new sectors. According to him, this will help develop new sectors on the one hand and have a significant impact on the country's economic growth and self-sufficiency on the other. He added that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has been given firm instructions to accelerate the process of land distribution for small, medium, and large industries and to provide the necessary facilities.

The Deputy PM further stated that the policy of the Islamic Emirate is not deceptive and that today's Afghanistan has based its policies on institutions whose foundation is Islamic Sharia. He added:

“Afghanistan neither wants to harm anyone nor accepts harm from anyone. But if someone has malicious intentions toward it, it will not leave its due unclaimed. History bears witness that this country is not a soft morsel but a Zaqqum tree; it has made the throats of long-established empires bitter, so newly born powers will never be able to digest it.”

At the end, he called on all countries to engage with Afghanistan within the framework of the values and principles of the Islamic Emirate and stated that the energy and resources wasted on undermining one another would be better spent supporting each other and strengthening common interests.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Its objective is to encourage the military graduates, emphasize the value of defending the Islamic system and national sovereignty, and announce economic policies and investment facilitation measures.

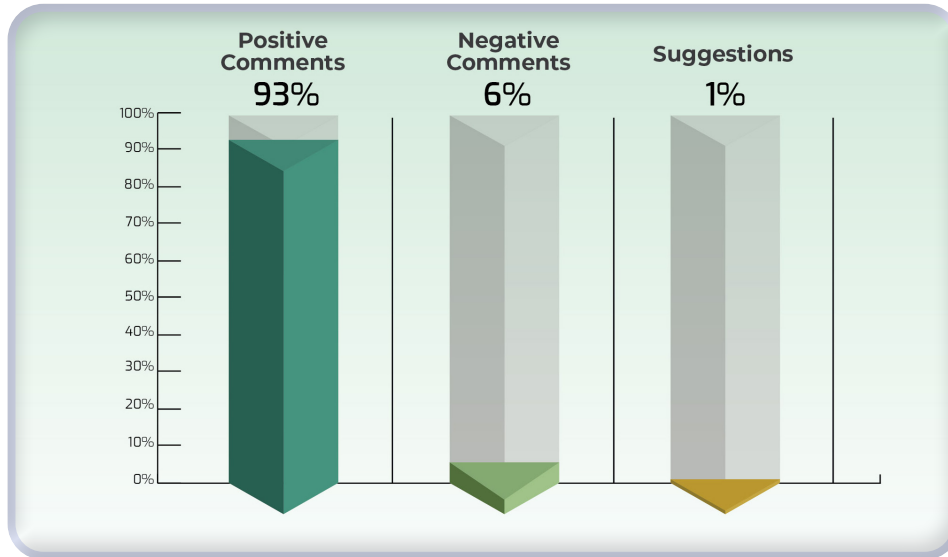
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 3045
- Negative comments: 228
- Constructive recommendations: 4

In percentage

- Positive comments: 93%
- Negative comments: 6%
- Constructive recommendations: 1%

Evaluation of people's comments on private and state media**A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media**

Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 3045
- Negative comments: 228
- Constructive recommendations: 4

In percentage

- Positive comments: 93%
- Negative comments: 6%
- Constructive recommendations: 1%

Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- ⦿ The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has resolved to develop and rebuild Afghanistan.
- ⦿ The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan seeks to focus on Afghanistan's self-sufficiency and improve the country's investment environment.
- ⦿ Afghanistan is a Zaqqum tree for occupying and malicious countries and for their spies and agents.
- ⦿ Indeed, this country is not a soft morsel for the enemy; rather, it is a Zaqqum tree.
- ⦿ Build roads; across all of Afghanistan we do not even have a single proper road for vehicles.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, the majority of citizens, in their remarks, expressed positive views regarding the speech of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund. According to them, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has resolved to develop the country and seeks to lead Afghanistan toward self-sufficiency. Indeed, the Islamic Emirate has a strong determination to rebuild the country, and despite numerous foreign sanctions and challenges during the past four years, it has achieved notable progress in several sectors. Developments have taken place in energy, industry, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, livestock, and other sectors; however, the Islamic Emirate does not consider this sufficient and will continue further efforts for the country's economic growth so that Afghanistan may be counted among the world's developed countries.

Moreover, a suitable environment has been created for both domestic and foreign investment. Numerous privileges and facilities have been provided for investors and industrialists to begin investment and industrial activities in Afghanistan, because without investment the economy of a country cannot grow. By establishing nationwide security, the Islamic Emirate has created a very favorable environment for investment and economic activities, from which domestic and foreign investors have benefited during the past four years. The Islamic Emirate also wants additional investors to take advantage of the investment opportunities in Afghanistan.

