



Address: Marmarin Palace, Malak Asghar Square, Kabul, Afghanistan

Telephone: 0202104500

Email: media@dpmea.gov.af

Website: www.dpmea.gov.af

Activities & Achievements in 1404 SH | Office of Deputy PM for Economic Affairs



ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PM FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE OF MEDIA



ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1404 SH





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Publisher:

Directorate of Media- Office of Deputy PM for Economic Affairs

Translator:

Sajad Ahmad Khetab

Designer:

Ataurahman Saeid

Address: Marmarin Palace, Malak Asghar Square, Kabul, Afghanistan

Telephone: 0202104500

Email: media@dpmea.gov.af

Website: www.dpmea.gov.af

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INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PM FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



According to the organizational structure of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, there are two deputy offices, one of which is the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs. The Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs was established and commenced operations based on Decree No. 21 dated January 22, 2022 issued by the Leadership of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

The Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs is led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, who, in addition to this role, is also responsible for the Economic Commission, the Procurement Commission, the High Commission for Disaster Management, and the Financial Stability Committee.

The Economic Commission was established based on Decree No. 22 dated January 22, 2022 of the Leadership and Cabinet Resolution No. 23 dated February 5, 2022. Several ministries and institutions have been affiliated with it by the Leadership, including Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Communications and Information Technology; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development; Ministry of Mines and Petroleum; Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Ministry of Public Works; Ministry of Urban Development and Housing; Ministry of Energy and Water; Da Afghanistan Bank; General Statistics and Information Authority; Standards Authority; and the General Directorate of State-owned Corporations.

The Procurement Commission was established based on Decree No. 202 of the Supreme Leader, Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin Sheikh Hibatullah Akhundzada (may Allah protect him). According to its procedures, no ministry or institution is permitted to independently implement or tender projects exceeding a specified financial threshold. They are required to submit large-scale projects to the Procurement Commission for approval and receive the necessary guidance.

MESSAGE OF THE DEPUTY PM FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Dear Citizens,

Following decades of foreign occupation and instability, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has established political stability in the country, creating a conducive environment for comprehensive economic growth. During this period, significant and foundational steps have been taken to strengthen economic institutions, effectively utilize domestic resources, attract investment, expand industry and infrastructure, create employment opportunities, and support the private sector.

In 1404, notable progress was also achieved across various sectors of the economy, and practical measures were taken toward national self-sufficiency. These developments played an important role in reducing unemployment and poverty, increasing job opportunities, and expanding regional economic cooperation.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan remains committed to further strengthening its efforts for comprehensive economic growth and prosperity, and to increasing reliance on domestic resources. The Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs will continue its activities with full commitment, in cooperation with all government institutions and the private sector, to address the economic challenges of the people and ensure sustainable economic stability.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund
Deputy PM for Economic Affairs

INTRODUCTION

One of the key principles of successful governance systems is transparency, accountability, and information sharing with the public. Annual reports serve as a practical example of implementing this principle, as they present a comprehensive picture of government actions and achievements. The annual report titled “Activities and Achievements of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs in 1404 SH” has been prepared with the same objective: to present the country’s economic process and practical developments in a systematic and documented manner to the public and relevant institutions.

The year 1404 SH marked significant progress toward strengthening Afghanistan’s economic structure and achieving self-sufficiency. During this period, under the leadership of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Economic Commission, the Procurement Commission, the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee, and other government institutions made extensive efforts to increase investment, effectively utilize domestic resources, and create employment opportunities.

In this year, dozens of key decisions were made across sectors such as energy, agriculture, mining, industry, transport, banking, and regional cooperation, and various projects were initiated or completed. These measures not only facilitated economic growth but also contributed to strengthening the private sector, increasing employment opportunities, and expanding regional connectivity.

A descriptive and, in some sections, analytical method has been used in drafting this report. In the final part of certain sections, surveys reflecting positive and negative public opinions and suggestions on social media have been presented in graphical form. The report is organized into seventeen chapters, each covering a distinct sector. Before the first chapter, brief information is provided on two important documents: the Afghanistan Development Strategy and Economic Policy.

This annual report presents the key activities, achievements, and experiences of the past year to the public, which can serve as a reliable source for planning and policymaking in the coming years. This document will play an effective role in strengthening transparency, increasing public trust, and expanding economic cooperation.



BRIEF OVERVIEW OF 1403 SH ACTIVITIES

In 1403 SH, the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs made significant efforts toward Afghanistan's economic development, taking important steps toward self-sufficiency across various sectors.

The contract for exploration and extraction of gas in the Toti Maidan field in Faryab was signed. In the agriculture and irrigation sector, the Shah wa Arous and Omari dams were inaugurated. Construction of the Palatuni Dam in Paktika and several other major dams across provinces commenced. Additionally, work on the Qosh Tapa Canal and the Laghman Shahi Canal is progressing rapidly. These projects are crucial for water management and agricultural development.

To expand trade, agreements were signed with Uzbekistan, and the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs participated in the inauguration of the Termez International Trade Center. Various standards were approved for quality production, exports, and imports. Numerous domestic and international trade exhibitions were held, including the third Imam Abu Hanifa International Exhibition and the 31st Agricultural and Livestock Products Exhibition.

Investment was attracted in the industrial sector. Steel smelting factories expanded operations. Contracts were signed for cement production plants in Yatim Taq (Jawzjan) and Logar. Several pharmaceutical manufacturing plants commenced operations. A support fund for the private sector was established, and emphasis was placed on using domestic products within government institutions. Incentives and facilities for industrialists and investors were announced, and a conference titled "Call for Investment in Afghanistan" was held. The Bakht Blanket Manufacturing Factory was inaugurated in Kabul.

In the transport sector, construction and rehabilitation of roads began, including the Kabul–Ghazni second lane and the Kabul–Jalalabad second road,

and the Herat–Ghor road. Urban road expansion in Kabul and rehabilitation of the Salang and Kabul–Kandahar highways also commenced.

In regional connectivity, the start of the TAPI project was a major milestone. Progress was also made on extending a railway line between Afghanistan and Kazakhstan.

In 1403 SH, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs met with various foreign delegations and conducted official visits abroad. Additionally, the Procurement Commission approved 252 projects worth approximately 74 billion Afghanis.



SUMMARY OF THE 1404 SH REPORT

The 1404 SH report of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs presents a comprehensive picture of the country's economic situation, policymaking, and practical achievements. It has been prepared based on the principles of good governance and accountability to ensure that citizens are accurately and transparently informed about its activities, decisions, and services.

In 1404 SH, the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs undertook numerous initiatives to promote economic growth, stability, and self-sufficiency. Key policies and plans were approved, and public welfare projects were launched or completed across various sectors.

One of the most significant achievements of the year was the approval of Afghanistan's Five-Year Development Strategy and Economic Policy by the Economic Commission. These documents clarified the country's economic vision, defined national priorities, and guided all ministries and institutions toward a coordinated and unified direction.

Additionally, key developments across sectors included:

- ✓ **Mining Sector:** Approval of revenue policy draft, national minerals policy, and policies for processing and exporting minerals; decisions on mining contracts and royalties; and commencement of operations in the Toti Maidan gas field—key steps for increasing national revenue and ensuring regulated extraction.
- ✓ **Energy Sector:** Dozens of electricity generation and transmission projects were initiated or completed. Agreements for thousands of megawatts of electricity generation were signed, and steps were taken to reduce reliance on imported electricity.
- ✓ **Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock:** Construction of dams, self-sufficiency policies, agricultural complexes, and cold storage facilities contributed

significantly to strengthening agriculture and ensuring food security.

- ✓ **Industry and Commerce:** Standardization processes accelerated; numerous standards were approved; work began on commercial markets; land ownership certificates were distributed to industrialists; investment increased in heavy industries such as steel and cement; and conferences and exhibitions were held to attract investment.
- ✓ **Transport and Infrastructure:** Projects such as the Arghandi Terminal in Kabul, Kabul–Bagram road, and others were initiated.
- ✓ **Regional and International Engagement:** Meetings with neighboring and regional countries were held, agreements were signed, and official visits were conducted, yielding practical results in investment, energy, regional connectivity, and trade.

In addition, the report includes summaries of meetings of the Economic Commission and Procurement Commission, meetings with domestic and foreign delegations, and sessions of the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee.

Approval of the Afghanistan Development Strategy by the Economic Commission

A regular meeting of the Economic Commission, chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, was held on April 15, 2025 at the Marmarin Palace.

During the meeting, the draft of the Afghanistan Development Strategy was presented for discussion. After a comprehensive review and incorporation of amendments proposed by the Economic Commission, the draft was approved.

The Afghanistan Development Strategy is a comprehensive, unified, and long-term document prepared for the next five years to define and achieve the country's fundamental objectives. It was developed under the leadership of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, with the Ministry of

Economy serving as the secretariat and in close coordination with relevant sectoral ministries.

This strategy envisions a stable and prosperous Afghanistan with strong relations with the region and the world. Its objectives include: enforcement of Islamic Sharia law; ensuring transparency and accountability; expanding constructive regional and international relations; securing sustainable peace and public security; promoting employment and economic growth; safeguarding religious and national values, territorial integrity, and Islamic governance; improving natural resource management; enhancing delivery of basic services; promoting industry, trade, and the private sector; developing infrastructure and regional connectivity; and strengthening social protection and environmental conditions.

The spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mawlawi Zabihullah Mujahid, stated on August 26, 2026 during a press conference at the Government Media and Information Center that the Afghanistan Development Strategy was formulated using domestic capacities and resources to achieve major national objectives and was approved by order of the Supreme Leader. He added that the strategy serves as a comprehensive, unified, and long-term framework guiding all government resources toward a single direction over the next five years.

He further noted that the strategy consolidates the available resources and activities of all ministries and institutions to achieve the objectives of the Islamic Emirate.

Importance and Necessity

This is an important long-term document that facilitates alignment and coordination of institutional activities to achieve national goals and priorities over five years. It contributes to:

- ▶ Ensuring security and stability;
- ▶ Strengthening good governance and rule of law;

- ▶ Promoting balanced development;
- ▶ Guiding and coordinating development efforts;
- ▶ Facilitating investment attraction;
- ▶ Reducing poverty and unemployment;
- ▶ Strengthening and expanding foreign relations.

Methodology of Development

The Afghanistan Development Strategy is based on three principles:

1. Learning from past strategies;
2. Considering current conditions of Afghanistan;
3. Applying scientific principles.

Vision

A stable and prosperous Afghanistan with strong relations with the region and the world.

Objectives

1. Enforcement of Islamic Sharia law;
2. Ensuring effectiveness, transparency, and accountability;
3. Expanding constructive regional and international relations;
4. Ensuring sustainable peace and public security;
5. Employment generation and economic growth;
6. Safeguarding Islamic governance, religious and national values, and territorial integrity;
7. Improving effective management of natural resources;
8. Enhancing delivery of basic services;
9. Promoting industry, trade, and the private sector;
10. Developing infrastructure and regional connectivity;
11. Strengthening social protection and improving the living environment.

Structure

The strategy aims to align all development efforts of Afghanistan within a coordinated framework. Its structure includes:

1. Three pillars;
2. Nine sectors;
3. Fifteen national priority programs.

Pillars and Sectors

First Pillar: Good Governance and International Relations

- Sector: Governance and Public Services

Second Pillar: Security and Public Order

- Sector: Security and Public Order

Third Pillar: Economic and Social Development

Sectors under this pillar include:

1. Economic Affairs and Agriculture
2. Natural Resources and Energy
3. Housing and Social Cohesion
4. Transport and Communications
5. Religious Affairs, Education, and Culture
6. Health
7. Social Protection and Environmental Protection

Cross-Cutting Issues

- Institutionalization of Sharia principles;
- Effective implementation of sustainable development goals in line with religious and national values;
- Mobilization of aid and improving its effectiveness.

National Priority Programs

Good Governance and International Relations:

- ▶ Rule of Islamic law and social justice;
- ▶ Public sector reform, transparency, and accountability;
- ▶ Strengthening regional and international relations.

Security and Public Order:

- ▶ Ensuring security and border protection;
- ▶ Law enforcement, combating crime, and strengthening governance.

Economic and Social Development:

- ▶ Sustainable use of natural resources and energy provision;
- ▶ Development of agriculture and livestock;
- ▶ Improvement of public financial management and expansion of e-payments;
- ▶ Enhancement of healthcare services and food security;
- ▶ Development of education, human resources, and culture;
- ▶ Expansion of telecommunications and information technology;
- ▶ Urban development and rural advancement;
- ▶ Strengthening the investment climate and promoting industry and trade;
- ▶ Development of transport and transit infrastructure;
- ▶ Strengthening social protection and ensuring a healthy environment.

Expected Outcomes

- ▶ **Standardization of Governance:** Strengthening transparency and accountability, increasing public and international trust in the system.
- ▶ **Improved Basic Services:** Ensuring social justice and better access to education, healthcare, and other essential services.
- ▶ **Enhanced Security:** Strengthening capacities of security forces, developing security infrastructure, preventing crime, and ensuring safety of citizens and property.
- ▶ **Economic and Social Strengthening:** Sustainable management of natural resources, implementation of infrastructure projects, regional connectivity, private sector growth, and job creation.
- ▶ **Balanced Development:** Fair allocation of resources and equitable access to public services across the country.

Commencement of the Implementation of the Afghanistan Development Strategy

The Afghanistan Development Strategy, which was approved by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate, was formally launched for implementation on August 26, 2026 at the Government Media and Information Center. The ceremony was held under the leadership of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, with the participation of cabinet members.

On this occasion, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that the Afghanistan Development Strategy has been formulated based on Sharia principles, scientific standards, and the country's objective conditions, utilizing domestic capacities. He emphasized that the strategy defines the fundamental objectives and priorities for national development.

He further added that over the past four years, all ministries and institutions of the Islamic Emirate have contributed to strengthening the system and advancing the country's economic and social development.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund noted that limited resources and increasing needs require all ministries and institutions to align their policies, programs, and projects with this strategy. This alignment will ensure better coordination and prioritization in the allocation and utilization of national resources.

He also called on all ministries and institutions to actively participate in the implementation process, emphasizing that program design, project prioritization, costing, and effective monitoring are shared responsibilities that require continuous coordination and careful attention.

Approval of the Economic Policy of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

A regular meeting of the Economic Commission, chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, was held on June 22, 2025 at the Marmarin Palace. During the meeting, the Economic Policy of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was discussed and, following a comprehensive review, approved.

The vision of this policy is “a developed and prosperous Afghanistan based on an Islamic economic system.” Its objectives include: creating a conducive environment for attracting and expanding investment, increasing domestic production and exports, raising employment levels and reducing poverty, achieving sustainable economic growth and development, ensuring economic stability, prosperity, and Islamic social justice.

This policy is expected to play a key role in coordinating economic activities, optimizing the use of resources, and supporting the private sector. It has also been approved by the Supreme Leader.

Basis of the Policy

This policy has been developed under the guidance of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and in line with the Afghanistan Development Strategy.

Objectives

1. Creating a favorable environment for attracting and expanding investment;
2. Increasing domestic production and exports;
3. Raising employment levels and reducing poverty;
4. Achieving sustainable economic growth and development;
5. Ensuring economic stability, prosperity, and social justice.

Importance and Necessity

Economic policy determines the direction of a country's economic activities and is considered one of the fundamental tools for achieving economic growth and sustainable development. It contributes to creating a suitable environment for investment, reducing unemployment, ensuring economic stability, reducing social inequalities, and improving efficient utilization of resources and enhancing economic effectiveness. Additionally, economic policy supports the organization of public finances and improves the management of government revenues. It facilitates balanced economic development through social protection programs, equitable wealth distribution, and expansion of economic opportunities. Moreover, it defines the country's economic vision, objectives, priorities, and strategies. It ensures the economic interests of both public and private sectors, as well as all segments of society, thereby promoting overall economic and social welfare. For this reason, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has taken steps to formulate a unified economic policy framework, considering the country's existing conditions and available resources, in order to establish foundational economic strategies aligned with Islamic and national values and to achieve sustainable economic and social prosperity. This document serves as a comprehensive guide for all ministries, independent institutions, and the private sector to define and implement their economic strategies and activities in alignment with it, thereby contributing effectively to the country's economic growth and development.

Implementation of the Policy

The economic policy has been formulated to better organize and guide economic affairs in the country. It will be shared by the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs with relevant ministries and institutions for implementation. All relevant ministries and institutions are required to develop their policies and undertake necessary actions in accordance with this policy framework.

Chapter One:

MINING SECTOR



Approval of the Mining Sector Revenue Policy Draft by the Economic Commission

In a meeting of the Economic Commission held on April 20, 2025 under the chairmanship of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the draft Mining Sector Revenue Policy was approved after comprehensive analysis and incorporation of amendments. It was later endorsed by the Supreme Leader through Decree No. 867/2355 dated October 1, 2025.

This policy, structured across seven pages, includes sections on introduction, basis, objectives, non-tax revenues of the mining sector, royalty collection from mining companies, mine protection, tax revenues, customs duties, transparency, revenue codes, monitoring and control mechanisms, implementation, evaluation, and revision.

The policy aims to manage tax, non-tax, and customs revenues derived from mineral resources.

Basis: The policy is based on Resolution No. 9 of the Economic Commission dated April 12, 2023.

Objectives of the Policy:

1. Identifying revenue sources of the mining sector;
2. Preventing revenue loss and illegal mining;
3. Establishing mechanisms for timely revenue collection and forecasting;
4. Ensuring transparency in revenue collection.

Monitoring and Control of Mining Revenues

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and the Ministry of Finance will jointly establish monitoring and control offices at each large-scale mining site to improve oversight of tax, non-tax, and customs revenue collection. The operational framework of these offices will be regulated through separate procedures, and the Ministry of Finance will allocate the required budget within its development budget.

Implementation of the Policy

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and the relevant ministries are obligated under this policy to implement it within their respective areas of responsibility.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Revision of the Policy

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, along with other relevant ministries, will periodically monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy within their respective areas of responsibility. In light of emerging changes, they will propose amendments to the policy in coordination and cooperation with the relevant ministries.

Key Decisions on Mining Contracts and Royalties in the Economic Commission Meeting

On May 29, 2025, during a regular meeting of the Economic Commission chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, important decisions were made regarding the awarding of mining contracts and royalties in several provinces.

The issue of awarding an iron ore extraction contract in the Siah Dara area of Yakawlang district, Bamyan province, to Milat Steel and Khan Waziri companies was presented. After detailed discussions, the contract was approved on the condition that the companies establish 100% iron processing facilities inside the country and pay a 20% royalty to the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum on fully processed iron. The royalty for gypsum mines in the Kori Taw area of Chahardara district, Kunduz province, was also discussed. It was decided that a royalty of 250 Afghanis per ton would be applied for Blocks 1 and 2 of the mine. Additionally, discussions were held on the royalty of marble mines located in Laghman Dand area of Goshta district and Jokan area of Hisarak district in Nangarhar province. After comprehensive deliberation, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum was tasked with negotiating royalty terms with the operating companies and submitting a report to the Economic Commission. The meeting also addressed the contract for nephrite extraction in Walgai village, Tagab district of Kapisa province. Following detailed discussions and considering the recommendation of the Economic Commission's technical committee, it was approved that the contract be awarded with a 60% royalty share to the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the issue of awarding a contract for serpentine extraction in Gat Mena, Jarobi Marki Khel area of Sherzad district, Nangarhar province, was discussed. It was decided that the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum should offer the mine through an open tender process and, based on financial and technical evaluation, select a qualified company and submit it to the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs for approval.

Decisions on Taxation of Gold Processing Companies and Chromite Extraction in the Economic Commission

A regular meeting of the Economic Commission, chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, was held on August 20, 2025 at the Marmarin Palace. According to the agenda, discussions were held on imposing a fixed tax on gold-processing companies and determining royalty shares for small- and large-scale chromite mining operations.

Following detailed discussions, it was proposed to the Office of the Prime Minister that gold-processing companies should pay a fixed monthly tax per hectare of land, based on category, in the form of high-quality gold: 5 grams, 10 grams, or 15 grams. This fixed gold tax will be collected by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum during the royalty collection process, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Finance.

Additionally, it was proposed that for small-scale chromite mining, all extraction costs will be borne by the companies. For extracted and unprocessed chromite, the share will be 45% for the Ministry and 55% for the company. If the company has a processing facility and processes the extracted chromite, the share will be 40% for the Ministry and 60% for the company.

For large-scale chromite mining, all extraction costs will also be borne by the companies. In the case of extracted and unprocessed chromite, the share will be 35% for the Ministry and 65% for the company. If the company processes the extracted chromite, the share will be 30% for the Ministry and 70% for the company.

These decisions also apply to contracting companies engaged in small- and large-scale chromite mining that have already extracted chromite and have stockpiles at the mining sites.

Approval of the National Minerals Policy Draft

In a regular meeting of the Economic Commission held on August 24, 2025 at the Marmarin Palace and chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the draft National Minerals Policy was presented by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum for discussion. After comprehensive evaluation, the draft policy was approved by the Economic Commission.

Need for the Policy

Over the past decades, due to weak central governance and lack of control, the extraction of mineral resources in the country was largely carried out illegally. Local strongmen often extracted and smuggled minerals in non-standard ways, and revenues mostly went into private pockets. Corruption in contracts also created conditions for the looting and plundering of the country's mineral resources.

In order to standardize the extraction and utilization of this national wealth, ensure that revenues are directed to the national treasury, and prevent arbitrariness and corruption, the Islamic Emirate deemed it necessary to develop a national-level policy. This policy aims to prevent the loss and smuggling of national resources and to ensure that mining operations are conducted using modern and advanced methods.

Overall, the existence of a comprehensive framework for the regulation, development, and control of the mining sector was essential. Therefore, the formulation and implementation of the National Minerals Policy was considered crucial. This policy provides clear guidelines on the exploration, extraction, processing, and export of minerals.

Objectives of the Policy:

1. Standardized exploration and extraction;
2. Attracting domestic and foreign investment and modern technologies;
3. Ensuring environmental protection and worker safety;
4. Promoting domestic processing of minerals;

5. Developing skilled human resources.

Multiple institutions, including the Ministries of Finance, Economy, Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, Labor, Information and Culture, Energy and Water, and others, will collaborate in implementation.

Implementation and Monitoring:

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum will monitor and evaluate implementation based on a structured plan and propose updates when necessary.