- **Second**, some citizens, in their remarks, repeated the statement of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund that Afghanistan is not a soft morsel but a Zaqqum tree. The reality is that Afghanistan is indeed a Zaqqum tree for its enemies, which is very difficult to swallow. Throughout history, Afghans have bravely confronted foreign invaders and expelled them from their homeland. In the speech of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, reference was also made to those very acts of bravery—that Afghanistan could not be digested by old and great empires, and therefore newly emerged powers will never be able to digest it. These remarks refer to the neighboring country that attempts to create instability in Afghanistan and seeks to weaken the country and involve it in conflicts. However, the Islamic Emirate and the national Islamic army remain vigilant and will never allow anyone to destabilize Afghanistan.

- **Third**, some citizens, in their comments, called for the construction of roads and expressed concern about the absence of standard and large highways in the country. In response to these citizens, it should be said that since coming to power, the Islamic Emirate has initiated numerous road construction projects in various provinces of Afghanistan. These include several major and important roads being fundamentally constructed, such as the second lanes of the Kabul–Jalalabad Highway and the Kabul–Ghazni Highway. In addition, the rehabilitation of some major highways, including the Salang Highway, is also underway. Furthermore, urban roads in different provinces—including Kabul—have been expanded, and new roads are also being constructed. Over the past four years, the Islamic Emirate has given considerable attention to road development, because these roads are important not only for domestic transportation but also for regional connectivity and trade. It should be noted that the completion of some projects requires time and cannot be finished in a short period. Therefore, citizens should remain patient and should not doubt the Islamic Emirate’s strong determination to rebuild the country.

Conclusion

Over the past four years, alongside strengthening the security and military sectors, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has made tireless efforts to consolidate the Islamic system, attract investment, and promote economic growth. The comments of citizens indicate that they are satisfied with the actions of the Islamic Emirate and hold positive views.

The majority of citizens, in their comments, praised the efforts of the Islamic Emirate aimed at rebuilding and defending the country. They also called for further efforts to attract investment in order to promote economic growth, a matter to which the Islamic Emirate is attentive. So far, domestic and foreign investments worth billions of Afghanis have been attracted in various sectors.

Launch of 845 MW Power Generation Projects and Meeting Between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Head of Azizi Group



Introduction

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has made extensive efforts to attract both domestic and foreign investment in order to utilize the existing electricity production potential in the country and has succeeded in increasing the level of electricity generation capacity in Afghanistan. The Azizi Group, which has pledged to generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity in Afghanistan, has recently begun the practical work of several power generation projects with a total capacity of 845 megawatts in fulfillment of this commitment.

In the presence of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, agreements for the commencement of practical work on five major electricity generation projects with a total capacity of 845 megawatts were signed on February 11, 2026, at the Government Media and Information Center (Afghanistan) between the Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and Azizi Energy.

According to these agreements, Azizi Energy will produce:

- 100 MW of solar power in the Naghlu area, Kabul
- 100 MW of solar power in Barik Ab, Parwan Province
- 130 MW of solar power in Ghazni Province
- 165 MW of coal-based power in Takhar Province
- 350 MW of coal-based power in Baghlan Province

Approximately 463 million US dollars will be invested in these projects. The solar power projects are expected to be completed within two years, while the coal-based projects will be completed within three years.

Additionally, on the same date, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met in his office with Mirwais Azizi, the General Director of the Azizi Group, along with his technical team.

The Deputy PM welcomed the commencement of the five major electricity generation projects with a capacity of 845 megawatts, which are part of the larger 10,000-megawatt initiative of the Azizi Group, and described them as important steps toward creating employment opportunities and advancing the country's economic growth.

Mirwais Azizi expressed his gratitude to the Deputy PM and the officials of the relevant institutions for their full cooperation, stating that they had not encountered any problems in their work. He said they have realized that the Islamic Emirate has a firm commitment to the reconstruction of the country, and as a result of the efforts of sincere officials, agreements for launching the five major electricity generation projects have now been signed. Azizi added that by the end of the current year, they will also start 15 to 20 additional electricity generation projects, whose combined capacity will reach 5,000 megawatts.

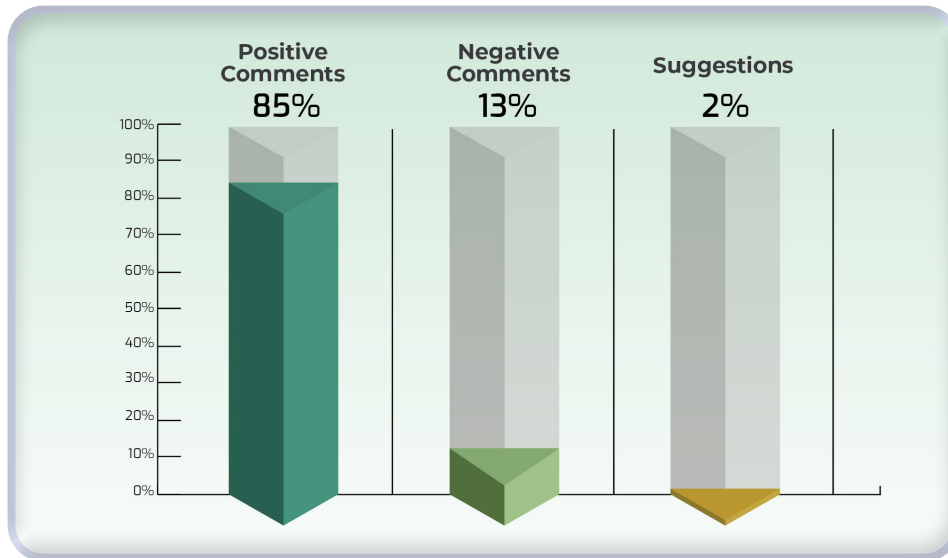
The General Director of the Azizi Group also expressed satisfaction that work on the TAPI Pipeline Project is progressing well within Afghanistan. He stated that once gas reaches Herat, in coordination with the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (Afghanistan), they will begin constructing a major gas distribution network and a large power generation plant with a capacity of 3,000 megawatts based on natural gas.

He also requested cooperation with the relevant institutions in the exploration, extraction, and utilization of natural gas and coal for electricity generation. The Deputy PM and the officials of the relevant institutions assured him of full cooperation and joint efforts in these areas.

Purpose of the Initiative:

To attract investment and increase electricity production

Evaluation of people's comments on private and state media



A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 1282
- Negative comments: 203
- Constructive recommendations: 26

In percentage

- Positive comments: 85%
- Negative comments: 13%
- Constructive recommendations: 2%

Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- ⦿ Electricity is the heart of the economy, the breath of industry, and the pillar of progress.
- ⦿ Electricity generation is not merely a service but a fundamental pillar of Afghanistan's economic stability and industrial growth. Such cooperation between the private sector and government institutions can take our country to new stages of production, investment, and employment.
- ⦿ Such promises have been made before; they exist only on paper.
- ⦿ Only agreements are being signed, but their implementation is unclear. So far, no project has been completed.
- ⦿ Focus on wind power generation instead of coal-based electricity.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, the majority of citizens have viewed positively the signing of electricity generation agreements between the Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and Azizi Energy. They consider electricity as extremely important for the country's economic growth and industrial development. Indeed, electricity is crucial for Afghanistan's economy. All modern industrial activities rely on electricity. Countries that have sufficient electricity for industrial activity have experienced economic growth, attracted investment, and created numerous job opportunities through industrial output. Afghanistan, however, faces electricity shortages, and industrial activities are not at the level they should be. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is aware of this challenge and seeks to increase electricity production by utilizing existing capacity, so that there is sufficient electricity for industrial activities. Continuous and stable electricity is essential for economic operations. Through private sector investment, the Islamic Emirate has launched multiple electricity generation projects, which upon completion will not only provide sufficient electricity domestically but also reduce imported electricity and limit the outflow of money from the country.
- **Second**, some citizens expressed skepticism about the implementation of these projects, arguing that similar promises and agreements have been made in the past but were not realized. In response, it should be emphasized that the Islamic Emirate stands by all its commitments to its people and implements what it plans. Regarding electricity generation, Azizi Energy has pledged to produce 10,000 megawatts of electricity in Afghanistan, and, God willing, with the help of Almighty Allah and the Islamic Emirate, it will fulfill its program. However, such projects require time—surveys, technical work, administrative procedures, and other processes cannot be completed in a day or a month; they require sufficient time for completion and the start of practical work. Now, for example, practical work on five electricity generation projects has begun in various provinces, and one day we will witness the benefits of these projects. Like other major projects, electricity generation projects require time and

effort. The Islamic Emirate is serious about this matter, and Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and Azizi Energy will fulfill their commitments to the people according to plan.

- **Third**, some citizens have suggested focusing on wind power instead of coal-based electricity. Afghanistan requires a large amount of electricity, which cannot be fully generated by wind power alone. Furthermore, only some western provinces have sufficient wind potential to produce electricity. Accordingly, the Islamic Emirate has already started a wind power project in Herat, which will meet part of the electricity demand. Additionally, Afghanistan has significant coal-based electricity production capacity, which remains necessary to meet the country's overall electricity needs. The Islamic Emirate aims to achieve self-sufficiency in the electricity sector by utilizing all available domestic resources, ensuring sufficient electricity for industrial activities and lighting homes across the country.