Commencement of Practical Work on the Toti Maidan Gas Field Exploration and Extraction Project

On September 14, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, attended the inauguration ceremony marking the commencement of practical work on the Toti Maidan gas field exploration and extraction project.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs described the launch of operations in these gas fields as an important step in attracting investment. He stated that investment in such large and significant projects sends a clear message to all countries and investors that security has been ensured in Afghanistan and that a favorable environment exists for all types of investment. According to him, under the economic-oriented policy of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, all potential investors are welcomed and supported through the provision of necessary facilities.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund further noted that the project would create employment opportunities for a large number of citizens, significantly meet domestic gas demand, reduce the country's reliance on imported gas and electricity, and gradually pave the way for gas exports. He added that it would also help balance trade to some extent and play a major role in the country's overall economic growth. He also urged the contracting company

responsible for the exploration and extraction of the Toti Maidan gas fields to carry out its work in full compliance with all standards and principles.

Benefits for Afghanistan

On October 10, 2024, the contract for the exploration and extraction of the Toti Maidan gas field in Jawzjan–Faryab provinces, valued at one billion US dollars, was signed between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the Ariel Uzbek and Afghan Kam Energy companies.

According to the agreement, the companies will invest 100 million US dollars in the first year, and this investment will gradually reach one billion US dollars over a period of ten years.

Under this contract, the company will produce 100 megawatts of electricity from gas within the first two years, which is expected to significantly help resolve electricity shortages in that region of the country.

The extraction of gas from the Toti Maidan field will also help partially meet Afghanistan's domestic gas demand, marking an important step toward self-sufficiency and reducing dependence on imported gas. In addition, the project will create hundreds of direct and indirect job opportunities, playing a significant role in reducing unemployment in the country.

Overall, the extraction of gas from the Toti Maidan field is expected to accelerate Afghanistan's economic growth and increase national revenue.

Approval of the Mineral Processing and Export Policy in the Economic Commission

A regular meeting of the Economic Commission, chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, was held on September 20, 2025, at the Marmarin Palace. During the meeting, the draft Mineral Processing and Export Policy, presented by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, was discussed and, after comprehensive deliberation, approved.

Summary of the Policy

This policy has been formulated under the guidance of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and emphasizes the development of domestic mineral processing, increasing exports, and strengthening monitoring and transparency frameworks. It also supports the attraction of foreign investment and the expansion of infrastructure, with the aim of facilitating mineral processing within Afghanistan and enabling access to international markets.

The Mineral Processing and Export Policy reflects the objectives and actions of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and relevant institutions, providing a comprehensive framework for the sector. Its main purpose is to expand mineral processing and export activities, attract domestic and foreign investment, remove barriers to processing and export, support local industries, access international markets, promote economic growth, and reduce poverty.

The policy also incorporates environmental protection principles and standards, and focuses on improving access to global markets through international trade agreements.

This policy provides a clear roadmap for the sustainable development of Afghanistan's mining sector. It aims to create employment opportunities, increase participation in global markets, and enhance national revenue through standardized mineral processing and efficient export mechanisms, thereby contributing to long-term economic growth.

Chapter Two:**THE ENERGY SECTOR****Signing of contracts for electricity generation and transmission projects with an investment of 20.7 billion Afghanis**

The shortage of electricity is a problem in Afghanistan; however, fortunately, our country has the capacity to generate electricity from various sources. Afghanistan requires a large amount of electricity. The country's current electricity is partly generated domestically and partly imported from neighboring countries. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is striving to eliminate Afghanistan's dependence on imported electricity and to generate all required electricity from domestic sources.

In recent years, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has made efforts to generate electricity from various sources and, in this regard, has initiated numerous projects in hydropower, wind, gas, and solar energy, while also planning several others, so that on the one hand, facilities are provided

to citizens in various aspects of life, and on the other hand, the ground is prepared for the expansion of economic activities in the country.

For this purpose, in the presence of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on March 27, 2025, contracts for seven electricity generation projects and three electricity transmission projects were signed between Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and the private sector at the Government Media and Information Center.

The seven electricity generation projects include a 40-megawatt solar power project in Balkh Province, a 5-megawatt solar power project in Herat Province, a 10-megawatt solar power project in Laghman Province, 43.2 megawatts of electricity as the first phase of a 200-megawatt wind power project in Herat Province, a 40-megawatt solar power project in Logar Province, a 40.25-megawatt solar power project in Nangarhar Province, and a 50-megawatt gas power project in Jawzjan Province, bringing the total electricity generation capacity to 228.45 megawatts. The electricity transmission projects include the construction of the eastern Kandahar substation, the Qalat substation in Zabul Province, and the extension of a 110-kilovolt transmission line from Kajaki to Kandahar.

According to officials of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, the total investment value of these projects is 20.7 billion Afghanis, equivalent to 292.3 million US dollars. They stated that upon implementation of the signed projects, 23 percent of the country's electricity demand will be met, and the projects will be completed within one year.

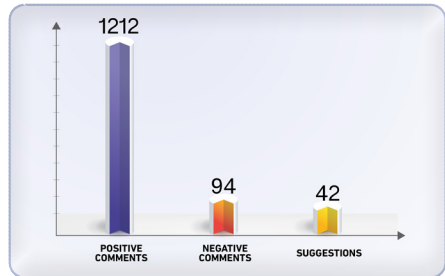
The projects of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat are not only important for meeting Afghanistan's electricity needs but also play a significant role in creating employment opportunities. These projects have also provided job opportunities for hundreds of citizens.

Afghanistan has approximately 300 sunny days per year, which is sufficient for solar power generation. The Islamic Emirate seeks to address the electricity shortage in the country through various approaches. One solution to the

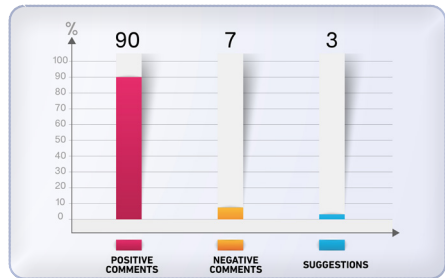
electricity shortage problem is the construction of dams, and another simple, low-cost, and quickly implementable solution is the generation of solar power.

Citizens expressed their views in state-run and private media regarding investment in the above-mentioned projects, the number and percentage of which are presented below.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Approval of a number of electricity projects in the Economic Commission

A regular meeting of the Economic Commission was held at the Marmarin Palace under the chairmanship of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund. In this meeting, discussions were held on several issues in accordance with the agenda.

At the meeting, the Ministry of Water and Energy presented for discussion the survey and feasibility study projects of the Garombi Dam in Maidan Wardak, the Qara Teri Dam in Balkh, the Shna Nari Dam in Kandahar, and the Wuch Nari Dam in Paktia, which, after comprehensive evaluation, were decided to be included in the budget for the fiscal year 1404 SH.

In this meeting, it was decided that revenues obtained from the lead and zinc mine of Ganda Kotal in Yakawlang District of Bamyan Province would be allocated, through the creation of a special code by the Ministry of Finance, for the construction of the Arghistan Dam in Kandahar, the extension of a 90-kilometer electricity transmission line from Kabul to Jalalabad, and the completion of the Sheikh Mesri substation in Jalalabad City.

Additionally, in this meeting, discussions were held on accelerating the processes of land acquisition, transfer, and clearance for the projects of a 10-megawatt solar power generation in Surobi District of Kabul, the remaining works of the Alwan Desert 500-kilovolt transmission line, the construction of the new Bodkhak substation, the extension of the 220-kilovolt transmission line of the Chamtala substation, and the extension of the 220-kilovolt transmission line of the Arghandi substation. After discussion, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock was assigned to complete the remaining 20 percent of land clearance and acquisition for the mentioned projects, and the Ministry of Finance was tasked to allocate a budget for land acquisition of these projects in the fiscal year 1404 SH.

At the end of the meeting, the 40-megawatt solar power project in Hisar Shahi Industrial Park in Nangarhar was approved in partnership with the

private sector. According to this plan, the private sector will invest 50.69 million US dollars.

These projects demonstrate that the leadership of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is committed to achieving self-sufficiency in the electricity sector and is striving to meet the country's electricity needs from domestic sources.

Commencement of remaining works of four major electricity development projects in Kandahar, Zabul, Helmand, and Uruzgan

Afghanistan has significant potential for electricity generation from water, solar, and gas resources; however, due to various reasons, this potential has not been sufficiently utilized. As a result, even in the twenty-first century, many citizens do not have access to electricity, and this shortage of electricity is also one of the reasons for the country's industrial underdevelopment.

After the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the process of electricity generation and transmission to a larger number of citizens has accelerated. Various large and small electricity generation projects have been initiated. Currently, electricity generation and supply projects are underway in several parts of the country.

In order to illuminate the homes of many citizens in the southern regions of the country and to increase industrial activities, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, traveled to the south of the country to inaugurate the remaining works of four development projects.

In the presence of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, a number of cabinet members, and local officials of Kandahar, Zabul, and Helmand, the remaining works of three major electricity development projects in Kandahar, Zabul, and Helmand were commenced on April 28, 2025.

Transmission of Kajaki Dam electricity to Kandahar

Speaking at the ceremony, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, stated that these projects are important steps toward achieving self-sufficiency in the electricity sector, creating new employment opportunities, and strengthening infrastructure, through which the electricity of Kajaki Dam will be fully transmitted to Kandahar. With this electricity, homes will be illuminated and industry will grow. He added that the Islamic Emirate has made serious efforts to generate electricity from available domestic resources and, for this purpose, has signed contracts with the private sector for electricity generation projects with a total capacity of 250 megawatts from solar, wind, and gas sources in various provinces.

At the ceremony, all officials emphasized the expansion of domestic electricity production, completion of unfinished electricity projects, and provision of required electricity to industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors.

The mentioned projects include the completion of the remaining works of the Qalat substation in Zabul center and the Kandahar eastern substation, as well as the extension of a 110-kilovolt electricity transmission line from the Kajaki power generation plant to the Kandahar eastern substation.

These projects are estimated to cost nearly one billion Afghanis, through which hundreds of thousands of new consumers will gain access to electricity and employment opportunities will be created for many citizens. Upon completion of these projects, all electricity generated by the Kajaki power plant will be effectively utilized, and the required electricity will be supplied to the industrial, commercial, and agricultural sectors.

Furthermore, on April 29, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated a major project for electricity transmission from Kajaki Dam to Dehrawud District of Uruzgan Province. Speaking at the ceremony, he stated that such projects utilizing clean energy not only increase Afghanistan's resilience to climate change but also contribute to maintaining a clean global climate.

Gradual reduction of imported electricity

In his speech in Uruzgan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that Afghanistan has long depended on imported electricity, and a significant amount of revenue is spent on it, while imported electricity is both expensive and not considered a sustainable and reliable source. Therefore, such electricity generation projects, through optimal utilization of domestic resources, can gradually reduce Afghanistan's dependence on imported electricity and lead it toward self-sufficiency.

Referring to the importance of clean energy, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that such electricity generation projects are cost-effective sources, prevent the emission of harmful gases, contribute to combating climate change, ensure stability and sustainability in the electricity sector, increase the level of investment, production capacity, and employment, prevent the outflow of foreign currency, and significantly contribute to the country's economic growth.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund also spoke about the damages inflicted on Afghanistan due to global climate change, stating that Afghanistan has had no role in global climate degradation, but unfortunately has been affected by the climatic impacts of the world, particularly of large industrial and producing countries. While many clean energy production projects were halted by international organizations after the establishment of the Islamic Emirate, a number of them have been resumed and inaugurated by the Islamic Emirate.

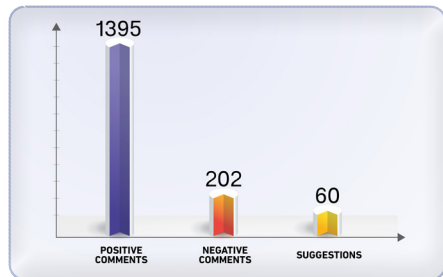
Request for cooperation from international organizations in clean energy production

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, called upon the United Nations and international organizations supporting clean energy, based on a shared responsibility, to provide the necessary cooperation with Afghanistan in the field of clean energy production and to resume the projects that have been suspended by international organizations.

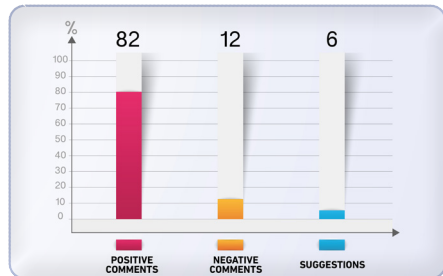
It should be noted that the electricity supply project from the Kajaki Dam to Dehrawud District of Uruzgan Province is being implemented with financial support from Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat at a cost of 201 million Afghanis, which, upon completion, will provide electricity to approximately 4,500 households.

Citizens expressed their views in state-run and private media regarding the commencement of the above-mentioned projects, the number and percentage of which are presented below.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Commencement of works on the 10-megawatt electricity project in Laghman

The works of a 10-megawatt solar power project were initiated by Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat in Laghman on May 22, 2025. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund; the Head of State-Owned Enterprises, Mawlawi Ahmad Jan Bilal; the former Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Dr. Abdul Bari Omar; the Governor of Laghman; local officials; religious scholars; industrialists; and other citizens.

In his speech, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that it is a matter of satisfaction that an important step is being taken in Laghman in the field of clean energy production, which will not only increase the region's resilience to climate change but will also, to some extent, meet the country's need for clean and sustainable energy.

According to the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, the Islamic Emirate has taken important steps such as this project to achieve self-sufficiency in the electricity sector, which is not only significant for electricity generation but also for the national economy, attracting domestic and foreign investment, creating employment opportunities, and providing quality services to citizens.

Eliminating the country's dependence on external needs

At the inauguration ceremony of the 10-megawatt solar power project in Laghman, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the economic strategy of the Islamic Emirate is based on freeing the country from external dependence and achieving self-sufficiency through its existing domestic capacities. Since electricity is considered the backbone of a country's economic growth, it holds a primary position in the economic policies of the Islamic Emirate.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that Afghanistan largely depends on imported electricity, which is not only costly but also results in a significant

outflow of foreign currency. Therefore, such electricity projects can gradually lead the country toward self-sufficiency in the electricity sector.

The former Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Dr. Abdul Bari Omar, in his remarks, announced as good news that during the year 1404 SH, electricity networks will be extended to 80 districts across the country.

Prior to the commencement of this project in Laghman, contracts for seven major electricity generation projects with a total capacity exceeding 228 megawatts had been signed nationwide. This was an unprecedented step in the field of electricity generation in the country, of which this project is also a part.

In the 10-megawatt solar power project in Laghman Province, an investment of six million US dollars is being made by the private sector, which, upon completion, will to some extent resolve the electricity problems of the local population and contribute to the expansion of industrial activities.

Inauguration of two major electricity projects in Herat with an investment of 68 million US dollars

Alongside other sectors, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has made efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in the electricity sector and aims to generate electricity from various sources in different provinces so that, on the one hand, convenience is provided to citizens in daily life, and on the other hand, the ground is prepared for the growth of industry in the country. In addition, Afghanistan's dependence on imported electricity will be reduced.

Afghanistan not only has the capacity to generate electricity from solar and water resources but also has significant potential for electricity generation from another clean energy source (wind). For this reason, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has also initiated wind power projects.

Herat is one of the provinces of Afghanistan that is highly suitable for wind power generation. On May 31, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated two wind and solar power projects in Herat.

Reducing reliance on imported electricity

At the inauguration ceremony of the mentioned projects, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the inauguration of two important wind and solar power projects in Herat is considered a significant achievement in the development, modernization, and attainment of self-sufficiency in the country's energy sector. These projects will not only reduce the country's reliance on imported electricity but will also create opportunities for environmental protection, sustainable energy, and the promotion of new technology.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs added that Afghanistan has long relied on imported electricity, and a large portion of the national budget is spent annually on purchasing it. According to him, imported electricity is expensive and not reliable or beneficial in the long term.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the Islamic Emirate has focused on the effective utilization of domestic capacities in the electricity sector and is making serious efforts in this regard. He added that through these projects, not only will electricity generation capacity increase, but they will also pave the way for the country's economic development, job creation, encouragement of domestic and foreign investors, and expansion of infrastructure.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Economy, Qari Din Mohammad Hanif; the former head of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Dr. Abdul Bari Omar; local officials of Herat; the Consul of Turkey; representatives of 77 Turkish Company; and others. The speeches of the participants focused on the expansion of electricity generation and transmission networks, economic development, environmental pollution, self-sufficiency in the electricity

sector, and other related topics.

Among the aforementioned projects, one was a 43.2-megawatt wind power project with an investment of 64 million US dollars, and the second was a 5-megawatt solar power project with an investment of approximately 3.5 million US dollars.

The 43.2-megawatt electricity generation project is the first phase of a large 200-megawatt wind power project, the remaining phases of which will be initiated later, thereby ensuring the effective utilization of the country's geographical position.

Commencement of the 40-megawatt solar power project in Logar

On July 31, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated the commencement of works on a 40-megawatt solar power generation project in Mohammad Agha District of Logar. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Minister of Economy, Qari Din Mohammad Hanif; the former Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Dr. Abdul Bari Omar; the Head of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, Sheikh Shahabuddin Delawar; local officials of Logar; and a number of citizens.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described the commencement of the 40-megawatt solar power project in Logar as a good opportunity for the economic growth of the province and Afghanistan as a whole and added that upon completion of these projects, the electricity shortage in Logar will be reduced to some extent, industrial activities will increase, and employment opportunities will be created for many citizens. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that the implementation of these projects will increase economic activities in Logar and will also resolve the electricity problem of the Mohammad Agha Industrial Park.

Lack of sufficient electricity as a cause of underdevelopment

In his speech at the inauguration ceremony of the 40-megawatt solar power project in Logar, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described electricity as a key requirement for the development of countries and identified the lack of sufficient electricity as one of the causes of the country's underdevelopment. He added that Afghanistan has abundant energy resources, but unfortunately, these resources have not been properly utilized, resulting in dependence on foreign electricity and the payment of hundreds of millions of US dollars annually to other countries.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, alongside other sectors, significant progress has also been made in the energy sector, and renewable energy generation projects have been initiated in various provinces. In addition to energy production, several projects related to electricity distribution, regulation, industrial zones, and energy supply to citizens are also underway.

He further added that the Islamic Emirate is firmly committed to achieving energy self-sufficiency for Afghanistan, and the country has the capacity not only to produce the electricity it needs but also to export electricity to other countries. However, to achieve this, it is necessary to manage water resources and effectively utilize solar and wind energy, for which long-term plans have been developed by the Islamic Emirate.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs requested the contracting company of the projects to pay serious attention to the quality of work and to complete them within the specified timeframe.

The Minister of Economy, Qari Din Mohammad Hanif, stated at the ceremony that the inauguration of this project is a step toward progress and illumination. According to him, electricity is essential in Afghanistan, as economic development is impossible without it.

The former Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Dr. Abdul Bari Omar, stated in his speech that over the past four decades,

Afghanistan experienced war, and many infrastructure projects, including electricity projects, were destroyed; however, the country is now once again breathing the air of development and progress. He stated that they are committed to providing electricity to the entire country.

The Head of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, Sheikh Shahabuddin Delawar, stated at the ceremony that the inauguration of such projects demonstrates the transparency of the system of the Islamic Emirate. According to him, the country has abundant electricity resources, which can not only make Afghanistan self-sufficient in electricity but also enable it to export electricity to other countries.

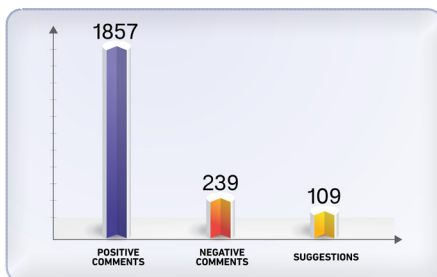
Electricity Generation in Line with International Standards

The Chief Executive Officer of Ghazanfar Group, Mr. Mohammad Ismail Ghazanfar, stated at the inauguration ceremony of the electricity projects in Logar that electricity would be generated in accordance with international standards in Logar. These two projects are being implemented by Ghazanfar Group and Regal Group.

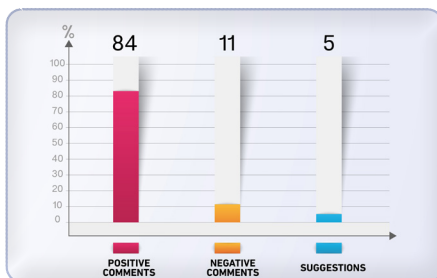
This project, which is being implemented in Mohammad Agha district of Logar, consists of two components. One component is the construction of a 40-megawatt solar power generation facility, the completion of which will cost 28 million US dollars. The second component of this project is the construction of a 126 MVA substation and the extension of a power transmission line, which will cost 7.6 million US dollars. The project will be completed within eighteen months. It will provide the required electricity to 40,000 households in the area and will also resolve the electricity shortage problem of the Mohammad Agha Industrial Park.

Citizens shared their opinions on social media regarding the commencement of the 40-megawatt solar power generation project in Logar, the figures and percentages of which are presented below.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Production of Ten Thousand Megawatts of Electricity with an Investment of Ten Billion Dollars

In the presence of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, His Excellency Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on August 2, 2025, a memorandum of understanding was signed at the Government Media and Information Center between the Ministry of Water and Energy and Azizi Energy Private Company for the generation, transmission, and distribution of 10,000 megawatts of electricity with an investment of 10 billion US dollars.

At the signing ceremony of the memorandum, the former Minister of Water and Energy, His Excellency Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, described it as a major achievement for Afghanistan.

During the signing of the memorandum, the Chief Executive Officer of Azizi Energy Private Company, Mirwais Azizi, stated that with the cooperation and support of the Islamic Emirate, they have strong determination and full commitment to this investment and that practical work will begin soon.

Azizi Energy Private Company will generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity in various parts of the country using gas, coal, water, wind, and solar energy. Through this, Afghanistan will achieve full self-sufficiency in electricity production within a period of 7 to 10 years and will even export electricity to other countries. Out of the 10,000 megawatts of electricity, 4,000 megawatts will be allocated to the general public and 6,000 megawatts to industrial factories, which will lead to the establishment of thousands of new factories, the creation of employment opportunities for millions of Afghans, and significant economic growth.

Benefits of the 10,000 Megawatt Electricity Project

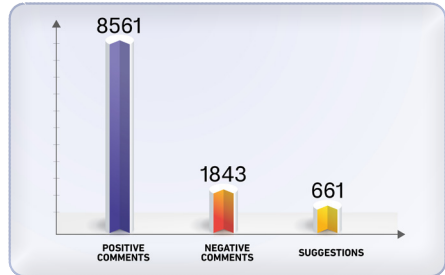
This project will be implemented in various regions of Afghanistan and will utilize multiple sources for energy generation. Electricity will be produced through solar, wind, water, and coal resources.

Although Afghanistan has significant potential for electricity generation, in the past this potential was not sufficiently utilized for domestic electricity production. As a result, Afghanistan faces a shortage of electricity and currently imports part of its required electricity from neighboring countries. The Azizi Energy program will not only eliminate the electricity shortage in Afghanistan but will also enable the country to meet its electricity needs and export surplus electricity to other countries.

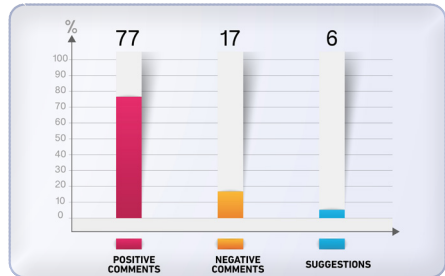
Such a large-scale investment by Azizi Energy is a major development for Afghanistan's economic growth. With the production of this level of electricity, industrial activities and the level of investment in Afghanistan will increase, and numerous job opportunities will be created. Moreover, the production of renewable and clean energy is beneficial for the environment and poses negligible harm to citizens and the climate.

Citizens shared their opinions on social media regarding the signing of the memorandum of understanding for the production of 10,000 megawatts of electricity with an investment of ten billion dollars, the figures and percentages of which are presented below.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Conference on Attracting Investment and Supporting Afghanistan's Electricity Sector in Kabul

A national conference titled “Attracting Investment and Supporting Afghanistan's Electricity Sector” was held on August 27, 2025, at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, organized by Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat.

At this national conference, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs, Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Head of the General Directorate of State-Owned Enterprises, Mawlawi Ahmad Jan Bilal, the former Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Dr. Abdul Bari Omar, the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan, Mr. Jurabek Mirzamakhmudov, the Minister of Energy of Turkmenistan, Mr. Annageldi Saparov, dozens of national investors, as well as investors from 22 countries and representatives of international organizations participated.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, in his remarks at the conference, stated that fortunately Afghanistan has vast and extensive capacities for large, medium, and small-scale investments and, due to having sufficient reserves of raw materials for production resources, is considered a rich country. Afghanistan, in addition to other reserves, has extensive water, wind, and solar energy resources, the utilization of which will not only lead Afghanistan to self-sufficiency in electricity but will also create the capacity to export energy to other countries.

According to the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, holding this conference was considered important for attracting domestic and foreign investors for the development of Afghanistan's electricity sector, introducing existing investment opportunities in this sector, examining challenges, presenting appropriate solutions, and conducting comprehensive discussions. He expressed hope that the conference would conclude successfully with practical outcomes.

The Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs, in his remarks, stated that countries of the world should support Afghanistan in the implementation of projects so that employment opportunities are created and youth are engaged in work. He added that this conference is important for Afghanistan as well as for neighboring, regional, and global countries, and that this opportunity, after years of war and insecurity, is a valuable one for Afghanistan.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs stated in his speech that, as a result of the balanced policy of the Islamic Emirate, countries are investing in Afghanistan. The implementation of major projects such as TAPI, CASA-I000, TAP, and Afghan-Trans demonstrates that Afghanistan is a regional connectivity hub and maintains positive relations with all countries.

The former Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat stated that global development is dependent on electricity and that countries strive to generate electricity through standardized systems. He added that a favorable environment for investment has been established in Afghanistan and that the doors are open to all domestic and foreign investors to work in electricity generation, transmission, and the construction of substations.

The Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan stated that this is a major gathering and that his country is ready to cooperate with Afghanistan in the field of electricity generation. He added that energy is a fundamental pillar of cooperation between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

Objectives of the Conference

The objectives of this conference were to introduce the investment potential and existing opportunities in Afghanistan's electricity sector, ensure the continued attraction of domestic and foreign investors, identify challenges in this sector and propose appropriate solutions, enhance specialized knowledge in the electricity sector, strengthen coordination and joint work between the public and private sectors and international electricity institutions, and provide the groundwork for regional electricity connectivity.

The former Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, referring to the objectives of the conference in his speech, stated that the aims include introducing investment opportunities to investors, exchanging technical experiences, facilitating multilateral cooperation, as well as identifying problems and finding solutions.

Signing of Memorandums of Understanding and Contracts for Electricity Generation with a Capacity of 9,407 Megawatts

In the presence of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, at the “Conference on Attracting Investment and Supporting Afghanistan’s Electricity Sector,” memorandums of understanding for electricity generation and electrical infrastructure development with a capacity of 9,123 megawatts and contracts for electricity generation with a capacity of 284 megawatts were signed between Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and several investment companies.

In addition, between Uzbekistan and Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, the practical work of projects with an investment of 250 million US dollars was also commenced, including the extension of the Surkhan–Pul-e-Khumri 500 kV transmission line, expansion of the Alwan Desert substation, expansion of the Arghandi substation, as well as the extension of the 220 kV transmission line to the Sheikh Mesri substation and the expansion of this substation.

Signing of Contracts for Four Electricity Projects with Uzbekistan Worth 243 Million Dollars

In the presence of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on August 17, 2025, contracts for four electricity projects were signed between Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and Uzbekistan at the Government Media and Information Center. The Minister of Energy of

Uzbekistan, Jurabek Mirzamakhmudov, was also present during the signing of these contracts.

These projects include the Surkhan–Dasht-e-Alwan 500 kV transmission line with a capacity of 1,000 megawatts, expansion of the Arghandi substation with a capacity of 800 MVA, the Kabul–Sheikh Mesri 220 kV transmission line with a capacity of 800 megawatts, and the construction of the Sheikh Mesri substation in Nangarhar with a capacity of 126 MVA. Approximately 243 million US dollars will be invested in these projects by Uzbekistan. Upon completion, Afghanistan will receive between 800 to 1,000 megawatts of electricity from Uzbekistan, and the projects will be completed within 18 months.

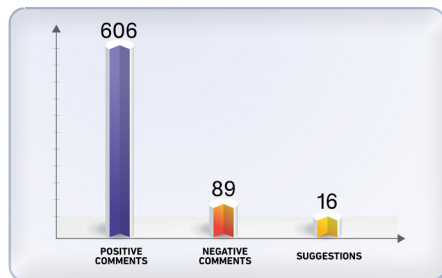
The expansion of the electricity network, construction and expansion of substations, and transmission lines by Uzbekistan will be beneficial for Afghanistan's electricity network in the long term, facilitating electricity distribution, regulation, and energy security for Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat in the future.

Handover of the Parandeh Power Generation Plant in Panjshir

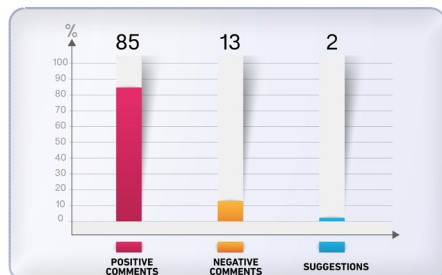
On November 13, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated the Parandeh power generation plant in Panjshir. Senior officials from the Administrative Affairs Office, the former Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat Dr. Abdul Bari Omar, the Governor of Panjshir Hafiz Mohammad Agha Hakim, religious scholars, and community elders were present at the inauguration ceremony. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs described electricity as essential for industrial development and stated that Afghanistan possesses countless sources for electricity generation, from the Kunar River to the sunlit plains of Helmand and Farah and the strong winds of Herat and Nimroz. He added that achieving self-sufficiency in electricity is among the priorities of

the Islamic Emirate and that serious efforts are being made in this regard. According to the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, achieving self-sufficiency in electricity will enable Afghanistan to export quality products instead of low-quality imports and will open the doors for capital inflow into the country. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund called on all traders and investors to invest in Afghanistan, particularly in the electricity generation sector, and assured that the Islamic Emirate will provide all necessary facilities. The former Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat stated in his remarks that the Parandeh power generation project was completed without international assistance and that the inauguration of other domestic projects will also take place in the future. The Parandeh power generation plant in Panjshir produces four megawatts of electricity, which will largely address the electricity needs of the province's residents. Citizens shared their opinions in state-run and private media regarding the commissioning of the Parandeh power generation plant in Panjshir, the figures and percentages of which are presented below.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Signing of the Contract for the Electricity Supply Project to Qosh Tepa and Darzab Districts of Jawzjan Province

In the presence of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on December 23, 2025, at the Government Media and Information Center, a contract was signed between the Ministry of Water and Energy and a private company for the electricity supply project to Qosh Tepa and Darzab districts of Jawzjan Province.

At this ceremony, the Minister of Water and Energy, Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mullah Abdul Hadi Yaqoob, the Director General of Renewable Energy, Mawlawi Abdul Rahman Rahmani, and representatives of the implementing private company were also present.

The Director General of Renewable Energy stated in his remarks that upon completion of this project, nearly all villages in Qosh Tepa and Darzab districts will benefit from electricity, which will create the foundation for improved social services, economic growth, and sustainable development.

The project will cost approximately 1.886 billion Afghanis and will be completed within three years. It includes the extension of a 220 kV transmission line over a distance of 85.24 kilometers, as well as the construction of two substations and two distribution networks in Qosh Tepa and Darzab districts, which, upon completion, will provide electricity to thousands of households.

Launch and Handover of Several Major Electricity Projects in Herat

On December 25, 2025, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, inaugurated the implementation of four out of nine major electricity projects in Herat and handed over the remaining five for operation, with a total value of 3.98 billion Afghanis.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Herat Governor Sheikh Islam Jar, former CEO of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat Dr. Abdul Bari Omar,

local officials, and several investors.

In his speech, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs described these projects as vital for Afghanistan's industrial and economic growth. He stated that, through these projects, 24-hour electricity will be supplied to all industrial parks in Herat, and commercial centers, rural areas, and residential zones will gain access to electricity, leading to stable domestic power availability.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund also announced incentives for investors in cold storage facilities, stating that they will benefit from a five-year tax exemption and will be provided with uninterrupted electricity by Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat under all conditions. He encouraged both domestic and foreign investors to take advantage of this opportunity.

He further urged all countries to adopt engagement-oriented policies with Afghanistan instead of restrictive approaches and to view the country's security stability as an important opportunity. He emphasized that the Islamic Emirate has adopted a balanced foreign policy and is fully focused on economic growth, security stability, and good governance, while rejecting expectations of compromising on its values.

At the conclusion of his remarks, he called on contracting companies and technical teams to complete the newly initiated projects with high quality and within the specified timelines.

The Governor of Herat stated that the province, with its extensive development projects, has taken on the appearance of a "mini Afghanistan." He added that its industrial sector is continuously expanding and that the availability of electricity will further accelerate this process.

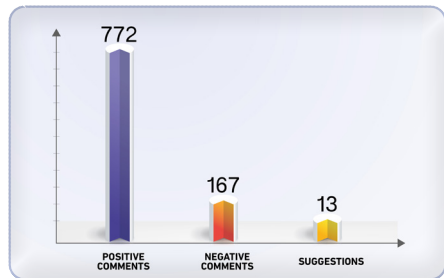
The former CEO of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat noted that, upon completion of these new projects, electricity outages in Herat will be eliminated and power will be supplied to thousands of people.

The handed over projects include the extension of a 220 kV transmission line over 130 kilometers from Turkmenistan and the construction of four

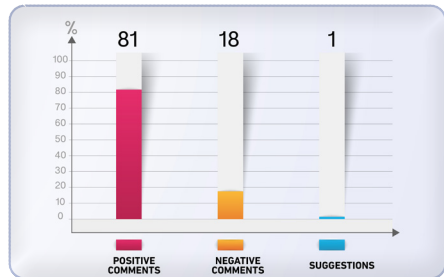
substations in Karukh, Pashtun Zarghun, Obei, and Chisht Sharif districts. Through these projects, electricity will be supplied to 40,000 households.

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

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Signing of Five Power Generation Projects Between Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and Azizi Energy

On February 11, 2026, in the presence of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, contracts were signed at the Government Media and Information Center between Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and Azizi Energy for the implementation of five major power generation projects with a total capacity of 845 MW. The signing ceremony was attended by the Minister of Water and Energy, the Minister of Mines and Petroleum, the head of Azizi Group, the CEO of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, along with other senior officials, private sector representatives, and media.

Under these agreements, Azizi Energy will develop 100 MW solar power plant in Naghlu (Kabul Province), 100 MW solar power plant in Barikab (Parwan Province), 130 MW solar power plant in Ghazni Province, 165 MW coal-fired power plant in Takhar Province, and 350 MW coal-fired power plant in Baghlan Province. The CEO of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Mawlawi Abdul Haq Hamkar, stated that the generated electricity will be comparable to imported electricity.

Mirwais Azizi, head of Azizi Group, emphasized that electricity is crucial for development across Afghanistan. He stated that all equipment for these power plants has already been procured and added that, with sufficient electricity supply, thousands of factories will become operational, creating employment opportunities for millions.

He further announced that, following the completion of the TAPI project in Herat, a gas-powered thermal power plant with a capacity of 3,000 MW will also be constructed.

Following the establishment of full security after the Islamic Emirate came to power, the environment has become conducive for private investment. As a result, Azizi Group announced a \$10 billion investment in Afghanistan and committed to generating 10,000 MW of electricity from various sources. These five contracts mark the initial implementation of that commitment.

Chapter Three:

AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION, AND LIVESTOCK SECTOR



Approval of Key Economic Plans and Policies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock in the Economic Commission

The regular meeting of the Economic Commission, chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, was held on May 7, 2025, at the Marmarin Palace. In accordance with the agenda, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock presented various plans and policies aimed at the country's economic growth. These were approved by the Economic Commission with consideration of certain recommendations, which are briefly presented below.

Approval of the Plan for Six Agricultural, Demonstrative, and Extension Complexes in Four Provinces

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock presented to the Economic Commission a plan for the establishment of six agricultural, demonstrative, and extension complexes in four provinces: Herat, Helmand, Nangarhar, and Balkh. The plan was approved by the Economic Commission with consideration of certain recommendations.

Herat, Helmand, Nangarhar, and Balkh are among the provinces that possess abundant natural resources. Most of the population in these provinces resides in districts, and their income depends on agriculture and natural resources. They have irrigated lands, rain-fed lands, orchards, natural forests, and extensive rangelands, which are key sources of livelihood for the people. Furthermore, these provinces have a suitable climate for agriculture and livestock. Based on this, the plan has been designed for these provinces. These six complexes will be established on 4,479 jeribs of land and will be related to the sectors of cereals and industrial crops, fruits and vegetables, livestock, natural resources, and forestry.

This plan will be implemented through the provincial directorates of agriculture, irrigation, and livestock, under the supervision of the General Directorate of Extension and the sectoral directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock.

Outcomes and Expected Impacts of the Plan

The establishment of agricultural, demonstrative, and extension complexes in four zones of the country will, among other benefits, encourage farmers toward mechanized agriculture and move them away from traditional farming practices. In addition, it will have the following key outcomes:

- ▶ Increase in commercial fruit orchards
- ▶ Standardized production of vegetables in greenhouses
- ▶ Improvement in the quality of processing, grading, packaging, storage, and transportation

- ▶ Assurance of quality and food safety
- ▶ Job creation for people in the implementation areas
- ▶ Enhancement of farmers' capacity and income levels
- ▶ Promotion of standardized farming systems
- ▶ Encouragement and attraction of investors to the agriculture and livestock sector
- ▶ Improvement of soil quality and environmental protection
- ▶ Promotion of modern technology in agriculture, irrigation, and livestock, and improvement of domestic production

Economic Impacts

- ▶ Increase in food production such as wheat and maize, resulting in improved food security
- ▶ Conversion of rain-fed lands into irrigated lands and increase in agricultural production
- ▶ Provision of raw materials required for industries and creation of employment opportunities
- ▶ Increase in the production of key crops
- ▶ Development of the national and local economy
- ▶ Establishment of orchards for pistachios, walnuts, grains, industrial crops, and other beneficial plantations

Social Impacts

- ▶ Increase in the production of cereals, legumes, oilseeds, and industrial crops
- ▶ Reduction in social crimes due to job creation and engagement of youth in agriculture
- ▶ Prevention of illegal migration and brain drain of young human capital
- ▶ Reduction of poverty and social harms
- ▶ Increased public optimism toward the Islamic Emirate and satisfaction with its policies
- ▶ Inspiration for the private sector and local communities to invest

In addition to the above-mentioned economic and social impacts, this plan has numerous other positive economic, social, and environmental effects,

which are essential for the comprehensive development of Afghanistan.

Approval of the Self-Sufficiency Policy for the Poultry Sector

In the aforementioned meeting of the Economic Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock also presented the self-sufficiency policy for the poultry sector, which was approved after comprehensive evaluation.

This policy was prepared based on the directive of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs. The vision of the policy is to achieve self-sufficiency in the poultry sector at the national level.

Need for the Policy

In today's world, the poultry sector has transformed into an industry. Poultry farming plays an important role in a country's economy and employment generation. Poultry farming is also a significant source of protein intake. Therefore, there was a need for a comprehensive policy for the development and expansion of the poultry sector.

Objectives of the Policy

- ▶ Regulation of poultry production, import, and export activities, as well as their products and feed
- ▶ Balanced development of the poultry sector in the country
- ▶ Access to quality products in the poultry sector
- ▶ Increasing household income and the level of the national economy

The developed poultry sector policy includes, in detail, the analysis of the situation, scope of implementation, processing, marketing, duties and responsibilities of relevant ministries and Kabul Municipality, monitoring, and other related issues.

Approval of the Dairy Sector Self-Sufficiency Policy

The dairy self-sufficiency policy was developed upon the request of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs for the development of the dairy industry. In recent years, a number of businessmen in rural and some urban areas have started establishing cattle farms, particularly for the purpose of producing and selling fresh milk. As a result, dairy production in the country has increased, with tens of thousands of liters of milk being supplied to the market daily, from which yogurt, butter, cheese, curd, and other products are produced and sold in rural areas and cities of the country. Due to the expansion of the livestock and dairy sectors, a policy was needed, which was fortunately approved by the Economic Commission.

Objectives and Details of the Policy

The main objectives of the policy are as follows:

1. Regulation of milk production, processing, and packaging in the country
2. Support and strengthening of fresh milk producers
3. Ensuring access of citizens to healthy and high-quality dairy products

The dairy self-sufficiency policy is divided into three main sections (production, processing, and marketing). In the production sector, it includes the establishment and expansion of standard cattle farms, effective and appropriate artificial insemination services, provision of proper feed for dairy animals, and provision of effective and appropriate health services, among other measures.

In the processing sector, it includes the establishment of standard dairy processing factories and milk collection networks, establishment of laboratories for quality control of dairy products, formation and expansion of milk producers' unions, prevention of the import of low-quality powdered milk into the country, and other related measures.

In the marketing sector, it includes production, processing, and packaging of dairy products according to national standards, organization of spring and

autumn exhibitions, establishment of standard infrastructure for production, processing and marketing, support and encouragement of the private sector, and preparation and dissemination of informational programs, among other measures.

According to the policy, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Standards Authority, municipalities of the center and provinces, Agriculture and Livestock Chamber, non-governmental organizations, fresh milk producers, and national dairy unions are responsible for implementation. The role of each ministry and institution has been clearly defined in the policy.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock has been assigned responsibility for implementation of this policy and coordination of activities with relevant stakeholders. In addition, the ministry has been tasked with monitoring all technical programs of the policy.

Approval of the Self-Sufficiency Plan in Edible Vegetable Oils

This plan was also presented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to the aforementioned regular meeting of the Economic Commission, and after comprehensive discussion, it was approved with consideration of the Commission's recommendations.

The edible oil self-sufficiency plan is considered one of the essential plans under the current conditions of Afghanistan. The plan was prepared based on the decree of the Office of the Honorable Prime Minister dated September 22, 2022.

In the first part of the plan, types of oilseed crops are discussed, according to which approximately 288,000 hectares of land will be cultivated with six types of oilseed crops over the next five years. The second part examines domestic production capacity, and the third part analyzes imports of oilseeds and crude oils.

In the final part, a detailed discussion is presented on olives. It highlights the opportunities in the olive sector in Afghanistan, particularly the Nangarhar Canal. The cost and income analysis of one hectare of olive cultivation in the Nangarhar Canal indicates that investment in this sector is profitable, and all relevant details have been calculated in the plan. Specific recommendations have been made regarding olive development in Afghanistan and the Nangarhar Canal sector.

The vision of the plan is Afghanistan's self-sufficiency in edible oils, and its mission is to increase domestic production of vegetable edible oils and develop oil production companies in the country.

According to the plan, it is expected that self-sufficiency in edible oils will reach 30 percent over the next five years. During this period, companies and farmers are expected to earn a total of 81 billion Afghanis, of which 23 billion Afghanis (28%) will come from oils and 58 billion Afghanis (72%) from other products (32 from cotton and 26 from oilcake).

Based on the plan, the cultivation and processing of oilseed crops will contribute approximately 141 million USD in the first year and around 704 million USD (4%) in the fifth year to the gross domestic product.

Handover of the Pashdan Dam in Herat

Following the assumption of power by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in addition to other sectors, water management of the country was taken as a priority, and work on those projects that had remained incomplete was initiated. For this purpose, extensive efforts were made and the Islamic Emirate funded a number of major projects from the national budget, one of which was the Pashdan Dam project in Herat, which was inaugurated for utilization by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on August 14, 2025 in the Karukh district of Herat province. The ceremony held for this purpose was attended by the former Minister



of Water and Energy, Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, the Governor of Herat, Noor Ahmad Islam Jar, the spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, Mawlawi Zabihullah Mujahid, local officials of Herat, and other citizens of the country.

In his speech, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that Afghans are celebrating the fourth anniversary of independence at a time when the Islamic Emirate, over the past four years, has achieved numerous accomplishments in the implementation of Islamic Sharia as well as in political and economic fields. According to him, one of these important projects is the Pashdan Dam, which is being put into operation.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described the Pashdan Dam project as important and vital for Herat province and said that it will reduce the impacts of drought in this province and solve the problems of farmers. The Deputy PM further stated:

“Last year, at the start of the remaining works of this project, I had promised you that the Islamic Emirate would complete the remaining works of the Pashdan Dam with full capacity. Fortunately, today the remaining works of the Pashdan Dam have been completed.”

The Deputy PM further added that the Islamic Emirate supports national and regional projects for the improvement of the country’s economic situation. The ongoing work of the TAPI project in Herat province proves that the Islamic

Emirate seeks economic coordination, mutual cooperation, and stability in the region. According to him, the Islamic Emirate follows an economy-oriented policy for the economic stability of Afghanistan and the region.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund said: “The Islamic Emirate wants to make proper use of all its natural resources and has no intention of taking anyone’s rights. We want to manage our own water resources properly and also ensure the established rights of others. Our purpose from water management is to strengthen the economy of our country. We consider water management as one of the fundamental tasks for reducing poverty, unemployment, and migration in the country.”