Conclusion

The commencement of electricity generation projects by Azizi Energy is an encouraging development for Afghanistan. These projects will utilize domestic capacity while contributing to economic activity and lighting citizens' homes.

Citizens' comments on social media indicate that the majority are optimistic about the start of these projects, though some have shared concerns. The Islamic Emirate is making serious efforts for the country's economic development, and citizens need not worry, as the Islamic Emirate is strongly committed to the country's reconstruction and will fulfill its promises according to plan and schedule, God willing.

Construction of the Kabul–Bagram Road Has Begun



Introduction

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has placed road development among its top priorities. Roads not only facilitate the movement of people but are also very important for trade and connectivity. During the year 1404 SH, the Islamic Emirate initiated road construction projects in different provinces, one of the most important of which is the Kabul–Bagram road.

On February 12, 2026, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated the commencement of the Kabul–Bagram road construction project.

Deputy PM Mullah Baradar Akhund described the Kabul–Bagram road as one of the important connecting routes of Kabul city and stated that this road links Kabul city with Parwan and other northern provinces. He added that this road is among the fundamental transport infrastructures of the Kabul New City and is considered significant from the perspectives of urban development, social activities, and economic growth.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that, unfortunately, in the past Afghanistan had been divided into many political parties and along ethnic, regional, and linguistic lines, which had caused the country to lose a large portion of its national commonalities. According to him, the Islamic Emirate is making serious efforts to resolve these problems in order to eliminate these meaningless divisions and unite Afghans under a unified Islamic and national position in

which Afghanistan's major interests are safeguarded. He said that one fundamental step in this regard was the unification of the madrasa and school curriculum up to the sixth grade, which the Islamic Emirate has implemented.

Deputy PM Mullah Baradar Akhund called on all citizens to refrain from blindly imitating others, not to fall under their influence, and not to misinterpret realities. According to him, Afghanistan is the home of Afghans, and everyone can live here peacefully, return to their country, and invest here. He stated: "We have neither prevented anyone from coming, nor is the capacity of the Islamic Emirate so limited that it would take every individual and minor issue seriously."

He also called on the countries of the region and the world to engage positively with Afghanistan, stating that such engagement is a necessity of the present time and an important pillar for strengthening regional and international connectivity and pursuing shared development goals. According to him, ignoring this reality weakens the pursuit and achievement of common fundamental objectives and deliberately wastes existing potential opportunities. All countries depend on one another in terms of geographical location, airspace, workforce, raw materials, exports, and imports. These needs can only be properly fulfilled when countries around the world have the courage to engage within the framework of official relations, which is beneficial for all.

In conclusion, the Acting Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs once again called on countries to take proper advantage of Afghanistan's nationwide security, economy-oriented policy, non-interference in the affairs of other countries, strong will for political and economic engagement, and other similar opportunities, and not to attempt to turn the opportunities that have been created into threats.

The Kabul–Bagram road is 6.2 kilometers long and approximately 50 meters wide, with a total cost of 455 million Afghanis, and its financing is provided by the Islamic Emirate.

Purpose of the Initiative:

To increase trade and strengthen connectivity

A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

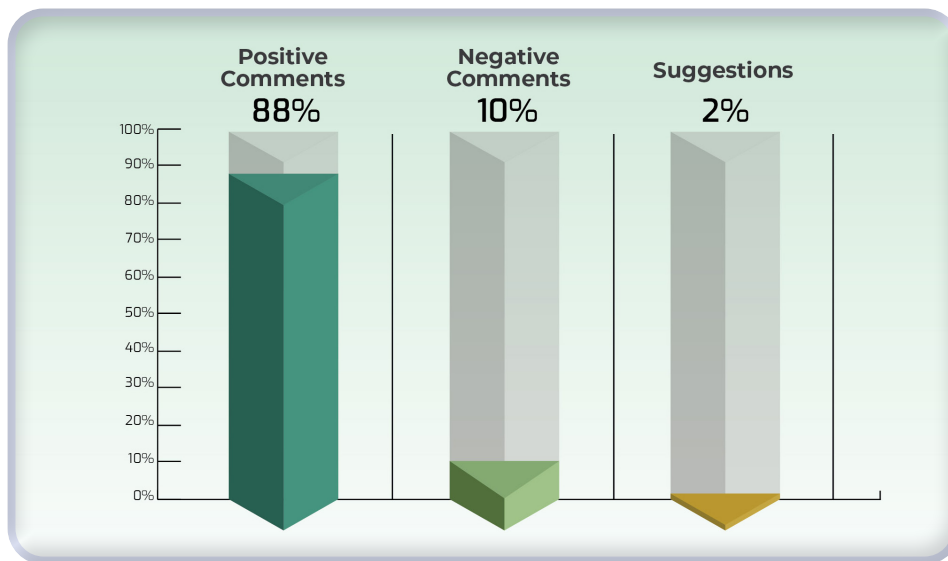
Citizens have shared their views and recommendations in state-owned and private media regarding the published news as follows.