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund congratulated all citizens on the completion of this major project and thanked the officials of the Islamic Emirate, the engineers of the Pashdan Dam, technical teams, workers, and all those who cooperated in the completion of this dam.

Construction of other dams

During the Pashdan Dam handover ceremony, the former Minister of Water and Energy, Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, said that work on the construction of several other water and energy dams in the country is ongoing, and in order to control the country’s flowing waters, more dams will also be built in various provinces.

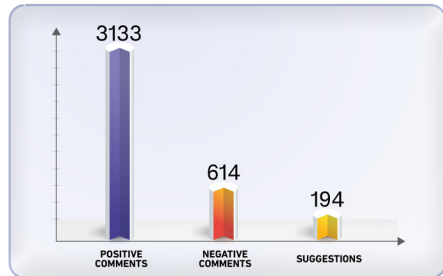
The Governor of Herat, His Excellency Mawlawi Noor Ahmad Islam Jar, said in his remarks that he hopes that in the future the Herat–Chisht and Herat–Ghor highways will be put into operation. In the north of the city, the TAPI and TAP projects are being implemented. Likewise, the expansion of Torghundi port, the fiber optic line, and the Herat–Torghundi railway line are under construction.

The spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, Mawlawi Zabihullah Mujahid, said in his remarks that they want all Afghan brothers who are living outside the country to return to their homeland and participate in the important opportunities through which Afghanistan is progressing.

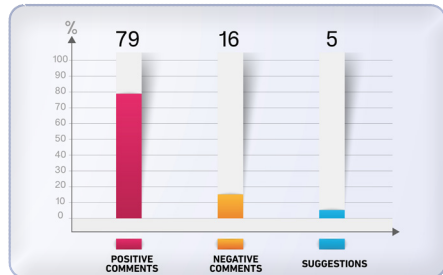
The Pashdan Dam has the capacity to store 54 million cubic meters of water, irrigate 13,000 hectares of land, and generate two megawatts of electricity, providing employment opportunities for thousands of citizens.

Citizens have expressed their views on social media regarding the handover of the Pashdan Dam, and the number and percentage of these views are presented below.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Approval of the cold storage construction plan in Ghazni and a five-year tax exemption for cold storage investors by the Economic Commission

In a meeting of the Economic Commission chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the plan for the construction of a cold storage facility and factory on the land of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in the center of Ghazni province was approved. Afghanistan is an agricultural country, but due to the lack of cold storage facilities, seasonal tariff increases on agricultural products by neighboring countries, and the blocking of trade routes, the national economy, agricultural products, and farmers have faced financial losses. In order to prevent these problems, any company or individual entrepreneur investing in the construction of cold storage facilities will be granted a five-year tax exemption.

Approval of the national policy for the development of the agriculture and livestock sector and the aquaculture development plan

A regular meeting of the Economic Commission chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, was held on February 10, 2026, at the Marmarin Palace. In the meeting, the national policy for the development of the agriculture and livestock sector was presented and approved after discussion. Likewise, the aquaculture development plan was also discussed in this meeting and approved. According to this plan, through private sector investment in various sectors of the country, 7,700 small, medium, and large fish farming and production farms will be established on 6,500 hectares of land. With the implementation of this plan, employment opportunities will be created directly for 50,000 people and indirectly for 250,000 people.

Basis of the National Policy for the Development of the Agriculture and Livestock Sector

This policy has been formulated based on the verbal directive of the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin, may Allah Almighty protect him, and in accordance with the letter No. (73; 25) dated August 6, 2023, of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, for the purpose of developing the agriculture and livestock sector.

Vision

Balanced development and sustainable growth of the agriculture and livestock sector, ensuring food security and safety.

Objectives

- ▶ Expansion of effective and commonly practiced research systems in the field of agriculture, irrigation, and livestock
- ▶ Support for domestic and foreign investment in agriculture, irrigation, and livestock sectors
- ▶ Management and development of irrigation systems and regulation of natural resources
- ▶ Mechanization of the agriculture and livestock sectors
- ▶ Ensuring citizens' access to agricultural and animal products in terms of both quantity and quality

Importance and Necessity of the Policy

In the current circumstances, where Afghanistan is facing economic challenges, unemployment, climate change, and food insecurity, there was a strong need for a comprehensive and targeted policy for the growth and development of the agriculture and livestock sector. This sector not only forms the backbone of the country's economy but also has significant potential for job creation, increasing domestic production, reducing dependency on imports, and strengthening exports. Despite possessing vast potential, these sectors have not achieved the desired growth due to structural challenges, lack of infrastructure, climate change, and insufficient effective investment. This

policy has been developed for the sustainable development of agriculture and livestock, increasing domestic production, improving the economic condition of farmers and livestock breeders, analyzing challenges accurately, identifying opportunities, and providing scientific and practical solutions. With the implementation of this policy, it is expected to contribute effectively to Afghanistan's food self-sufficiency, balanced development, poverty and unemployment reduction, and improvement of citizens' living standards.

Aquaculture (Fish Farming) Sector Development Plan

The plan titled "Aquaculture Development Plan and Private Sector Investment Opportunities" has been approved by the Economic Commission for the further expansion of the aquaculture industry in the country and will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

Objectives of the Plan

Effective utilization of water resources in the country, increasing fish meat production levels, supporting domestic production, and strengthening the private sector are the main objectives of this plan.

Analysis of the Current Situation of Aquaculture in Afghanistan

The entire aquaculture industry in Afghanistan is operated by the private sector. According to available information, by the end of 1404 SH, there were approximately 4,670 fish farms in the country. These farms were producing 11,400 metric tons of fish meat annually. In addition, around 1,600 metric tons of fish meat were also produced from natural water resources in the country. However, considering the population and national demand, this level of production is not sufficient. As a result, especially during the winter season, a large quantity of fish meat is imported from neighboring countries, leading to the outflow of foreign currency from the country. Therefore, a good opportunity has been created for the development of the aquaculture

industry in Afghanistan. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan intends to take advantage of this opportunity to develop the aquaculture sector in the country.

Opportunities for Aquaculture

The prepared plan highlights several opportunities in the aquaculture sector in Afghanistan. One is the presence of suitable climatic conditions and the availability of surface water in many parts of the country, which is considered important for the expansion of this sector. The second is the increasing demand for fish meat among the population. Furthermore, the availability of sufficient human resources, the willingness of the private sector to invest in this field, and the availability of suitable land for establishing farms are other opportunities that can contribute to the development of the aquaculture industry in Afghanistan.

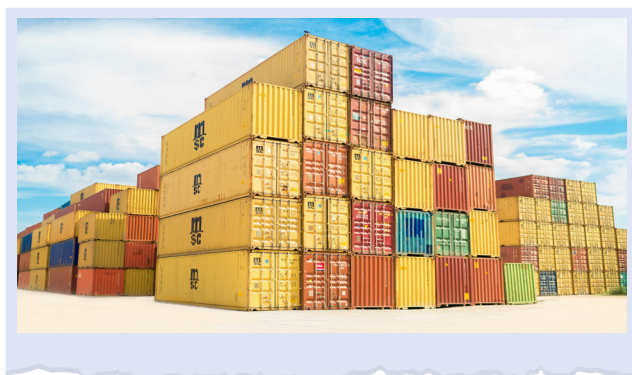
Economic Impacts

The expansion of the aquaculture industry can have a positive impact on Afghanistan's economy. Increased domestic production will reduce the need for fish imports and prevent the outflow of foreign currency from the country. Likewise, fish farms and related activities will create job opportunities for thousands of citizens. In addition, the expansion of the aquaculture sector will strengthen economic activities in rural areas and contribute to increasing people's incomes.



Chapter Four:

THE TRADE SECTOR



The Supreme Council for Standards and Quality approved 30 standards in various sectors

Under the chairmanship of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the third meeting of the Supreme Council for Standards and Quality was held on April 13, 2025, at the Marmarin Palace, in which the Director General of the Standards and Quality Authority, Mullah Faizullah Tamim, and permanent members of the Council also participated.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that in the meetings of the Council, discussions are held on the quality of Afghanistan's products, and standards are approved for the purpose of improvement and assurance. These standards give international credibility to products and simultaneously play an important role in increasing exports. The Director General of the Standards and Quality Authority spoke about the importance of standards and stated that in the case of implementation of standards, the health of

humans and animals is protected, and they also play an effective role in creating a safe environment.

In the meeting, officials of the Standards and Quality Authority presented their annual report. They stated that for the purpose of standard production, they have introduced hundreds of standards in various sectors to relevant production factories, companies, and institutions, and they have monitored 61 production factories and companies. The production of some factories and companies was found to be satisfactory, while most of them were not in accordance with the standards, and necessary recommendations were given to them by the responsible authorities.

In the meeting, it was decided that in order to ensure continuous monitoring of the production of factories and companies and full implementation of approved standards, an implementation plan would be prepared and implemented under the leadership of the Standards and Quality Authority in coordination with relevant ministries and institutions.

In this meeting of the Supreme Council for Standards and Quality, after comprehensive discussion, 30 standards in the fields of food and agricultural products, medicine and cosmetic products, construction materials, electronics and telecommunications, textiles and leather, environmental protection, plastic, medical equipment, mining, and animal slaughter were approved by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund instructed the Standards and Quality Authority to strictly implement the above-approved standards and obligated this authority to regularly share reports on the implementation of these standards with the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs.

Benefits of Standards

In the past three years, under the umbrella of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the Standards and Quality Authority has developed numerous standards and submitted them to the Supreme Council for Standards and Quality for discussion and approval. In several meetings of the Council

chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, many standards related to the environment, health, internal market regulation, and strengthening of the national economy have been approved, the implementation of which has a significant impact on the country's reputation and economic development.

The implementation of approved standards and quality in production, exports, and imports has many benefits, some of which are mentioned below:

1- Facilitating exports:

The implementation of standards ensures that products meet international requirements. This provides Afghanistan with the opportunity to present its agricultural, industrial, and service outputs to international markets.

2- Regulation of the domestic market:

Quality standards ensure that only high-quality products are present in the market and substandard goods are eliminated. This not only benefits public health and safety but also creates the basis for fair competition.

3- Uniformity of products:

When the production of a factory is standardized, people develop trust in it. For example, if a single standard exists for medicines, food items, or construction materials, people will purchase and use them without hesitation.

Opening of Afghanistan–Russia Trade Forum in Kazan

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, and the Deputy PM of the Russian Federation for Economic Affairs, Alexei Overchuk, jointly inaugurated the Afghanistan–Russia Trade Forum on June 16, 2025, on the sidelines of the 16th International Economic Forum in Kazan.



During the opening of the trade forum, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that after the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, political stability has been established in Afghanistan, economic activities have expanded, trade has increased, and alongside domestic investors, foreign investors have also invested in various sectors, and this process is continuing in a good manner. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs added that for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, large and small projects have been initiated in various sectors. The implementation of these projects is being carried out by domestic and foreign companies alongside the Islamic Emirate.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that in addition to initiating infrastructure projects, the Islamic Emirate has also paid attention to the expansion of trade and seeks to create opportunities for Afghanistan's exports to regional and distant countries. Russia is a good market for Afghan products and goods. In this regard, Afghanistan seeks the creation of easier conditions. The Islamic Emirate is ready, for the purpose of expanding trade and transit with Russia and Central Asia, to construct the second Salang tunnel. Considering the experience of the Russian Federation in this field, the Islamic Emirate requests cooperation in the construction of the second Salang tunnel.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, at the opening ceremony of the first Afghanistan–Russia Trade Forum, once again emphasized Afghanistan's role

in the North–South corridor and also Russia’s cooperation in the initiation and implementation of the Afghan–Trans project, stating: “We are interested that Afghanistan plays an effective role in strengthening this corridor and in regional economic connectivity.”

Afterwards, the Deputy PM of the Russian Federation, Alexei Overchuk, spoke. He stated that Russia supports a stable and developed Afghanistan and considers this beneficial for the entire region. According to him, the situation in Afghanistan is moving towards improvement, and the participation of the high-level delegation of the Islamic Emirate in the 16th Kazan Forum proved that Afghans want to live in peace and are ready to advance economic matters in a peaceful environment. He added that Russian companies are ready to work jointly with Afghanistan in the fields of mining extraction, construction of water dams, electricity production, expansion of railway networks, production of transport equipment, as well as strengthening regional connectivity and increasing the level of trade.

Overchuk stated that an agreement has been signed for the establishment of a joint trade center between Moscow and Kabul. They hope this will create new conditions for cooperation between the two sides and provide a good opportunity to benefit from existing capacities.

The meeting was also attended by the Head of the Russian Customs Authority. He stated that, considering special facilitation measures and significant reductions in customs tariffs, they are ready to increase imports of agricultural products from Afghanistan. He added that they wish to establish a protocol with Afghanistan for simplifying trade procedures, eliminating trade bureaucracy, and ensuring special cooperation and coordination in customs operations.

In the meeting, the Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation expressed interest in increasing the level of Russian transit through Afghanistan and stated that the Afghan–Trans project is very important in this regard. Russian and Uzbek technical teams are jointly working on it, and the goal is

to begin its practical implementation soon. In this regard, the Islamic Emirate assured full cooperation from its side.

The Deputy PM and Minister of Industry and Trade of Tatarstan also attended the opening ceremony of the Afghanistan–Russia Trade Forum. In his remarks, he stated that Tatarstan automotive companies are ready to operate in Afghanistan. Tatarstan is ready to sign a government-level cooperation agreement with Afghanistan in this regard. In conclusion, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate described such economic forums as important for the expansion of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and emphasized their continuation.

Signing of five memorandums of understanding between Afghanistan and Russia

At the conclusion of the Afghanistan–Russia Economic Forum’s opening session on the sidelines of the Kazan Forum, five memorandums of understanding were signed between Afghanistan and Russia in various fields. These memorandums were signed on May 16, 2025, in the presence of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, and the Deputy PM of the Russian Federation for Economic Affairs, Alexei Overchuk.

These memorandums covered the fields of transport and transit between the Ministry of Transport and Aviation of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation; expansion of trade between the chambers of commerce of both countries; exploration, extraction and refining of oil and gas in Afghanistan through several major private companies of both countries; and also the establishment of a regional trade and industrial-logistics complex.

Economic benefits of the Kazan conference for Afghanistan

The Kazan Forum, which has been held annually for the past sixteen years to promote economic cooperation between Russia and the Islamic world, serves as a good opportunity for participating countries to share economic

opportunities and attract investment. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, held meetings on the sidelines of the forum with the President of the host republic of Tatarstan, Rustam Minnikhanov, the President of the Republic of Mordovia, Artyom Zudnov, the Deputy PM of Russia for Economic Affairs, Alexei Overchuk, and a number of other officials. During these meetings, information was provided to all sides regarding the existence of economic opportunities in the country and investment possibilities in various sectors. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund clearly explained to all sides that after decades of instability, full security has been established in Afghanistan and a suitable environment for investment and economic cooperation has been created.

Overall, Afghanistan gained significant economic benefit from the Kazan conference. The participating sides became aware of investment opportunities in Afghanistan and requested investment and cooperation in specific sectors. The counterpart sides expressed their interest in investing in the country and pledged that they would invest in many areas in Afghanistan and expand economic cooperation.

The Islamic Emirate hopes for the implementation of the agreements reached. The Islamic Emirate believes that investment and the strengthening and expansion of economic cooperation contribute to regional stability and economic prosperity of the region, and coordination and cooperation among the countries of the region in this regard are very important.

Opening of the fourth National and International Industry Week Exhibition

In Kabul, the fourth National and International Industry Week Exhibition was opened at the Afghanistan International Exhibition Center by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and it continued from May 27 to June 1, 2025.

In the opening ceremony of this exhibition, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs, Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Haji Nooruddin Azizi, along with a number of cabinet ministers, diplomats of several countries, industrialists, and investors participated.

The fundamental force for the development of nations

In his speech at the opening ceremony of the fourth National and International Industry Week Exhibition, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, described industry as the foundation of every nation's development and said that we are witnesses to countries that, only through the industrial revolution, have strengthened their infrastructure, eliminated unemployment, and created good markets for their products. He added that Industry Week is not merely a symbolic title, but rather a reflection of a movement, change, and strong determination, that we must move from an import-based economy toward a production-based, export-oriented, and self-reliant economy.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs said that since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, the industrial sector has witnessed significant progress. Around 1,500 new factories have been established, which have provided permanent employment opportunities for nearly seventy thousand citizens. Afghanistan has achieved self-sufficiency in 138 industrial and production sectors. This progress is not only an important step in reducing unemployment, but also holds fundamental importance for economic stability and strengthening.

The Deputy PM further added that the Islamic Emirate has prioritized the establishment of industrial parks in various provinces for the industrialization of the country. Soon, we will witness the issuance of land ownership documents to industrialists in industrial zones. These industrial parks will not only provide a production environment but will also create job opportunities for tens of thousands of citizens.

The fundamental force for building the country's economy

At the ceremony of the fourth National and International Industry Week Exhibition, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, a favorable environment for investment has been created in the country. At present, domestic and foreign investors have practically invested in sectors such as electricity, mines, agriculture, industry, transport, infrastructure, telecommunications, health, and many others, and significant facilities have been provided to them in this regard.

The Deputy PM described industrialists as the fundamental force for building the country's economy and praised their efforts and innovations in the industrial sector. He added: You ensure quality, price, and quantity in your products, and I hereby promise from this platform that in order to support domestic production, tariffs on similar imported goods will be increased.

Support of the Islamic Emirate for domestic production

The Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs, Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, said in his speech at the opening ceremony of the fourth National and International Industry Week Exhibition that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is committed to the development of industry in the country and to supporting industrialists and domestic production, and that it has provided the necessary facilities in this regard.

According to the Deputy PM, special facilities have been considered for traders and industrialists who return to the country. Any trader or industrialist who has a manufacturing factory in other countries and transfers it to the country is exempt from paying taxes for up to five years, and every industrialist can also transfer two vehicles of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan without any taxation.

Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi called on all traders and industrialists of the country to pay serious attention to international standards and quality in the production and import of goods.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, Haji Nooruddin Azizi, said in his remarks that all products of Afghanistan are standard and of high quality, and that they aim to transform Afghanistan into a developed and industrial country by benefiting from the policies of the Islamic Emirate and the experiences of others. The Minister of Industry and Commerce assured traders, investors, and industrialists of the full support of the Islamic Emirate and called on investors to invest in various parts of Afghanistan and fulfill their responsibility in making the country self-reliant.

At the end of the opening ceremony, the fourth National and International Industry Week Exhibition was officially inaugurated, and officials visited various sections of the exhibition. In this exhibition, domestic products and goods from various sectors were displayed in 700 booths, including food and non-food items, women's handicrafts, carpets, beverages, electrical appliances, and household goods.

Approval of 57 standards and testing procedures in the field of petroleum products in the Supreme Council for Standards and Quality

The fourth extraordinary meeting of the High Council for Standards and Quality was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, the respected Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on June 21, 2025, at the Marmarin Palace.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, said that this extraordinary meeting was held based on the decree of the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin, stating: "The Standards and Quality Administration and the committee for preventing low-quality oil, in coordination, should prepare a new standard for imported oil into Afghanistan within ten working days and send it to us."

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs further added that in order to achieve economic stability and protect the health of citizens, the Islamic Emirate has taken a series of important and beneficial measures to control low-quality imports. These efforts not only improve the quality of the domestic market but also strengthen consumer confidence.

Referring to the importance of standards, the Deputy PM said that standards and quality are fundamental for achieving economic stability and a self-reliant Afghanistan. Standardization not only ensures the quality of industry, trade, agriculture, and production, but is also a vital requirement for increasing exports, protecting consumer rights, and accessing international markets.

Formulation of organized policies in the field of standards

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated at the fourth extraordinary meeting of the High Council for Standards and Quality that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, through the High Council for Standards and Quality, has sought to establish organized policies in the field of standards at the national level and to create a coordinated, transparent, and reliable system so that all sectors of the country can benefit from it. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, instructed the implementation committee of standards to properly implement the standards and testing procedures approved by the High Council for Standards and Quality. Likewise, the private sector was instructed to pay serious attention to the implementation of standards and the approved standards of the High Council for Standards and Quality in their production and imports, and to share their reports with the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs.

In this extraordinary meeting of the High Council for Standards and Quality, six standards and 51 testing procedures in the field of petroleum products were approved. These standards related to diesel, petrol, liquefied gas, and stable condensate gas, and their approval is considered an important step toward improving the quality of petroleum products.

Approval of 12 draft internal standards and 11 testing methods in the Economic Commission

A regular meeting of the Economic Commission was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on February 24, 2026, at the Marmarin Palace. In this regular meeting of the Economic Commission, 12 drafts of internal standards and 11 testing methods submitted by the Standards and Quality Authority were also approved. These drafts covered construction materials, electrical and medical equipment and devices, textiles, plastics, dairy products, and the testing methods were related to food and agricultural products.

Commencement of construction works of Spinzar commercial markets in Takhar and Kunduz

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated the construction works of the Spinzar commercial city in Takhar on September 1, 2025. In his remarks, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs considered private sector investment important for the country's economic development and said that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan supports this sector. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund said that this township will have a positive impact on the economic and social prosperity of the people. He assured all traders and investors on behalf of the Islamic Emirate that their problems would be addressed in a timely manner and that necessary cooperation would be provided in all areas.

More than 2,000 shops will be built in the Spinzar Township of Takhar. In this township, commercial markets for grains, fruits, onions, potatoes, construction materials, and medicine have been planned.

Similarly, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs also inaugurated the construction works of Spinzar commercial markets in Kunduz on September 1, 2025. At the inauguration ceremony of the Spinzar commercial markets in Kunduz, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that, alongside the public sector, investment by the private sector at every level constitutes an

important part of the country's economic development. He added that, as a result of investment, the level of domestic gross production and exports increases, industry develops, and overall national income rises, which has a positive impact on social welfare. In his speech, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund called on the relevant companies to carry out their activities with full honesty and transparency, taking all standards into consideration. The establishment of commercial markets has a positive impact on the country's economic growth. It reduces unemployment, strengthens coordination among traders, and facilitates exports and imports while saving time, along with many other benefits.

Approval of commercial market investment plans in various provinces by the Economic Commission

A regular meeting of the Economic Commission was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on October 26, 2025, at the Marmarin Palace. In accordance with the agenda, ten investment proposals worth approximately 2 billion and 274 million Afghanis in various provinces were presented to this meeting of the Economic Commission for approval, and after comprehensive evaluation, they were approved. These proposals include the construction of a two-storey commercial market in Khwaja Ghar district of Takhar, a five-storey commercial market in the center of Shiberghan in Jawzjan, a ten-storey commercial market in the center of Khost, a five-storey market in the center of Mehterlam in Laghman, an eight-storey commercial market in the 11th district of Kabul city, and an eight-storey commercial market in the 1st district of Kabul city. These proposals also include the construction of a 20-storey commercial and residential building in the 10th district of Kabul city, the construction of an underground commercial market in the Wach Dand area of the city center of Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, and the construction of a commercial complex in the Islam Qala commercial port of Herat, which will include all necessary facilities. Another proposal approved in this meeting was the establishment of a nursery for the care of fruit trees on 150 jeribs of

land in the Guzara district of Herat province. It is worth mentioning that the above-mentioned investment proposals were comprehensively reviewed by the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee under the umbrella of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and were referred to the Economic Commission for approval.

Decision regarding Ariana Afghan Airlines' air cargo transportation

A second follow-up meeting on the export of Afghanistan's commercial goods, particularly dry and fresh fruits, to foreign countries via air cargo was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on November 4, 2025, at the Marmarin Palace, with the participation of relevant ministries and institutions.

At the beginning of the meeting, officials of the relevant ministries and institutions presented reports on the tasks assigned in the first meeting. After the presentation of these reports, Ariana Afghan Airlines was instructed to transport export commercial goods at the rate of one US dollar per kilogram and import commercial goods at the rate of 80 cents per kilogram. Likewise, the Ministries of Finance and Transport and Aviation were instructed to grant a 90 percent discount in their fees to Ariana Afghan Airlines. In addition, Ariana Afghan Airlines was instructed to purchase one cargo aircraft as soon as possible.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, due to the closure of routes with Pakistan, made efforts to find more alternative routes for Afghan traders so that they could transport their goods easily, without delay or obstacles, and not remain dependent on a single country.

Signing of investment terms sheet between the Ministry of Finance and DP World Company

An investment terms sheet was signed between the Ministry of Finance of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and DP World Company on December 7, 2025, at the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs. The Chief of Staff of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mufti Abdullah Azam, speaking at the ceremony, said that this terms sheet will pave the way for agreements and foreign investments under which the country's commercial ports will be modernized and equipped with new technology. He added that, in light of this terms sheet, future agreements will have the capacity to expand infrastructure for the transfer of commercial goods in relevant ports, and operational and management affairs will be conducted through advanced equipment, and all activities will be carried out in accordance with international standards.

Based on this terms sheet, in the first phase the Hairatan port between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan and in the second phase the Torkham port on the imaginary line between Afghanistan and Pakistan will be equipped with modern equipment, and their infrastructure will be aligned with international standards. Subsequently, this process will be expanded to other logistics lines, economic zones, and national projects of the country.

Commencement of construction of a commercial market in Balkh

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, in his speech at the ceremony for the commencement of construction work on a commercial market in Balkh on December 20, 2025, called on countries in the region and the world to soften and expand economic relations with the Islamic Emirate instead of sanctions and unnecessary pressure. He added that a peaceful and strong Afghanistan in the region is not harmful to other countries, but rather contributes to the prosperity and strength of other countries.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund said that the Islamic Emirate believes in comprehensive economic and political engagement in regional and international cooperation, provided that mutual respect exists for major values and principles.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs further added that cooperation with the private sector through public-private partnerships or other contracts in major long-term projects sends a clear message that the environment for domestic and foreign investment in Afghanistan is favorable, and everyone can benefit from this opportunity.

The eight-storey commercial market in Mazar-e-Sharif, which is being built on 600 square meters of land of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs with an investment of 743 million Afghanis, includes 870 shops, four restaurants, one guesthouse, a mosque, and parking facilities. The construction work of this market will be completed within two years, and 43 million Afghanis will be paid annually to the treasury of the Islamic Emirate as annual rent.

Chapter Five:

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR



Commencement of Distribution of Land Ownership Documents to Industrialists in Industrial Zones

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan launched the process of distributing land ownership documents to industrialists in industrial zones on 28 May 2025.

In the ceremony held on this occasion at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Haji Nooruddin Azizi, the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Mullah Attaullah Omari, as well as industrialists and investors participated.

The Deputy PM, in his speech, stated that the development of industry is the most effective method for achieving economic self-sufficiency, social stability, and reducing unemployment in a country. Therefore, the objective of the

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is to create an environment for the private sector in which they can invest with confidence, establish factories, and become part of the country's production capacity.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that through the regulation of industrial zones, in order to promote economic growth and development of the country, attract private investment, and ensure the management, protection, and maintenance of industrial areas, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate, the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin, may Allah protect him, has approved the Law on Industrial Zones. This law provides necessary facilities and enabling conditions for industrialists and investors to carry out industrial activities in industrial zones, so that on the one hand job opportunities are created for citizens and on the other hand significant achievements are made in the country's economic growth and expansion.

Order of the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin, may Allah protect him, regarding the allocation of land to industrialists

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated in the ceremony for distributing land ownership documents to industrialists that, regarding the allocation of land for the establishment of industrial zones, the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin, may Allah protect him, has issued an order that, in accordance with the newly approved law, environmental protection standards, and the urban master plan, 2,000 jeribs of land on each of the four sides of Kabul, 20,000 jeribs in Nangarhar, Kandahar, and Balkh provinces each, 10,000 jeribs in Kunduz province, and in the remaining provinces, where possible, 1,000 jeribs per province for industrial parks, and for small industries and enterprises from 10 to 50 jeribs per province, be allocated and handed over.

Self-sufficiency in the steel industry

Speaking at the meeting, the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Haji Nooruddin Azizi, said Afghanistan has become self-sufficient in the steel industry. For how long will we continue to rely on products of other countries and import them into Afghanistan? It is possible that those countries may

decide not to sell them anymore, saying they need them for themselves. We must stand on our own feet.

The Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Mullah Attaullah Omari, stated in his speech: “Whatever comes from abroad, in return money leaves our pockets, but whatever is produced in our own home, its money remains in our pocket, meaning it circulates within the pockets of Afghans. Therefore, efforts must be made so that in terms of production and self-sufficiency, all necessities of life, food, and clothing should be produced domestically, and we should become self-sufficient.”

At the end of the meeting, ownership documents for 650 jeribs of land were distributed to 91 companies.

Opening of a Production Complex of Factories in Kabul

On 21 July 2025, a complex of several production factories was inaugurated at the National Development Corporation by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund. The Deputy PM described the reactivation of this complex of production factories as a fundamental step in the development and expansion of domestic production and industries, and added that it will reduce Afghanistan’s dependence on foreign products and will significantly contribute to strengthening and expanding domestic industry.

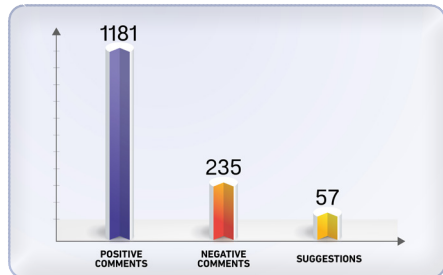
Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that this complex of production factories will create job opportunities for many citizens, will provide products to citizens at lower prices compared to regional and foreign markets, and in general will play an effective role in strengthening the national economy.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund called on all investors and traders to invest in Afghanistan. According to him, a favorable environment has been created for all types of large, medium, and small investments in Afghanistan. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, at the end of his speech, thanked the

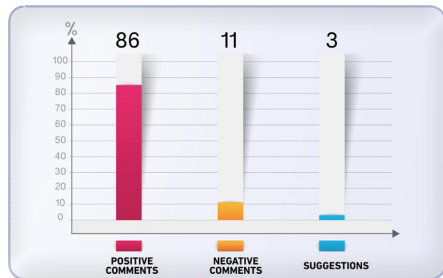
officials of the National Development Corporation for reactivating these production factories after a 60-year halt, and strongly urged them to provide high-quality products to the people.

This complex of production factories currently has 105 types of products, including machinery and agricultural equipment for the Qosh Tepa agricultural complexes, machinery for industrial and small factories, transport vehicles, metal components, electrical equipment, various spare parts, and components for canals and dam gates, some of which were displayed.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Opening of a Raisin Processing Factory with an Annual Capacity of 10,000 Tons

On July 30, 2025, a raisin processing factory was inaugurated in the Istalif district of Kabul province by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund.

In his speech, the Deputy PM stated that, alongside other sectors, the Islamic Emirate has also given special attention to the agricultural sector, and various water management projects have been launched with the aim of developing the agricultural economy. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund said that the Islamic Emirate has created facilities for the export of agricultural products to countries in the region and the world, has organized exhibitions for the marketing of these products, and has increased tariffs on imported goods that have domestic alternatives.

The Deputy PM further added that the Islamic Emirate has also prioritized the use of domestic agricultural products for strengthening the agricultural sector, and progress has been made in improving irrigation systems, establishing cold storage facilities, and building processing and packaging centers. He emphasized the quality and packaging of agricultural exports abroad, considering it important for Afghanistan's credibility and trade relations.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the Islamic Emirate has placed strong focus on regional connectivity to increase trade, and fortunately, Afghanistan's railway network has expanded, through which trade relations with many countries have been established and expanded. He added that the Islamic Emirate is working to fully activate the Lapis Lazuli Corridor and has also discussed this matter with involved countries at the recent ECO organization meeting, in order to provide Afghanistan access to European markets.

During the inauguration of the factory, the Deputy PM described the role of the private sector and investors in Afghanistan's economic growth as

important and said that facilities have been created for investors in various sectors. He added that investors can invest not only in agriculture and industry but also in mining, energy, telecommunications, transport, and services.

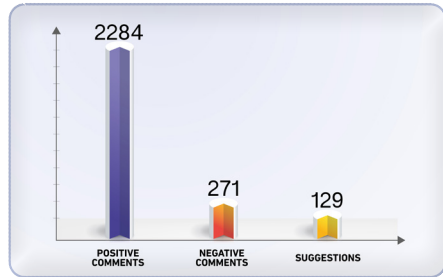
The Deputy PM welcomed the investment and commencement of activities of the Samoon Raisin Processing Factory and assured them of full cooperation. He urged the officials of this factory to prioritize quality and standard processing and packaging over quantity.

Benefits of the Raisin Processing Factory

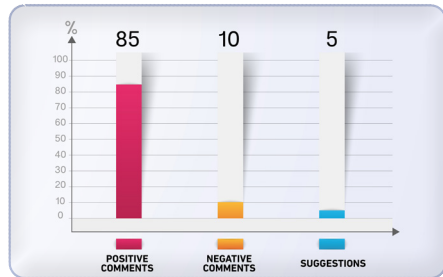
Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described the launch of the raisin processing factory in Istalif district as an important step in increasing the value of agricultural products and said that it will stimulate the local economy, give exports a standard form, and also create job opportunities for hundreds of citizens, which can significantly contribute to the country's economic growth. As an agricultural economy country, Afghanistan is required to export surplus products. For this purpose, industrial activities and establishment of factories are important. The Samoon Raisin Processing Factory has been built on 128 jeribs of land, with an investment of 8 million US dollars, and has an annual processing capacity of 10,000 tons of raisins. The processed and packaged raisins of this factory will be exported to Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, India, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and East Asian countries.



Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Start of Construction Works for the Third Phase of the Ghorī Cement Factory

On 31 August 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated the commencement of construction works for the third phase of the Ghorī Cement Factory in Baghlan. The Deputy PM described this factory as important for domestic cement production and achieving self-sufficiency in this sector, and stated that industrialization is among the top priorities of every country's major national objectives. He said that countries which have production factories in different sectors not only meet the needs of their citizens domestically but also export surplus production. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund added that production factories play a fundamental role in increasing national production, national revenue, and strengthening the national economy.

The Deputy PM stated that Afghanistan is largely dependent on foreign imports and a significant portion of the national budget is spent on imports, while imported goods are not only expensive but also not considered a stable and reliable source. According to him, such production factories inside the country can gradually reduce dependence on foreign imports and take fundamental steps toward a production-based Afghanistan.

Benefits of the Third Phase of the Ghori Cement Factory

With the start of production in the third phase of the Ghori Cement Factory, a major portion of the country's cement demand will be met domestically, industry will expand, capital outflow from the country will be prevented, construction activities will be facilitated and accelerated, price stability in cement will be ensured, job opportunities will be created for many citizens, and overall an important step will be taken toward an industrial Afghanistan.

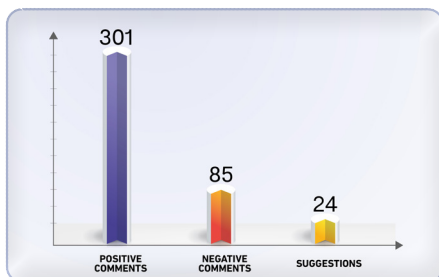
Afghanistan has been dependent on other countries for cement, but the Islamic Emirate has tried to gradually eliminate this dependency and achieve self-sufficiency through domestic production. The launch of the third phase of the Ghori Cement Factory is also aimed at this objective.

Afghanistan has significant potential for cement production. The Islamic Emirate aims to achieve self-sufficiency in the cement sector alongside other sectors and eventually export surplus production to other countries, turning Afghanistan into a cement-exporting country.

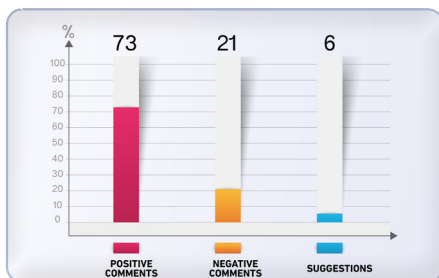
The third phase of the Ghori Cement Factory requires an investment of 86.8 million US dollars, and its construction works will be completed within 18 months by the National Development Corporation. Upon completion of this phase, the factory will have the capacity to produce 5,000 tons of cement in 24 hours.

Public opinions on the commencement of the third phase of the Ghori Cement Factory in state and private media are shown below in terms of number and percentage:

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Inauguration of the Second Phase of the Kabul Föld Iron Smelting Factory

On October 20, 2025, during his visit to Herat province, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated the second phase of the Kabul Föld iron smelting factory in the Herat Industrial Park. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Governor of Herat, Sheikh Islam Jar, government officials, and representatives of the private sector.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated in his speech that since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, many countries in the region and around the world have taken practical steps to expand economic relations with Afghanistan, and these efforts are continuously expanding. He added that the Islamic Emirate has paid special attention to industrial development

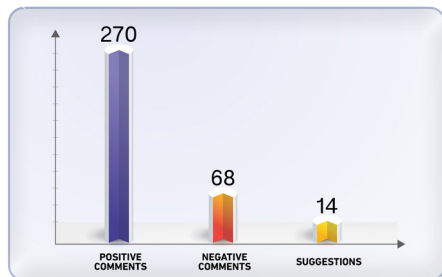
and, for this purpose, has launched major projects for domestic electricity generation and imported electricity.

The Deputy PM called on all investors to invest in Afghanistan and assured them of full cooperation from the Islamic Emirate.

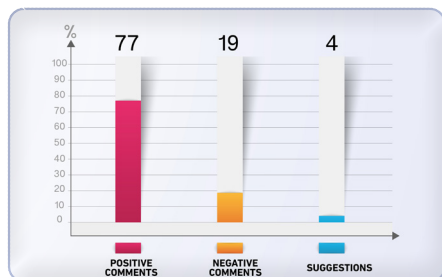
The second phase of the Kabul Folad iron smelting factory involves an investment of 20 million US dollars and has a daily processing capacity of 500 tons of iron.

Public opinions on the commencement of the second phase of the Kabul Folad iron smelting factory in state and private media are shown below in terms of number and percentage:

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Start of Construction Works for the Pamir Aluminum Can Manufacturing Factory in Herat

On December 25, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, laid the foundation stone for the Pamir Aluminum Can Manufacturing Factory in the industrial parks of Herat province. This is the first aluminum can production factory in Afghanistan, in which 120 million US dollars are being invested. The factory is being constructed on 16 jeribs of land and will provide employment opportunities for 1,700 citizens.

The foundation-laying ceremony was attended by the Governor of Herat, Sheikh Islam Jar, officials of the factory, as well as a number of industrialists and traders.

According to the officials of the factory, the construction of this factory will contribute to the development of domestic production, create job opportunities, reduce dependency on imports, and strengthen the economy of Herat.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan supports private sector investment in the country and has provided facilities to industrialists and traders in this regard.

Approval in the Economic Commission regarding residence permits for foreign investors

Under the chairmanship of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the regular meeting of the Economic Commission, held on February 7, 2026, at the Marmarin Palace, discussed the issue of granting residence permits in Afghanistan for foreign investors for a period ranging from one to ten years in exchange for investment. After discussion, the proposal was approved, and the assigned committee was instructed to categorize the duration of residence permits based on the volume of investment and, taking into account all aspects of the matter, submit its report to the next meeting of the Economic Commission.

This step of the Economic Commission not only facilitates long-term legal presence for foreign investors, but also provides them with confidence to carry out long-term economic activities in Afghanistan. The facilitation of residence permits for foreign investors increases the level of investment in the country and encourages foreign investors to come to Afghanistan. As a result of their arrival and investment, foreign capital will enter Afghanistan, projects will be initiated, and job opportunities will be created. This decision of the Economic Commission opens a new chapter for economic development in Afghanistan, which, with its implementation and the arrival of foreign investors, can have a profound impact on the country's economic progress.



Chapter Six:

EFFORTS OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT



Launch of the Process of Sending Skilled and Professional Afghan Workers Abroad Legally

On August 17, 2025, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, participated in a ceremony held at the Intercontinental Hotel marking the launch of the process of sending skilled and professional Afghan workers abroad through legal channels.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described the process of sending Afghan workers abroad as an effective step toward improving the country's economic situation and reducing unemployment. He added that over the past four years, the Islamic Emirate has worked to create employment opportunities inside the country through attracting domestic and foreign investment and expanding economic relations with other countries.

He stated that various projects are currently being implemented in the country, and trade and economic relations with other countries have expanded, all of which have had a positive impact on the labor market and have created many job opportunities. According to him, in addition to these efforts, the Islamic Emirate has taken various measures to reduce unemployment, one of which is the legal deployment of Afghan workers abroad, and fortunately, this process has now begun.

He further said that employment opportunities abroad will strengthen Afghanistan's trade and economic relations with host countries, bring the countries closer, and enhance Afghanistan's international reputation. He added that working in developed countries will enable Afghan workers to learn new skills and become familiar with modern technologies, which they can later utilize for the benefit of the country upon return.

The Deputy PM assured all citizens that the Islamic Emirate is making serious efforts to reduce unemployment and aims to provide a comfortable and prosperous life for the people. He also thanked the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs for facilitating the legal deployment of Afghan workers to Qatar. He urged the ministry to continue its efforts and create further facilitation, and also thanked the State of Qatar for its cooperation in this regard and for accepting Afghan workers. He further called on other countries to provide opportunities for the legal employment of Afghan workers and benefit from their skills and talents.

Benefits of Sending Afghan Workers Abroad

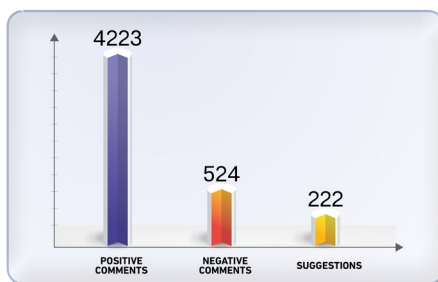
An agreement was signed between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and Qatar for the deployment of 2,000 skilled and professional Afghan workers, and the registration process began on July 29, 2025, in various provinces.

Since coming to power, the Islamic Emirate has worked to reduce unemployment in the country. The initiation of various domestic development projects is a clear example of these efforts. However, to also utilize employment opportunities abroad and prevent illegal migration, it

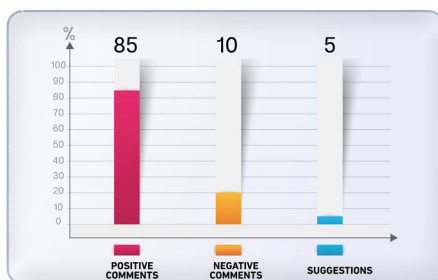
became necessary to send skilled and professional workers to other countries through legal channels.

Sending Afghan workers abroad brings several economic benefits to the country. It increases foreign currency inflows, positively impacts the national economy, expands political and cultural relations, and enables Afghan workers to acquire new skills.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Chapter Seven:

TRANSPORT SECTOR



Inauguration of the Arghandi Transport Terminal in Kabul Province

In a country, the development of trade, strengthening of regional connectivity, and provision of facilities for people largely depend on the organization and expansion of the transport system. Fortunately, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has undertaken efforts to develop the country's transport system. In order to better organize transport operations and bring scattered and unregulated transport networks under one system, the construction of terminals has become a necessity. The Islamic Emirate recognized this need and initiated the development of several transport terminals to improve the organization of the national transport system. One such terminal is the Arghandi Transport Terminal in Kabul Province, which is being constructed in Paghman District.

Accordingly, on March 23, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs inaugurated the construction work of the Arghandi Transport Terminal in Paghman District, Kabul. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the former Minister of Transport and Aviation, Mullah Hamidullah Akhundzada, representatives of the private sector, and a number of local residents.

The Deputy PM described the construction of the Arghandi Terminal as an important step in the development of the country's transport infrastructure and stated that the rehabilitation and expansion of transport infrastructure is a fundamental and essential step for economic growth and both domestic and regional connectivity.

According to him, due to years of war and corruption in Afghanistan, the transport sector had not received adequate attention. Existing infrastructure had deteriorated due to low quality construction, public properties were encroached upon by individuals, and the designated rights-of-way of roads and highways had been reduced.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund emphasized that investment in transport and communication infrastructure, the recovery of encroached public properties, and the identification and rehabilitation of the original rights-of-way of roads are among the fundamental national priorities of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

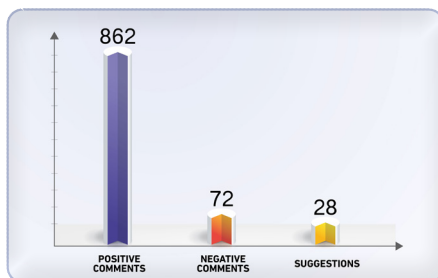
Benefits of the Terminal

With the construction of this terminal, transport facilities for citizens will improve, cargo and passenger transfer processes will become faster, transport costs will decrease, traffic congestion will be reduced, citizens' time will be saved, and employment opportunities will be created for many people.