- Positive comments: 678
- Negative comments: 80
- Constructive recommendations: 11

In percentage

- Positive comments: 88%
- Negative comments: 10%
- Constructive recommendations: 2%

Evaluation of people's comments on private and state media



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

Here, we provide a summary of a few notable opinions, including both positive and negative comments and suggestions, as the total number of opinions runs into tens, if not hundreds.

- During the Republic era, this area was secure, yet this project was not started.
- It is a good initiative. This road is among the important roads that connect the south to the north.
- The Badghis ring road, the Jaghori–Ghazni road, and the roads of Uruzgan should also be paved.
- Pay attention to the Herat–Ghor road as well.
- The Wakhan railway is necessary and essential. It must definitely be connected.

An Analysis of Public Opinion in the Media and on Social Networks: Key Findings

- **First**, the majority of citizens, in their comments, have expressed happiness about the start of the Kabul–Bagram road project and have described it as a positive step. Some citizens wrote that although the area was secure during the previous administration, the road construction

project was still not initiated. Indeed, the previous administration had substantial funds, resources, and time, and it also received significant foreign assistance; however, the presence of corruption was a factor that prevented many projects from being carried out. Kabul city is a good example of this. Despite the availability of considerable revenues and funds at that time, the necessary development of Kabul city was not undertaken. However, we can now see that despite the suspension of foreign aid, Kabul Municipality has initiated numerous projects to expand the city's roads and has transformed the city's appearance. There are many differences between the Islamic Emirate and the previous administration, one of the most significant being the elimination of corruption in the current Afghanistan and the strong determination to develop the country. As a result, many development projects have been launched in different parts of the country, and the commencement of the Kabul–Bagram road project is a good example of this. When there is strong determination, major projects can be accomplished even with limited resources. The Islamic Emirate pays full attention to the development of the country's infrastructure and considers roads important for domestic connectivity as well as for regional connectivity and trade.

- **Second**, some citizens have requested the construction of roads or the completion of existing projects in Badghis, Uruzgan, Herat, and other provinces. In response to them, it should be stated that the Islamic Emirate pays attention to the whole of Afghanistan and intends to implement development projects across the country. However, certain projects have been prioritized where the need has been considered greater. This does not mean that the Islamic Emirate is not paying attention to other provinces; rather, over time it will complete all unfinished projects and initiate new ones, as it has already done in some provinces. In all countries of the world, it is common practice to first prioritize projects that are important and economically necessary, because such projects are significant for people's movement and for trade. The Islamic Emirate has a plan to construct and expand all connecting roads of the country and will implement it in due course.
- **Third**, a number of citizens in their comments have referred to connecting Afghanistan with China through the Wakhan Corridor of Badakhshan. Their reference was to remarks made by an Iranian railway official who stated that Iran wants to connect with China through the Wakhan route. Officials of the Islamic Emirate have expressed optimism about this project and have considered its initiation and completion important for regional connectivity. Based on its economy-oriented policy, the Islamic Emirate believes in regional connectivity and supports all projects that strengthen it. Indeed, the Wakhan Corridor has a high potential for regional connectivity, particularly for linking Afghanistan with China. If Afghanistan connects with China through this corridor, it would bring significant economic benefits to the country. Through this corridor, Afghanistan can establish direct trade relations with China and can also reduce the distance of transit routes among several countries of the region, including Iran, through Afghanistan. On this basis, the Islamic Emirate is interested in implementing all regional connectivity projects that pass through Afghanistan and in which Afghanistan plays a central role.

Conclusion

The Kabul–Bagram road is an important connecting road between two directions of the country. This road not only plays an important role in connecting the north with the center but also contributes to increasing the value of the Kabul New City project.

Opinions expressed by citizens on social media indicate that the majority support this project and are satisfied with the Islamic Emirate's actions in the road sector. Some citizens have requested roads in other provinces of the country, which the Islamic Emirate will initiate and complete over time according to available resources.



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