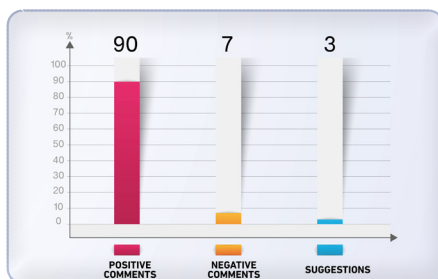
The Arghandi Terminal will be constructed over approximately 900 jeribs of land at a cost of 1.285 billion Afghanis and is expected to be completed within two years. The cost will be covered from the national development budget, and the construction work has been awarded to a private company.

According to the head of the construction company, this transport terminal will function as a modern hub for both public and private transport services.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Construction Work of the Kabul–Bagram Road Launched

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

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs, Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, former Minister of Urban Development and Housing, Hammadullah Nomani, as well as a number of senior government officials and investors.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs described the Kabul–Bagram Road as one of the key connecting routes of Kabul city and stated that this road

links Kabul with Parwan and other northern provinces. He added that this road is one of the fundamental transport infrastructures of the Kabul New City, playing an important role in urban development, social activities, and economic connectivity.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that unfortunately, in the past Afghanistan was divided along political party lines as well as ethnic, regional, and linguistic divisions, which resulted in the weakening of national unity and the loss of many common national values. He added that the Islamic Emirate is making serious efforts to resolve these issues and eliminate such divisive structures, so that Afghans may be united under a single Islamic and national identity that safeguards the supreme interests of the country.

He further noted that one fundamental step in this regard is the unification of school and madrasa curricula up to grade six, which has been implemented by the Islamic Emirate.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs urged all citizens to refrain from blindly imitating others, avoid being influenced by external narratives, and not misinterpret realities. He emphasized that Afghanistan belongs to all Afghans, and everyone can live peacefully in the country, return to their homeland, and invest here. He stated: “We have not prevented anyone, nor is the capacity of the Islamic Emirate so limited that it treats every individual or minor issue as a major concern.”

Positive Engagement with Afghanistan is a Necessity of the Time

During the inauguration ceremony of the Kabul–Bagram Road, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund also called on regional and global countries to recognize that positive engagement with Afghanistan is a necessity of the present time and an essential pillar for strengthening regional and international connectivity and pursuing shared development goals.

He stated that ignoring this reality weakens the achievement of common objectives and results in the loss of existing opportunities. He added that all countries are interdependent in terms of geography, airspace, labor

force, raw materials, and import-export relations. These needs can only be properly addressed when countries engage with each other through formal diplomatic and economic frameworks, which ultimately benefits all parties.

The Deputy PM further urged all countries to take advantage of Afghanistan's nationwide security, economy-oriented policies, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and strong willingness for political and economic engagement. He cautioned against turning existing opportunities into threats.

Project Details of Kabul–Bagram Road

The Kabul–Bagram main road in Kabul New City has a total length of approximately 43 kilometers and a width of 100 meters. A 6.2-kilometer section of the road, with a width of about 50 meters, has been awarded under contract, with a total cost of over 455 million Afghanis. The remaining sections of the road will be contracted in the coming years.

Importance of the Project

Under the economic-oriented policy of the Islamic Emirate, special attention has been given to the expansion of highways and roads, as they are vital for economic activities. The development of transport infrastructure not only facilitates mobility for citizens but also plays a fundamental role in trade, investment, and urban development.

The construction of the Kabul–Bagram Road is also significant for the expansion and increased value of Kabul New City. With the completion of this road, expectations for urban expansion and increased investment in the Kabul New City area are expected to grow further.

Chapter Eight:

BANKING SECTOR



Signing of the Financing Mechanism for Public Welfare Projects by Commercial Banks

On August 20, 2025, in the presence of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and Da Afghanistan Bank signed a mechanism for the financing of public welfare projects through commercial banks at the Marmarin Palace.

This document has been developed based on Article 2, Clause 5 of the working procedure of the Economic Commission, with the aim of providing a legal framework for financing public welfare projects through the participation of commercial banks.

The objectives of this mechanism include facilitating the participation of commercial banks in public welfare projects, creating opportunities for

investment for domestic banks, and providing conditions for increasing the revenue of commercial banks.

Under this mechanism, the Ministry of Finance will request public welfare projects from relevant sectoral institutions and will prepare their financial models. Da Afghanistan Bank will encourage commercial banks to participate in the financing and implementation of these public welfare projects.



Chapter Nine:

FOOD AND MEDICINE



Participation of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs in the Appreciation Ceremony of Snow Pharma, Milli Shifa, and TGL Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Companies

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, participated in an appreciation ceremony for pharmaceutical manufacturing companies held at the Ministry of Public Health. The ceremony was also attended by the Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs, Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, members of the Cabinet, other government officials, representatives of pharmaceutical companies, private sector stakeholders, and media representatives. The ceremony was held on May 20, 2025, at the Ministry of Public Health.

Speaking on the occasion, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that high-quality medicines ensure a healthy human society from a public health perspective, whereas low-quality medicines are harmful to human health. He

emphasized that performing responsibilities with sincerity, commitment, and integrity is a fundamental duty of all stakeholders in this sector.

He further added that if pharmaceutical manufacturing companies in the country produce medicines in accordance with national and international standards, it would not only be a major achievement but would also reduce the country's dependence on imported medicines and help meet domestic demand locally.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs also noted that out of all pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, only three companies have been awarded Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certificates in accordance with international standards due to their high-quality and standardized production. He described this as a significant achievement for these companies and congratulated them accordingly.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described Afghanistan's dependence on imported medicines as detrimental to the national economy, stating that imported medicines are not only expensive but also lead to significant foreign currency outflows. In view of this important need, he urged pharmaceutical companies to pay close attention to both the quality and quantity of medicines in line with national and international standards.

Call for Investment in the Health Sector and Avoidance of Substandard Imports

During the ceremony, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs assured all domestic and foreign investors that procedures related to economic matters within government institutions will be further simplified, streamlined, accelerated, and shortened. He stated that in this regard, the Esteemed Leader Amir-ul-Mu'minin, may Allah protect him, has assigned a committee under the Administrative Office to develop a structured procedure.

He urged all investors to invest not only in other sectors but also in the health sector.

He further called on all government institutions to prioritize domestic products in accordance with the directive of the Esteemed Leader and to give preference to their standardized medical products, ensuring that these matters are given serious attention in procurement processes.

The Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs, Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, stated that the import of substandard medicines and food products must be strictly avoided, and that any individual producing or importing substandard medicines and food items into the country will face legal action.

The Minister of Public Health, Mullah Noor Jalal Jalali, described the achievement of GMP certification by domestic pharmaceutical companies for the first time as a major and encouraging step in the health sector. He stated that this development will increase domestic production in the health sector, strengthen the economy, and gradually move the health sector toward self-sufficiency.

At the end of the ceremony, the pharmaceutical manufacturing companies Snow Pharma, Milli Shifa, and TGL were awarded internationally recognized GMP certificates by the Food and Drug Directorate of the Ministry of Public Health for their standardized production of medicines. These certificates enable them to export their products to foreign countries.

Chapter Ten:

INFRASTRUCTURE



Approval of the Bam Herat Recreational Complex Project in the Economic Commission

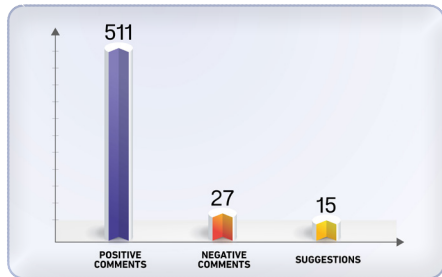
The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has created a favorable environment for private sector investment in the country. Investors are operating with confidence in a secure environment free from administrative corruption, and they are utilizing available investment opportunities in Afghanistan.

The Islamic Emirate considers the role of the private sector essential in the country's economic development alongside the government. Domestic and foreign investors have been encouraged to invest, and through facilitation and incentives, they have been urged to take advantage of investment opportunities in various sectors in Afghanistan.

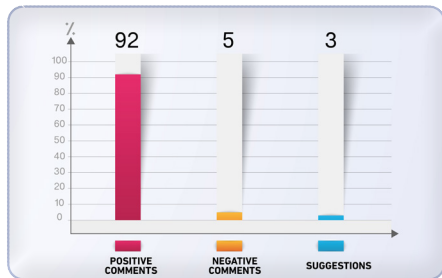
A proposal for the construction of the Bam Herat Recreational Complex in Herat by the private sector was submitted to the Economic Commission, and it was approved in a meeting of the Economic Commission chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund.

According to the proposal, the private sector will invest more than 1 billion Afghanis in the construction of this recreational complex, which will provide employment opportunities for around 4,000 people.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Commencement of construction works for an overpass in front of the Kabul Governor's Office

Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, is a densely populated city. Many citizens have settled here due to employment opportunities and commercial activities. However, many parts of the city have developed in an unplanned and disorganized manner, and the city's master plan has not been properly implemented.

The main reasons for the non-implementation of the master plan and lack of urban development were corruption and the influence of powerful



groups before the Islamic Emirate came to power. As a result, the city faces significant disorder and citizens experience severe traffic problems.

After coming into power, the Islamic Emirate has taken important steps for the development and regulation of Kabul city, including the expansion of roads, construction of new roads, and building of overpass bridges to reduce traffic congestion and resolve urban challenges. In this regard, the Kabul Municipality has launched several underground road and aerial bridge projects in different parts of the city.

On December 30, 2025, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund inaugurated the construction of an overpass bridge for vehicle traffic in front of the Kabul provincial governor's office. The ceremony was attended by Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, Head of the Administrative Affairs, Sheikh Noorulhaq Anwar, Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology, Mullah Hamdullah Nomani, Kabul Governor's, Mawlawi Aminullah Obaid, Kabul's Mayor, Mullah Abdul Rashid, as well as other officials, media representatives, and citizens.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated at the ceremony that, considering population growth, the scale of economic activities, and the condition of Kabul city, urban development, transport infrastructure, and urban order are essential needs. He added that Kabul must develop according to a modern and well-organized urban plan.

He further stated that Kabul Municipality has carried out significant work in urban development and transport regulation, which is commendable.

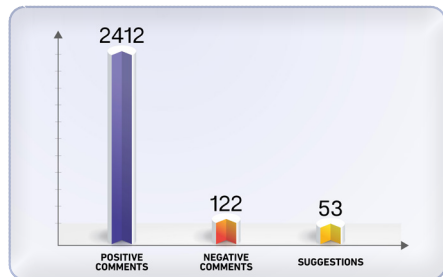
He instructed engineers of the project to complete the construction with full adherence to standards and quality requirements.

The Deputy PM for Administrative Affairs stated that this bridge will connect the Kabul provincial governor's office area with the Juyi Sher Road via Sadarat Square. He added that in 1404 SH, Kabul Municipality had planned 258 development projects, of which 200 are currently under implementation.

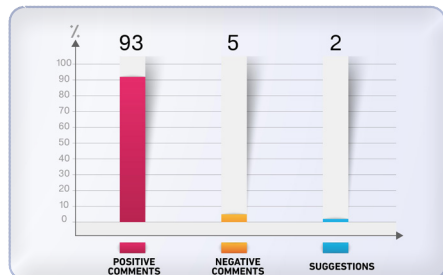
According to him, a development budget of 8 billion and 113 million Afghanis was allocated for Kabul Municipality in 1404 SH, and its proper utilization would significantly transform the city.

This overpass bridge will be 235 meters long, 18 meters wide, and 6.8 meters high, with a total cost of 462 million Afghanis, and is expected to be completed within 15 months.

Number of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Percentage of public opinions in state-run and private media:



Chapter Eleven:

ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH EMIRATE COMMISSION FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Visit of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs to Earthquake-Affected Areas of Kunar

On September 12, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, visited Kunar Province to assess the situation of earthquake-affected areas and meet with the victims.

During this visit, he was accompanied by the governors of Nangarhar and Kunar, the General Director of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, Sheikh Shahabuddin Delawar, the Director of the Department of Disaster Management, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, the head of the Chamber of Commerce, and other officials.

During his interaction with the earthquake victims, the Deputy PM expressed deep sorrow over the devastating disaster. He prayed for mercy for the martyrs and wished a speedy recovery for the injured.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the Islamic Emirate shares the grief of the affected people. He added that despite limited resources, the Islamic Emirate has been able to respond in a timely manner to major disasters over the past four years and provide assistance to victims.

He assured the people of Kunar that the Islamic Emirate stands with them and instructed all relevant authorities to collect aid and distribute it transparently to deserving victims.

He also called on traders, investors, and charitable organizations to extend assistance to the earthquake victims of Kunar.

Referring to reconstruction plans, he stated that efforts are underway to rebuild destroyed houses and to take comprehensive measures to reduce the impact of future natural disasters.

He further urged the international community to end imposed sanctions on Afghanistan so that humanitarian aid delivery and economic response mechanisms are not hindered.

During the visit, the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce announced a donation of 20 million Afghanis for the earthquake victims. Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce and Yama Petroleum Company chairman, Syed Karim Hashimi, and the head of Akhtyaran Company, Haji Kamaluddin, each contributed 50,000 US dollars.

On August 31, 2025, earthquakes struck Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Panjshir, and Nuristan provinces, with Kunar suffering the most severe damage. The earthquake measured 6 on the Richter scale. In Kunar alone, around 2,200 people were martyred and hundreds were injured, while hundreds of houses were destroyed.

Visit of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs to Earthquake-Affected Areas of Samangan

On November 5, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, visited Samangan Province to express solidarity with the earthquake-affected families.

He prayed for the martyrs, offered condolences to the bereaved families, wished recovery for the injured, and expressed his solidarity with the victims.

He assured the people that the Islamic Emirate stands with them and will address their challenges within available resources, including housing reconstruction and other urgent needs.

He also expressed gratitude to all charitable organizations, traders, and citizens who provided assistance during this difficult time, and once again urged wealthy individuals, businesspeople, and international humanitarian organizations to support the affected families.

During the visit, he also brought financial assistance, which was distributed transparently by provincial authorities for housing reconstruction, shelter provision, medical treatment, and other urgent needs.

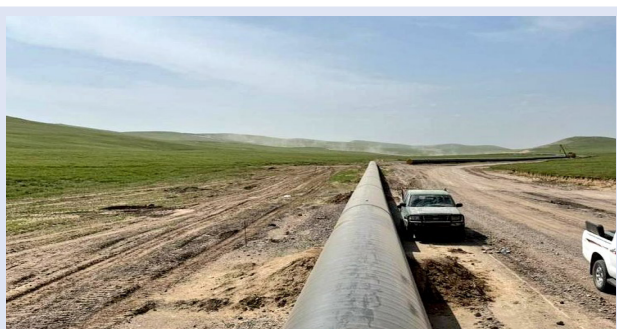
The Deputy PM also met with the Governor of Samangan, Mohammad Shoaib Risalat, and members of the Disaster Management Committee at the provincial office, where he received reports and issued necessary instructions.

Similarly, during his visit to northern earthquake-affected areas, he met with officials of the Disaster Management Commission in Balkh Province, listened to their reports, and provided necessary guidance.

On November 2, 2025, earthquakes struck Samangan and Balkh provinces. The earthquake measured 6.3 on the Richter scale, resulting in approximately 20 martyrs and hundreds of injured individuals. Hundreds of houses were destroyed and livestock were also lost due to the disaster.

Chapter Twelve:

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY



Visit of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the National Leader of Turkmenistan to the TAPI Project Site

On October 20, 2025, a high-level delegation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, led by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, together with the National Leader of the friend country Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, and his accompanying delegation, visited the ongoing implementation site of the TAPI project in Afghanistan.

The Deputy PM expressed gratitude to the National Leader of Turkmenistan for his visit to Afghanistan to observe the practical progress of the TAPI project and to strengthen coordination in this regard.

He described the TAPI project as an important initiative for regional cooperation, economic integration, and shared prosperity, stating that 14 kilometers of progress has been achieved within Afghan territory.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund further stated that the vision of the Islamic Emirate is not limited to the TAPI project alone, but extends to the expansion of an economic corridor between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. He highlighted that this corridor includes the TAP-500 electricity transmission project, railway construction, roads, logistics centers, and other economic projects, for which the Islamic Emirate is fully committed to implementation, security, and continuity.

He also called on Turkmenistan and all international partners to take advantage of investment opportunities in Afghanistan.

Following this, the National Leader of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, addressed the meeting.

He described relations between Kabul and Ashgabat as strong and continuously expanding, and thanked the Islamic Emirate for its full cooperation in the implementation of this major regional project.

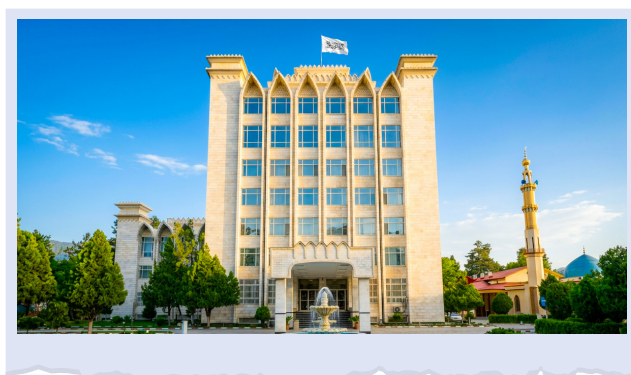
He stated that the TAPI project is among the top priorities of the Government of Turkmenistan and will play an important role in regional economic stability. He added that the best conditions have now been created for its implementation, and it is the only project in the region that enjoys international support.

He further noted that Turkmenistan will complete the TAPI project within the planned timeframe, through which Afghanistan is expected to earn approximately one billion US dollars annually.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund urged neighboring countries to move away from confrontation and non-principled approaches, and instead adopt relations based on mutual respect. He emphasized that the national sovereignty, dignity, and people of countries must not be disrespected under any circumstances.

Chapter Thirteen:

MEETINGS OF THE PROCUREMENT COMMISSION AND THE INTER-MINISTERIAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE



Procurement Commission Meetings

In the year 1404 SH, under the leadership of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, a total of ten meetings of the Procurement Commission were held.

In these meetings, 128 projects were approved with a total estimated cost of 62.1 billion Afghanis. All approved projects are financed by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

These projects include a wide range of infrastructure and development initiatives across different provinces, such as dam construction, road

development, hospitals, road infrastructure, electricity transmission, and distribution projects.

As a result of these projects, employment opportunities have been created for hundreds of citizens across the country.

Meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee

In 1404 SH, the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee held 24 meetings. During these sessions, various development and investment projects across different provinces were reviewed and approved.

For example, proposals for commercial market construction in several provinces and rehabilitation projects for eroded areas along the Amu River were approved and referred to the Economic Commission for further consideration.

The approval of these proposals has contributed to urban economic development and has helped create conditions for reducing unemployment across the country.



Chapter Fourteen:

MEETINGS OF THE DEPUTY PM FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS WITH AFGHAN TRADERS AND INVESTORS



Interest of Investors in One Block of the Haji Gak Iron Mine

On May 12, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met in his office with a number of domestic investors. During the meeting, the investors expressed their readiness to invest jointly 650 million US dollars in three phases for the exploration and extraction of one block of the Haji Gak iron mine. According to the investors, they plan to carry out extraction in partnership with a foreign company in a professional manner. They also intend to establish a modern processing facility in Afghanistan equipped with international standards and advanced technology. This factory will have the capacity to process and convert 9,000 tons of sponge iron into steel daily, which is expected to create direct employment opportunities for 6,000 citizens and meet 100% of the country's domestic

demand. The Deputy PM welcomed the investment initiative in the mining sector and assured full support from the Islamic Emirate. He instructed the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum to work closely with the investors and regularly report progress.

Meeting Between the Deputy PM and National Businessman Mirwais Azizi

On August 2, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met in his office with national businessman and investor Mirwais Azizi.

At the outset, he welcomed Mirwais Azizi, CEO of Azizi Group, and his technical team, and appreciated Azizi Energy's planned investment of 10 billion US dollars in the production of 10,000 megawatts of electricity in Afghanistan. He assured full cooperation and support from the Islamic Emirate, stating that a favorable investment environment has been created in the country. He added that, under the decree of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate, necessary facilities are being provided to investors, and priority is being given to domestic production.

Mirwais Azizi stated that after decades of war and hardship, a suitable opportunity for national reconstruction has emerged. He added that taking advantage of this opportunity, he has initiated investment in the production of 10,000 megawatts of electricity in Afghanistan, which will contribute to the development of industry and agriculture and create significant job opportunities for citizens. He expressed gratitude to the officials of the Islamic Emirate for their cooperation and stated that he will continue to hold regular meetings with relevant ministries for the proper implementation of the projects.

He further announced his readiness to soon launch the construction of a hospital in Kabul for the treatment of cancer patients in accordance with international standards.

Chapter Fifteen:

MEETINGS WITH DELEGATIONS FROM NEIGHBORING AND REGIONAL COUNTRIES



Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Deputy PM of Kazakhstan

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met on April 21, 2025 with the Deputy PM of Kazakhstan, Serik Zhumangarin, and his accompanying delegation at Gulkhana Palace in the Arg. During this meeting, discussions were held between the two sides on the expansion of mutual cooperation in various economic fields.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that Afghanistan and Kazakhstan share common historical ties, which have had a highly positive impact on trade relations between the two countries throughout history and have

increased investment opportunities. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund further added that since the establishment of the Islamic Emirate, trade relations between the two countries have been continuously increasing and strengthening day by day.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that Afghanistan has a strong commitment to strengthening economic relations and trade ties with Kazakhstan and other regional countries, and in this regard, a draft roadmap has been signed to raise the level of trade between Kabul and Astana to three billion US dollars. According to the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, the implementation of this roadmap will bring significant positive changes in various economic sectors such as trade, agriculture, mining extraction, transport, transit, railways, and industry, and will increase investment in these respective sectors.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the Islamic Emirate is ready to share existing investment opportunities in Afghanistan's mining sector with Kazakhstan and to sign agreements in the areas of preservation, quarantine, and livestock of agricultural products. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs also emphasized the expansion of banking relations between the two countries and joint cooperation in the development and exploration of Afghanistan's oil fields. Likewise, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the Islamic Emirate has initiated work on the establishment of an operational company for increasing the level of imports and exports through railways, which will be introduced to the Kazakh side. According to him, this will further accelerate trade activities among regional countries through the railway network.

Commitment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to cooperation with regional countries

During the meeting with the Deputy PM of Kazakhstan, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that Afghanistan is committed to cooperation with regional countries in the industrial, trade, and transport sectors. In this

regard, the Islamic Emirate has prepared and shared with the Kazakh side the draft agreement of a unified regional center involving four countries, namely Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. Likewise, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund emphasized the commencement of flights between Kabul and Astana, facilitation in the issuance of visas for Afghan traders by Kazakhstan, and the active participation of Afghanistan in the upcoming regional economic forum jointly established with regional countries.

Subsequently, the Deputy PM of Kazakhstan, Serik Zhumangarin, stated that Kazakhstan supports a developed and independent Afghanistan and observes significant progress being made in various sectors in Afghanistan. He added that in view of these developments, trade and economic relations between Kazakhstan and Afghanistan have expanded. He stated that Kazakhstan is prepared to invest 500 million US dollars for the commencement of practical work on the Turgundi–Herat–Spin Boldak railway project (Turgundi–Herat phase), as well as to establish a logistics and transport company for the implementation of this project in Herat. The Deputy PM of Kazakhstan further added that, in addition to this project, Kazakhstan is also prepared to implement an internet cable extension project, under which Afghanistan will be provided with affordable internet. Serik Zhumangarin stated that Kazakh investors are ready to invest in various sectors in Afghanistan, particularly in mining, oil, and gas, and that their technical teams have already arrived in Kabul in this regard. During the meeting, the Kazakh side also expressed readiness for providing visas to Afghan traders, launching direct flights between the two countries, banking cooperation, increasing transit and bilateral trade, as well as joint cooperation in the sectors of health and education.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs welcomed Kazakhstan's investment of 500 million US dollars in the aforementioned railway project and the establishment of a logistics and transport company, as well as the readiness of Kazakh investors to invest in various sectors, and assured them of full cooperation from the Islamic Emirate.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Special Representative of the United Arab Emirates for Afghanistan

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met on May 6, 2025 with the Special Representative of the United Arab Emirates for Afghanistan, Saif Muhammad Al Ketbi, in his working office. During this meeting, the Minister of Public Works, Mullah Mohammad Isa Thani, was also present.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the development of bilateral relations between Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates, particularly economic relations. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that Afghanistan is a country rich in natural resources, and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is striving to attract investment in these resources and, through them, make the country self-reliant. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund further added that investors from the United Arab Emirates can invest in various sectors in Afghanistan.

Holding of a conference of Emirati investors and traders in Kabul

During the meeting with the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, the Special Representative of the United Arab Emirates for Afghanistan stated that they intend to hold a conference of investors and traders of the United Arab Emirates in Kabul. In this conference, discussions will be held on those projects for Afghanistan through which economic development in Afghanistan will be achieved. Likewise, he expressed his country's interest in investment in Afghanistan in the fields of railways and road construction.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Chief Executive Officer of the Mes Aynak project contracting company

On May 10, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met in his working office with the Chief Executive Officer of the Mes Aynak project contracting company (MCC), Wang Jing. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described the Mes Aynak project as an important economic project of Afghanistan and stated that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has provided all necessary facilities to the contracting company for the continuation of the project. The contracting company was requested to commence the construction work of this project and to resolve the issues that are causing obstacles in the work process. The Chief Executive Officer of MCC praised the cooperation of the Islamic Emirate in the implementation of the project and stated that significant progress has been made in many parts of the Mes Aynak project, and that the project will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum of the Islamic Emirate.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met on July 10, 2025 in the Arg with the Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Murat Nurtleu. During the meeting, both sides discussed cooperation in the fields of trade, transit, railways, banking, and economic affairs. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described the relations between Afghanistan and Kazakhstan as positive and developing, and stated that the Islamic Emirate is working to expand cooperation with Kazakhstan in areas that contribute to the prosperity and development of Afghanistan. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs assured the Kazakh side that Afghanistan can serve as an effective

transit corridor, enabling Kazakhstan to transport its energy resources to South Asia through Afghanistan. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that both sides can cooperate in the fields of mining, transport, communications, energy production, oil and gas, and infrastructure projects by making good use of existing opportunities between the two countries. During this meeting, discussions were held on the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the preservation and quarantine of agricultural products between the two countries, increasing exports and imports through railways, signing an agreement on international transport and transit between the two countries, joint cooperation among Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan in the industrial, commercial, and transport sectors, opening major commercial centers in both countries, and reducing transit fees. It was stated that with the implementation of these measures, the level of trade between the two countries will reach three billion US dollars.

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding for the Turgundi–Herat Railway Project with an Investment of 500 Million US Dollars

Following the remarks of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Murat Nurtleu, delivered his remarks. He stated that they continue to support Afghanistan on the international stage and observe that there is a favorable environment for joint cooperation and close collaboration between Afghanistan and Kazakhstan in various sectors. He added that Kazakhstan is ready to officially initiate an investment worth 500 million US dollars in the Herat–Turgundi railway project. He also expressed readiness on his part regarding the increase of electricity imports to Afghanistan, the transfer of Afghan agricultural products to Kazakh markets, and the opening of accounts of Afghan banks in Kazakh banks including Azadi Bank and Zaman Bank. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs welcomed Kazakhstan's investment in the Herat–Turgundi railway project and described it as an important step toward increasing

the level of transit and trade between the two countries. The Minister of Public Works of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Mohammad Isa Thani, and the Kazakh representative also signed a memorandum of understanding for the initiation of Kazakhstan's investment worth 500 million US dollars in the Herat–Turgundi railway project.

Economic Importance of the 500 Million US Dollar Herat–Turgundi Project

The Herat–Turgundi railway project is an important project for Afghanistan that creates opportunities for effective utilization of the country's transit position. This project will connect Afghanistan through railway with Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Iran, and will expand trade between these countries.

This railway project will open an easy and cost-effective route for Afghanistan's exports to Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries, China, Russia, and European markets, and in addition, it will enable Afghanistan to carry out imports from these countries at lower cost and in less time.

This project is considered an important regional economic connectivity project that will play a significant role in Afghanistan's economic development. It will increase the level of national revenue, create job opportunities, and strengthen regional connectivity.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Deputy PM of the Republic of Tatarstan

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met on August 5, 2025, in the Arg with the Deputy PM and Minister of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation, Oleg Vladimirovich Korobchenko.

During this meeting, both sides discussed the increase of economic cooperation and mutual trade.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, at the outset, thanked the Russian Federation for recognizing the Islamic Emirate, which has taken diplomatic relations between the two countries into a new phase. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs further added that the Islamic Emirate seeks broad economic and trade relations with all republics of the Russian Federation and, in this regard, held fruitful meetings at the 16th Kazan International Economic Forum.

Invitation for Investment to Tatarstan

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, during his talks with the Deputy PM of the Republic of Tatarstan, stated that the Islamic Emirate has created investment opportunities for domestic and foreign investors in various sectors in Afghanistan and assures full cooperation and support from its side. He added that the Republic of Tatarstan can also utilize this opportunity to invest in Afghanistan in the construction of roads, tunnels, water supply networks, dams and housing projects, the chemical industry, and also in the project for transferring water from the Panjshir River to Kabul.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund also emphasized increasing Afghan exports to Tatarstan in order to boost mutual trade between Kabul and Kazan, as well as the import of high-quality food products, medicines, and technical equipment from that country, and stressed joint cooperation between the relevant ministries and institutions of both sides.

Subsequently, the Deputy PM of the Republic of Tatarstan, Oleg Vladimirovich Korobchenko, spoke. He stated that with the recognition of the Islamic Emirate by the Russian Federation, favorable conditions have been created for engagement between Tatarstan and Afghanistan in various sectors. He added that they are ready to invest in the project of transferring water from the Panjshir River to Kabul and in other sectors as well. The Deputy PM of Tatarstan further stated that representatives of Tatarstan's industrial companies have accompanied him during this visit and are eager to begin cooperation with Afghanistan in various fields.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs described the arrival of the Tatarstan delegation in Kabul as the beginning of a new and fruitful chapter for expanding relations between Kabul and Kazan in various sectors.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met on August 17, 2025, in his working office with the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan, Jurabek Mirzamakhmudov, and his accompanying delegation. During this meeting, both sides discussed the expansion of economic relations, particularly cooperation in the energy sector.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that during his meeting with the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the 17th ECO Summit, they had fruitful discussions on political, economic, and trade relations between Kabul and Tashkent. In continuation of the decisions made in that meeting, several important agreements between Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and Uzbekistan in the energy sector were signed in Kabul, and he requested the Uzbek side to pay special attention to the timeline and quality set for the completion of these projects.

Subsequently, the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan, Jurabek Mirzamakhmudov, spoke. He stated that the President of Uzbekistan supports Afghanistan's economic development and stability and, in this regard, places special attention on expanding economic relations and increasing cooperation between Tashkent and Kabul. Mirzamakhmudov added that they are fully prepared to implement these projects within the specified time and with high quality, and will soon begin practical work in the construction sector jointly with Afghan companies. He further stated that the Uzbek side is ready to

share its experiences with the Afghan side in the fields of energy, agriculture, mining, industry, health, and training of specialists.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the U.S. Special Representative for Hostage Affairs

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on September 13, 2025, met with a delegation led by the Special Representative of the President of the United States Donald Trump for Hostage Affairs, Adam Boehler, who also included Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad, former U.S. Special Representative for Afghan Peace, as a member of the delegation.

During this meeting, both sides discussed the current situation of Afghanistan, the region, and the world, and also exchanged views on bilateral political and economic relations between Afghanistan and the United States.

At the outset, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, referring to the country's economic progress, stated that since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, the economic situation, which had been facing serious threats, has been improving again; administrative corruption does not exist; the complete prevention of the cultivation and trafficking of narcotics has been ensured; the unemployment rate has decreased; and the Afghan currency has remained stable against foreign currencies.

The Deputy PM further added that progress has been achieved in the banking sector; alongside exports, the volume of imports and national revenues has increased; domestic production has grown; major projects have been launched; and industry, trade, and transit have also developed.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, referring to the sanctions imposed on Afghanistan by the United States and the international community, stated that Afghanistan has not progressed in some areas as required, and the reason for

this is the economic sanctions imposed on Afghanistan by the United States and the international community.

He further stated that by adopting an economy-oriented balanced foreign policy, they have been able to maintain good political and economic relations with some countries.

The Deputy PM also referred to the creation of facilitative laws for attracting investment in Afghanistan, stating that simplified laws for investment attraction have been established and that the rights and requests of all individuals are addressed in light of Sharia principles.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund further stated that investment in sectors such as electricity, mining, agriculture, transport, infrastructure, telecommunications, technology, and health, as well as many other sectors, is a necessity for Afghanistan, and the Islamic Emirate has provided opportunities for investment for both domestic and foreign investors in this regard. According to the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Afghanistan possesses vast natural resources, and favorable conditions have been created for investment in this sector. The Hajigak iron mine in Bamyan, the Katawaz and Helmand oil basins, the Herat oil basin, and rare mineral resources are considered good investment opportunities.

The Deputy PM stated that opportunities have also been created for investment in Afghanistan in the construction of roads, railways, and transport terminals; construction, agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, food products, handicrafts, regional connectivity, and banking sectors.

He further added that in order to create facilities for investors, an inter-ministerial committee has been established, with the responsibility of fully facilitating domestic and foreign investors. Likewise, a consultative economic board is being formed for economic development.

Demand for engagement instead of confrontation

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, in his meeting with the U.S. President's Special Representative for Hostage Affairs, stated that the United States should move towards engagement instead of confrontation with Afghanistan, should play its role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and should benefit from existing investment opportunities in various sectors.

Following this, the U.S. Special Representative for Hostage Affairs, Adam Boehler, spoke and stated that the United States and Afghanistan have implemented the Doha Agreement in a good manner and that neither side has violated this agreement. He praised the economic developments achieved in Afghanistan and emphasized the further expansion of relations and engagement between the United States and Afghanistan.

Referring to the issue of detained citizens in Afghanistan and the United States, Adam Boehler stated that both countries will exchange their hostages. The American delegation also expressed their cooperation in the economic sector in Afghanistan and stated that they are ready to invest in Afghanistan.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Mines of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on September 16, 2025, met in his official office with Seyed Mohammad Atabak, Minister of Industry, Trade and Mines of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his accompanying delegation.

During this meeting, both sides held comprehensive discussions regarding trade, transit, investment, Chabahar, and the activities and enhanced effectiveness of the joint economic commission between the two countries.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and officials of several Russian companies

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on October 15, 2025, met in his official office with officials of a number of Russian companies.

The officials of the Russian companies stated that they are ready to invest in Afghanistan in the fields of exploration and extraction of oil, zinc, copper and chromite minerals, water management, electricity generation, and the production of technical machinery, and in order to establish early coordination with relevant institutions, they will open their office in Kabul.

The Deputy PM welcomed the interest of Russian companies in investment in various sectors and assured full cooperation.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the National Leader of Turkmenistan

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on October 20, 2025, met with the National Leader of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow. During this meeting, in addition to the TAPI project, discussions were also held on several other economic projects between the two countries. The Deputy PM described the TAPI project as important for the economy of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and the countries of the region, and requested the Turkmen side to provide employment opportunities for Afghans in the implementation of this project.

The Turkmen side stated that in accordance with the TAPI project procedures, employment and professional training opportunities will be provided for a large number of Afghans. They further added that they are also ready to implement other major economic projects to expand economic relations between Ashgabat and Kabul.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Chief Executive Officer of Delta International Company

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on October 24, 2025, met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Saudi Arabian company “Delta International,” Shahar Al-Taqi, in the presence of Zalmay Khalilzad, former Special Representative of the United States for Afghanistan.

During this meeting, both sides discussed the exploration, extraction, and expansion of gas pipelines.

The Chief Executive Officer of the company expressed interest in investing in Afghanistan’s oil and gas sector and pledged to share their experience with Afghan engineers.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Health of Iran

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on December 3, 2025, met in his official office with Mehdi Pir Salehi, Deputy Minister of Health and Head of the Food and Drug Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Ambassador of Iran to Afghanistan, Alireza Bikdeli.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister of Health of Iran stated that Iran is ready to expand its long-term cooperation with Afghanistan in the production of medicines and medical equipment and in increasing their exports to Afghanistan.

The Deputy PM thanked the Iranian side and assured that the relevant institutions of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan will fully cooperate and work jointly with them in these fields.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Head of Iran Railways Authority

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on December 29, 2025, met at the Marmarin Palace with a delegation led by Jabar Ali Zakeri, Head of the Railways Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the presence of the Ambassador of Iran to Kabul.

During this meeting, both sides discussed economic relations between Afghanistan and Iran, trade, and cooperation in the development of railways.

The Head of the Railways Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jabar Ali Zakeri, stated that they intend to expand the railway network through Afghanistan, so that through this route they can be connected to China and, by utilizing Afghanistan's strategic location, be linked to Europe. He proposed that a joint committee be established in this regard and discussions be held with companies.

In response, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that he had discussed the value of this project three years earlier with the Deputy President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and had provided information regarding its economic importance. The Deputy PM further added that a joint committee should be established in this regard and practical work should begin as soon as possible.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

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

During this meeting, the Minister of Mines and Petroleum of Afghanistan, Haji Mullah Hidayatullah Badri, the Minister of Water and Energy, Haji Mullah Mohammad Younus Akhundzada, the Minister of Transport and Railways

of Turkmenistan, the State Minister, the Head of the Turkmen Gas State Company, and a number of Afghan and Turkmen officials were also present.

During the meeting, discussions were held on the TAPI project, TAP, railway, and electricity projects between the two sides.

Interest of Delta International Company in the TAPI project

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs told the Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan that the launch of the TAPI project has created opportunities for the expansion of relations between Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and the countries of the region, and that the Saudi Arabian company Delta International has also shown interest in investment in this project.

According to Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Delta International Company is interested in investing in the purchase of gas under the TAPI project, increasing the capacity of the large gas block of Turkmenistan, constructing and extending the gas pipeline from Guzara district of Herat to Spin Boldak district of Kandahar, from Spin Boldak to the border of India, and constructing a large and modern gas center at the Gwadar port of Pakistan.

The Deputy PM also requested Turkmenistan to clarify its position regarding the construction of the Torghundi–Herat railway project, as Kazakhstan has also shown strong interest in the implementation of this project.

He further expressed Afghanistan's full readiness to finalize the roadmap of the TAP project and, in addition, assured full cooperation from Afghanistan for the initiation of electricity transmission to the districts of Bala Murghab, Khamab, and Qorqeen, as well as other regional connectivity projects. He also emphasized the provision of employment opportunities for Afghans in ongoing projects between the two countries.

Following this, the Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, expressed gratitude to the Islamic Emirate for creating favorable conditions for the implementation of the TAPI project and stated that by the end of the current year, the work of this project will reach the center of Herat. He welcomed the interest of foreign companies in investment in the TAPI project and added that this matter should be worked on closely.

Investment of Turkmenistan in the Torghundi–Herat railway project

The Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, during the meeting with the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, also expressed readiness from his side to invest in the Torghundi–Herat railway project and stated that they have already practically started work in Torghundi. He further added that his country is ready to transmit electricity to Afghanistan through five routes and increase its capacity.

In addition, discussions were also held between the two sides on the expansion of trade, banking cooperation, the creation of employment opportunities, and joint cooperation in the management of economic projects in various sectors.

At the end of the meeting, detailed information regarding the progress of ongoing projects was also shared with the participants by the technical teams of both countries.

Meeting between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Chief Executive Officer of Azizi Group of Companies

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on February 11, 2026, met in his official office with the Chief Executive Officer of Azizi Group of Companies, Mirwais Azizi, and his technical team.

The Deputy PM welcomed the commencement of the practical implementation of five major electricity generation projects with a capacity of 845 megawatts, which are part of Azizi Energy's 10,000 megawatt project, and considered them important in terms of job creation and economic growth in the country.

Mirwais Azizi expressed gratitude to the Deputy PM and to the officials of the relevant institutions for their full cooperation in all fields, stating that they have not faced any difficulties. He said that they have realized that the Islamic Emirate has a strong determination for the reconstruction of the country, and as a result of the sincere efforts of responsible officials, contracts for the commencement of five major electricity generation projects have been signed. Mirwais Azizi further added that by the end of 1404 SH, they will also launch 15 to 20 additional electricity generation projects, bringing the total capacity to 5,000 megawatts.

The Chief Executive Officer of Azizi Group of Companies expressed satisfaction that the TAPI project is progressing well within Afghanistan's territory, and stated that upon the arrival of gas in Herat, in coordination with the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, work will begin on large gas networks and the establishment of a major gas-based electricity generation plant with a capacity of 3,000 megawatts. He also requested cooperation and joint work with the relevant institutions in the exploration and extraction of natural gas and coal and the generation of electricity from them. The Deputy PM and the officials of the relevant institutions assured full cooperation and joint work in these areas.

Chapter Sixteen:

FOREIGN TRIPS



Participation of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs in the 16th Kazan International Economic Forum

The 16th meeting of the (Russia–Islamic World: Kazan Forum) was held from May 13 to 18, 2025, in the city of Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation.

The first session of this forum was held in 2009, and in 2025 its sixteenth consecutive session took place. Around 20,000 participants from approximately 90 countries attended, including government officials, former politicians, businesspeople, religious leaders, and representatives of various sectors.

The main objective of this international forum was to enhance economic cooperation between Russia and the Islamic world.

A delegation from Afghanistan, led by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, also participated. The delegation

included the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Nooruddin Azizi, the former Minister of Transport and Aviation, Mullah Hamidullah Akhundzada, and several other officials.

On the sidelines of the Kazan Forum, the Deputy PM held meetings with a number of high-ranking officials from different countries.

Meeting Between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the President of Tatarstan

On May 15, 2025, after attending the opening ceremony of the 16th Kazan International Economic Forum, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met with the President of Tatarstan, Rustam Minnikhanov, on the sidelines of the forum. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral economic and trade relations, as well as investment opportunities for Tatarstan investors in Afghanistan.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund expressed his gratitude to the President of Tatarstan for inviting the delegation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to participate in the 16th Kazan International Economic Forum under the theme “Russia and the Islamic World,” thereby providing an opportunity to strengthen bilateral political and economic relations between Afghanistan and other countries.

During his remarks, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that the foreign policy of the Islamic Emirate is independent, positive, neutral, balanced, and economy-oriented, and that it seeks good relations with all countries of the world. He added that, based on this policy, they aim to expand relations with the Republic of Tatarstan, particularly in the areas of investment opportunities in Afghanistan, especially in energy, infrastructure, and the development of bilateral trade.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described Afghanistan’s conditions as favorable for investment and invited Tatarstan investors to invest in sectors

such as oil and gas extraction and refining, construction projects, railway development, and other fields. He assured them of full cooperation and support from the Islamic Emirate.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs described the 16th Kazan International Economic Forum as a valuable opportunity to expand economic and trade relations between Afghanistan and Tatarstan, and emphasized the need to organize exhibitions and other economic initiatives between the two sides in order to fully utilize existing capacities.

Dispatch of a Tatarstan Delegation to Kabul

During his meeting with the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, the President of Tatarstan, Mr. Rustam Minnikhanov, described the participation of the high-level delegation of the Islamic Emirate in the 16th Kazan International Economic Forum as significant. He stated that, with the aim of expanding relations with Afghanistan in various sectors, a Tatarstan delegation would be sent to Kabul. Minnikhanov added that there is already a certain level of trade with Afghanistan, but they are prepared to increase it.

At the meeting, the CEO of KAMAZ Company stated that Tatarstan is ready to increase exports of KAMAZ cargo trucks and fire engines to Afghanistan and will also seek a special subsidy for Afghanistan from President Minnikhanov in this regard. He added that they intend to visit Afghanistan to assess the market and then take practical steps accordingly.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Tatarstan was also present at the meeting. He stated that they are prepared to increase exports of halal food products to Afghanistan.

At the end of the meeting, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, invited the President of Tatarstan, Rustam Minnikhanov, to visit Afghanistan to further expand bilateral relations. He described the meeting as a good beginning for enhanced cooperation between the two sides.

Meeting Between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Deputy PM of Russia

On May 15, 2025, on the sidelines of the Kazan meeting, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met with the Deputy PM of Russia for Construction and Regional Development, Marat Khusnullin. During the meeting, both sides discussed political, economic, and trade-related issues.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the Islamic Emirate seeks to elevate bilateral relations between Kabul and Moscow to a higher and more formal level, so that, in addition to political engagement, tangible progress can also be achieved in the economic sphere. He assured the Russian Federation that Afghanistan will play a positive role as a responsible economic partner in the region.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs expressed gratitude to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation for removing the name of the Islamic Emirate from the list of banned organizations. He added that the Islamic Emirate has adopted an economy-oriented foreign policy with the aim of transforming Afghanistan into a regional hub for economic cooperation, trade, and transit—benefiting not only Afghanistan but the entire region.

He further stated that, in line with this objective, the Islamic Emirate is working to facilitate Afghan exports to regional and distant countries and to attract foreign investment in various sectors.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs invited the Russian Federation to invest in urban development and affordable housing, public schools and hospitals, roads, bridges, dams, water supply systems, and electricity networks.

He noted that Afghanistan is located along the North–South Corridor and is keen to play an effective role in strengthening this corridor and enhancing regional economic connectivity. In this regard, partnership with a major and influential country like Russia is essential to prevent other countries from using trade and transit routes as instruments of obstruction.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund also highlighted the Afghan-Trans project as one of the key regional projects, stating that it plays an important role in connecting Central and South Asia, and called on the Russian Federation to cooperate in completing the project according to plan.

Commitments from the Russian Side

Deputy PM of Russia for Construction and Regional Development, Marat Khusnullin, stated during the meeting that the removal of the Islamic Emirate from the list of banned organizations was aimed at expanding bilateral political and economic relations with Afghanistan. He expressed hope that this meeting would pave the way for significant progress in other areas as well. He added that they are ready to work jointly with the Islamic Emirate on urban development and housing projects.

Marat Khusnullin praised the achievements of the Islamic Emirate in the transport sector in Afghanistan, noting that there are currently no major problems in this area. He added that the Russian Federation is ready to give Afghanistan an active role in the North–South Corridor and requested the introduction of an official representative from the Afghan side for this purpose. He also emphasized the importance of completing the Afghan-Trans project.

The Russian Deputy PM stressed the need to increase trade volume and enhance banking cooperation between the two countries. He stated that a detailed report on these matters would be shared with the PM and President Vladimir Putin, so that technical teams could be dispatched to Kabul for follow-up and implementation.

Both sides introduced official representatives to follow up on the mentioned issues and expressed hope that, through joint coordination, significant progress would be achieved in these areas.

Marat Khusnullin described the meeting as important and expressed hope that it would pave the way for the initiation of practical work and coordination between the two countries.

Meeting Between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the President of Mordovia

On May 15, 2025, on the sidelines of the Kazan meeting, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met with the President of the Republic of Mordovia, Artyom Alekseyevich Zdunov.

During the meeting, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the 16th Kazan International Economic Forum provided a valuable opportunity to establish cooperation between the two sides in agriculture, trade, electricity, and other sectors. He added that Afghanistan currently offers numerous investment opportunities across various sectors, where foreign investors can actively invest.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs further noted that Afghanistan produces high-quality dry and fresh fruits, domestic carpets, precious stones, marble, and other mineral resources, and expressed readiness to begin exports to the Republic of Mordovia in these areas.

He also stated that Afghanistan is interested in importing electrical equipment, construction materials, industrial machinery, petroleum products, natural gas, raw aluminum, railway wagons, and transport-related equipment from Mordovia to meet domestic needs.

The Deputy PM invited Mordovian investors to invest in Afghanistan's industry, mining, and agriculture sectors, assuring them of full cooperation and support.

A Good Opportunity for Expanding Bilateral Relations

President of Mordovia, Artyom Alekseyevich Zdunov, stated during the meeting that this engagement represents a good opportunity to initiate and expand economic and trade relations between the two sides. He added that Mordovian investors are ready to operate in the Afghan market.

He further noted that his country has made significant progress in the fields of medicine, agriculture, energy, and pharmaceutical production, and is

prepared to collaborate with Afghanistan in these sectors. He also mentioned that Mordovia exports agricultural products to many countries and intends to initiate exports to Afghanistan via the Mordovia–Kazakhstan–Uzbekistan–Afghanistan route.

Mordovian investors expressed interest in investing in Afghanistan, to which the Deputy PM assured full cooperation and support on behalf of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

During the meeting, the Minister of Industry and Commerce of Afghanistan, Haji Nooruddin Azizi, stated that Afghanistan is ready to initiate large-scale trade with Mordovia in food products, agricultural goods, and industrial production. He added that major Afghan companies would be introduced to the Mordovian side for joint cooperation.

Participation of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs in the 17th ECO Summit

A high-level delegation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, led by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, traveled to the Republic of Azerbaijan upon official invitation to participate in the 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

During this visit, in addition to attending and delivering a speech at the general session of the 17th ECO Summit, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs also held discussions with several Azerbaijani officials regarding the expansion of bilateral relations in various sectors.

The 17th ECO Summit was held on July 4-5 of 2025 in the city of Khankendi, Republic of Azerbaijan, in the presence of presidents and high-ranking officials of member states.

Prior to the commencement of the ECO Summit, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs met with a number of leaders and officials from different

countries. First, the report of these pre-summit meetings is presented, followed by the report on his participation and speech at the ECO Summit.

Meeting Between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the PM of Azerbaijan

During his visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan to participate in the 17th ECO Summit, on July 2, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met with the PM of Azerbaijan, Ali Asadov.

During the meeting, which took place in Baku, both sides discussed the expansion of political, economic, trade, and transit relations between Afghanistan and Azerbaijan.

At the outset, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund expressed his gratitude to the Republic of Azerbaijan for officially inviting the delegation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to participate in the 17th ECO Summit and for the warm hospitality extended to them.

The Deputy PM called for the enhancement of diplomatic presence at the Afghan Embassy in Baku and requested the Azerbaijani side to formally accept the ambassador of the Islamic Emirate, in order to strengthen political relations between the two countries.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund invited Azerbaijan to invest in Afghanistan in the fields of oil and gas extraction and processing, railway network development, as well as solar and wind energy production, and to share its expertise with Afghan counterparts. He also requested cooperation in agricultural mechanization, water management, implementation of public service delivery programs, mine clearance, and vocational education.

During the meeting, the Deputy PM emphasized the importance of maintaining the Lapis Lazuli Corridor and resolving existing challenges. He noted that, based on its economy-oriented policy, the Islamic Emirate believes

in regional connectivity and considers the Lapis Lazuli Corridor crucial for increasing trade and transit among Afghanistan and regional countries.

The PM of Azerbaijan, Ali Asadov, stated during the meeting that Afghanistan is an ancient country with a rich culture and long history. He noted that the peoples of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan share religious, historical, and cultural ties, and that the Azerbaijani people hold Afghans in high regard. He added: “Like us, you have endured great hardships for independence, and today you have an independent and dignified country.”

He further stated that Azerbaijan is interested in expanding its relations with Afghanistan through ECO, as well as through bilateral and trilateral cooperation mechanisms, across various sectors.

Ali Asadov emphasized that Azerbaijan has always sought to cooperate with Afghanistan and will continue its efforts in this regard. He noted that Afghanistan’s rapid economic progress is encouraging and expressed readiness to continue joint work, particularly in trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

He added that the Joint Economic Commission between the two countries should be reactivated to enhance economic cooperation. He also highlighted that the Lapis Lazuli Route is among their priorities and affirmed commitment to implementing the decisions made at the transport ministers’ meeting of the participating countries.

Ali Asadov also mentioned that a trilateral working group between Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan has been activated, with its first meeting held in Kabul and the next meeting to be held soon in Uzbekistan, where further common issues will be discussed.

The PM of Azerbaijan expressed readiness to share experience, invest, and cooperate with Afghanistan in the fields of mining exploration and extraction, renewable energy, water management, agricultural mechanization, and railway development. He also announced support for the transit of Afghan

coal through Azerbaijan to Turkey. Ali Asadov assured facilitation of visas for Afghan traders, provision of scholarships for Afghan students, implementation of capacity-building programs, and cooperation in addressing the cases of Afghan prisoners in Azerbaijan.

In conclusion, both sides described the meeting as a valuable opportunity to expand political and economic relations between Afghanistan and Azerbaijan and emphasized the initiation and continuation of practical efforts in the mentioned areas.

Meeting Between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the President of Uzbekistan

On July 3, 2025, in the city of Khankendi, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

During the meeting, both sides discussed political and economic relations, railways, trade, transit, and electricity.

At the outset, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund expressed appreciation for Uzbekistan's positive and realistic stance on Afghanistan at the international stage and called for sustained and strong relations between the two countries.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated: "Currently, the trade volume between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan has exceeded one billion dollars, reflecting a 60 percent increase compared to the past. We hope this figure will reach two billion dollars in the future."

He requested the Uzbek side to facilitate Afghan exports to Central Asia and Russia through Uzbekistan. He added that both neighboring countries should work jointly in areas such as mining, transport, transit, services, regional infrastructure, and major development projects to achieve economic stability, infrastructure development, and prosperity.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev then addressed the meeting, stating that since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, progress has been observed in various sectors in Afghanistan. He noted that Uzbekistan has presented the real situation of Afghanistan at international platforms and is working to convey these realities to the international community, particularly the United Nations.

President Mirziyoyev added that Uzbekistan is ready to invest in Afghanistan in projects such as the Mazar-e-Sharif–Herat–Kandahar railway, construction of textile factories, cement production, oil refining facilities, extraction and processing of salt mines, e-governance, and other sectors.

He further stated that Uzbekistan is prepared to increase electricity exports to Afghanistan upon the swift completion of the 500 kV transmission line project. He also mentioned that he would instruct relevant authorities to facilitate Afghan exports—especially agricultural products—to Central Asia and Russia via Uzbekistan.

President Mirziyoyev emphasized the importance of improving banking transactions between the two countries, facilitating visa issuance for Afghans, and expanding the Termez International Trade Center to support the sale of Afghan goods.

Both sides agreed to establish and strengthen specific channels for initiating practical work on the discussed areas.

Finally, the two sides agreed to form a joint working group—led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund from Afghanistan and the PM of Uzbekistan from the Uzbek side—which will meet every three months to review progress and implementation through designated committees.

Meeting Between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the Deputy PM of Turkmenistan

During his official visit to Azerbaijan, on the sidelines of the ECO meeting on July 3, 2025, in the city of Khankendi, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met with the Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov.

During the meeting, both sides discussed key and shared economic issues between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund emphasized the importance of elevating diplomatic relations of the Islamic Emirate to the level of ambassador in Ashgabat and Consul General in Mary to strengthen bilateral ties. He noted that one of the major joint economic projects between Kabul and Ashgabat is the TAPI project, which has created opportunities for expanded cooperation between the two countries and the wider region. He added that the route map of the TAPI project has been finalized by the Islamic Emirate, and efforts are underway to ensure smooth and uninterrupted progress of the project within Afghanistan.

The Deputy PM also stressed the need to strengthen bilateral trade between Kabul and Ashgabat by establishing chambers of commerce and banking branches in both cities, as well as facilitating visa issuance for Afghan traders. He noted that joint cooperation in mining, transport, transit, services, regional infrastructure, and major development projects would significantly contribute to economic stability, growth, and prosperity in both countries. Considering Turkmenistan's progress in agriculture, he requested the sharing of expertise with Afghan counterparts, with technical teams from both sides working jointly in this field.

Rashid Meredov stated that Turkmenistan has always sought friendly and positive relations with Afghanistan. He added that their President has consistently supported Afghanistan on international platforms and acknowledged its progress.

He further noted that Turkmenistan is ready to continue cooperation with Afghanistan not only in political relations but also in expanding economic and trade collaboration. Referring specifically to the TAPI project, he stated that work on this major energy initiative is progressing according to plan and requested the Afghan side to share the detailed route map to finalize the remaining technical and implementation aspects.

The meeting also emphasized accelerating ongoing and planned projects between the two countries to ensure timely completion.

In conclusion, both sides agreed that, to ensure effective follow-up and progress of these cooperations, the deputy prime ministers of both countries would periodically oversee and monitor developments.

Participation of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs in the 17th ECO Summit

On July 4, 2025, in the city of Khankendi, Azerbaijan, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, participated in and delivered a speech at the 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

During his address, he stated that as a result of the Islamic Emirate's balanced and economy-oriented foreign policy, it has been recognized by the Russian Federation, a step which the Islamic Emirate warmly welcomes. In light of Afghanistan's deep and long-term cooperation with ECO, he expressed hope that member states would recognize the legitimate political reality of Afghanistan and take practical and positive steps toward formal recognition, similar to Russia.

The Deputy PM spoke about the Islamic Emirate's economy-oriented foreign policy, ongoing economic developments in Afghanistan, available investment opportunities, and the favorable conditions for implementing and completing major regional economic projects through Afghanistan.

He called on ECO member states to strengthen economic and regional cooperation with a stable, reliable, and cooperative Afghanistan, and to work closely in areas such as trade, investment, energy, transport, agriculture, environmental protection, and climate change. He emphasized that Afghanistan is fully prepared to contribute in these areas, adding: “We believe that the economies of ECO member states can grow more effectively when Afghanistan becomes an active part of this equation.”

He also expressed the Islamic Emirate’s solidarity with the people of Palestine, stating that the oppression against the people of Gaza must come to an end as soon as possible. He reaffirmed full support for the freedom of Palestine and the preservation of the Islamic identity of Jerusalem.

During his speech, he proposed that the next, 18th ECO Summit be held in Kabul, stating that Afghanistan is fully prepared to host this important and valuable gathering and warmly welcomes all participants.

The 17th ECO Summit was attended by presidents, prime ministers, and senior officials of member states, who emphasized the importance of strengthening political, economic, trade, transit, transport, and cultural relations, as well as regional connectivity and investment through enhanced cooperation and coordination.

Meeting Between the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs and the PM of Kazakhstan

On July 4, 2025, in the city of Khankendi, Azerbaijan, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs,. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met with the PM of Kazakhstan.

During the meeting, both sides discussed political, economic, and trade-related issues between Afghanistan and Kazakhstan.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described Kazakhstan as an important

and reliable regional partner for Afghanistan and welcomed the appointment of a special envoy by Kazakhstan for Afghanistan as a positive step. He also expressed gratitude for Kazakhstan's support for Afghanistan on international platforms.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs stated that Afghanistan serves as a key transit route for Kazakhstan to access the Middle East and South Asia, while Kazakhstan can connect Afghanistan to Europe. He emphasized that Kazakhstan should utilize the existing opportunities in investment, trade, railway development, and transit.

He highlighted that, in order to reach a trade volume of three billion dollars between the two countries, it is important to sign agreements on agricultural product preservation and quarantine, facilitate visa issuance for Afghans, and enable Afghan banks to open accounts in Kazakhstan's Zaman and Azadi banks. He assured that Afghan banks are ready in this regard.

The Deputy PM further noted that Afghanistan has initiated the establishment of an operational company for managing imports and exports via railway, which will soon be introduced to Kazakhstan. He added that a draft agreement on international transport and transit between the two countries has been prepared, efforts are underway to reduce transit fees for goods passing through Afghanistan, and a cooperation agreement has also been drafted among Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan in the industrial, trade, and transport sectors, in which Kazakhstan's cooperation is essential.

The PM of Kazakhstan, in his remarks, stated that Kazakhstan maintains good relations with Afghanistan and that the Foreign Minister will soon visit Kabul to further expand ties. He added that Kazakhstan will soon begin a \$500 million investment in the Torghundi–Herat railway project in Afghanistan.

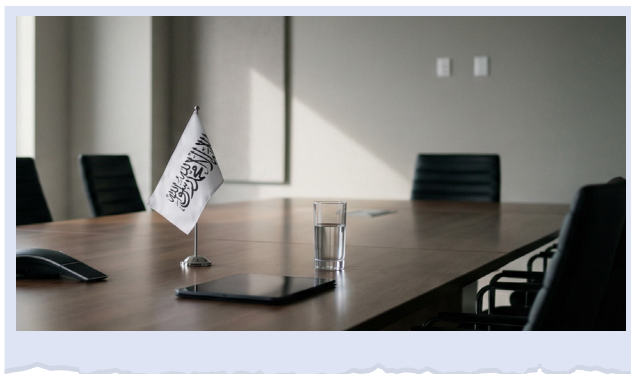
He also expressed interest in investing in Afghanistan's mining sector and stated that Kazakhstan is ready to increase imports of Afghan fruits and facilitate Afghan exports through its territory.

The PM noted that Kazakhstan is among the top ten countries with the highest level of trade relations with Afghanistan and reaffirmed commitment to further expanding these ties.

Visit to the Baku International Sea Trade Port

Following the conclusion of the 17th ECO Summit, on July 5, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, visited the Baku International Sea Trade Port in Azerbaijan. During the visit, he observed the port's facilities and transport operations and requested Azerbaijani officials to facilitate Afghan exports through this route. Officials of the Baku International Sea Trade Port and railway authorities stated that, through this port—located along the Lapis Lazuli Corridor—they are ready to support the export of Afghanistan's industrial goods, agricultural products, and mineral resources to Turkey and Europe. They also expressed readiness to facilitate the transport of Afghan commercial goods to Russia via Iran using railway networks. During the visit, both sides agreed to establish joint technical committees to assess existing facilities and transport routes, with the aim of enabling trade and transit through the port and facilitating Afghan exports.



Chapter Seventeen:**SPECIAL MEETINGS****Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Economic Commission**

The second extraordinary meeting of the Economic Commission was held under the leadership of the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin, (may Allah preserve him) on April 26, 27, 28 of 2025, During the meeting, follow-up reports were presented regarding the decisions made in the first meeting of the Economic Commission, which had been held on 5, November 2024, under the same leadership.

In the first meeting, a committee led by the General Directorate of Administrative Affairs had been assigned to develop a procedure for facilitating the sale and distribution of plots of state-owned land in accordance with urban plans, as well as for leasing buildings. This committee presented the developed procedure in the second meeting for evaluation. After incorporating certain amendments, it will be submitted to the office of the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin for approval. According to this procedure,

citizens will be able to complete the land verification process on private lands within 15 days and have their construction plans approved and work initiated within one month.

Additionally, in the first meeting, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock had been tasked with transferring land to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for the establishment of industrial parks across all provinces. In the second meeting, both ministries presented their report on the implementation of this decision, indicating that approximately 80,000 jeribs of land have been transferred in most provinces, while the process is nearing completion in others. This measure is expected to resolve the issue of land shortages for industrialists nationwide.

Furthermore, in the first meeting, a committee led by the Ministry of Public Health had been assigned to develop a policy to prevent the smuggling of human, veterinary, and agricultural medicines, as well as health products and food items. The committee prepared this policy and presented it for evaluation. After incorporating necessary amendments, it will be submitted to the office of the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin for approval.

During the second extraordinary meeting of the Economic Commission, it was decided—based on a structured mechanism—to allow the export of Afghanistan's livestock to foreign countries for six months annually. After this period, previous procedures will resume.

Moreover, the General Directorate of Administrative Affairs was tasked, in coordination with relevant ministries, to develop a comprehensive procedure to expedite administrative processes for investors and traders within state-owned institutions and to address existing challenges across all sectors. This procedure will first be submitted to the Economic Commission for approval and subsequently forwarded to the office of the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin for final endorsement.

It is noteworthy that, during this second extraordinary meeting, relevant ministries and institutions presented their reports on the implementation of

decisions made in the first meeting of the Economic Commission chaired by the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin (may Allah preserve him).

Convening of a Meeting to Follow Up on Decisions Made in the Special Session of the Economic Commission

A special meeting of the Economic Commission, chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, was held on April 16, 2025, at the Marmarin Palace. During the meeting, relevant ministries and institutions presented their progress reports and developed procedures regarding the implementation of 13 decisions made in the special session of the Economic Commission led by the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin (may Allah preserve him).

In the special session of the Economic Commission chaired by the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin, a committee led by the General Directorate of Administrative Affairs had been tasked to develop a comprehensive procedure for state-owned lands designated for residential and commercial purposes—lands that fall under urban planning and have partially undergone infrastructure development—so that they can be allocated to citizens in a lawful and systematic manner.

Furthermore, the committee was assigned to develop a comprehensive procedure for residential townships that have been confirmed as state-owned and cleared by the Commission for the Prevention of Land Grabbing and the Restitution of Usurped Lands. These lands are to be allocated to citizens for development and construction purposes in accordance with urban plans. The committee was also tasked with facilitating and simplifying the process of construction and development on privately owned lands in line with urban planning regulations.

The assigned committee developed a comprehensive procedure for the first and second aspects of the decision and presented it to the special meeting

of the Economic Commission. The committee also introduced notable facilitation measures to ease construction and development processes on private lands.

Additionally, in accordance with the decision made during the special session of the Economic Commission chaired by the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock has initiated the process of transferring land to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for the establishment of industrial parks across the country, including the capital. This process is expected to be completed soon, after which the construction of industrial parks will begin.

During the meeting, relevant ministries and institutions also presented their reports and developed procedures concerning the implementation of the 13 decisions made in the special session of the Economic Commission chaired by the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin (may Allah preserve him).

Second Follow-Up Meeting on the Implementation of Decisions from the Special Session of the Economic Commission

The second follow-up meeting on the implementation of decisions made during the special session of the Economic Commission—chaired by the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin, (may Allah preserve him)—was held on April 9, 2025, at the Marmarin Palace. The meeting was chaired by the Chief of Staff of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mufti Abdullah Azzam, and attended by representatives from various ministries and institutions of the Islamic Emirate.

During the meeting, representatives of relevant government institutions presented reports on the implementation of thirteen decisions issued by the Economic Commission under the leadership of the Esteemed Amir-ul-Mu'minin across different sectors.

As per the decision of the Economic Commission, a joint delegation composed of representatives from the Administrative Affairs Office, the Ministries of Urban Development and Housing, Justice, Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Industry and Commerce, and Kabul Municipality was tasked with developing a comprehensive procedure regarding lands that are purely state-owned and designated for residential and commercial purposes. These lands fall under urban planning and have undergone partial infrastructure development, and the procedure aims to allocate them to citizens in a systematic and lawful manner.

The decision also stipulated that residential townships, which have been confirmed as state-owned and cleared by the Commission for the Prevention of Land Grabbing and Restitution of Usurped Lands, should have a comprehensive procedure developed to allocate them to citizens for development and construction purposes in accordance with urban plans.

Furthermore, the decision emphasized the need to simplify and facilitate construction and development processes on privately owned lands in line with urban planning regulations.

Mohammad Sharif Baha, representative of the Administrative Affairs Office, stated that two committees had been established to work on land allocation, and after three months of work, a draft has been prepared which will soon be finalized.

The meeting also included presentations on progress made in implementing other decisions.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chief of Staff of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs instructed the representative of the Administrative Affairs Office to share the draft procedure on land allocation with the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs.

Development of a Procedure for the Establishment of Joint-Stock Companies

The first meeting of the designated committee for developing a procedure for the establishment of joint-stock companies was held on April 9, 2025, at the Marmarin Palace, chaired by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mawlawi Zabihullah Nasir.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Administrative Affairs Office, the Ministries of Finance, Industry and Commerce, Economy, Mines and Petroleum, and Justice, as well as Da Afghanistan Bank and the General Directorate of State-Owned Enterprises.

During the meeting, discussions were held on the necessity and importance of establishing joint-stock companies. After detailed deliberations, it was deemed essential—considering market demand and public interest—to establish such companies, as they would mobilize fixed and idle capital.

At the end of the meeting, it was decided that a comprehensive procedure should be developed to regulate the establishment and operations of joint-stock companies.

