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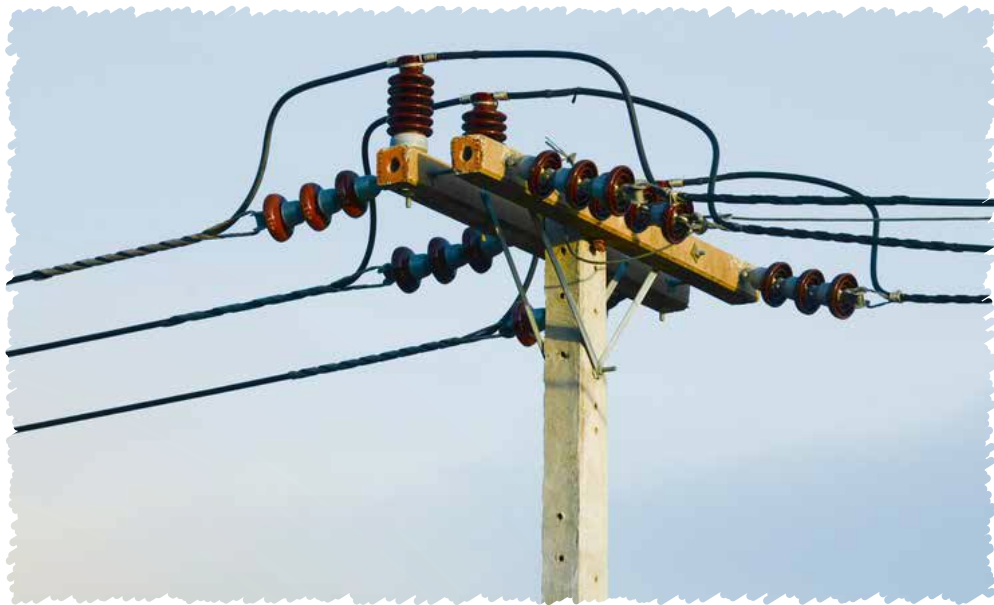


Each week, significant economic activities and developments occur across various sectors in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan's Economic Development Newsletter covers these important and latest economic activities and advancements.

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AZIZI ENERGY'S POWER PROJECTS: AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



With the aim of increasing domestic electricity generation in Afghanistan, Azizi Energy's 10,000-megawatt power generation program has entered a new phase. At a recent meeting between the relevant government institutions and the company, held under the leadership of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, at the Marmarin Palace, significant technical and practical progress was reported on several key electricity generation, transmission, and distribution projects. These projects are expected to have a positive impact on the country's economic growth and industrial development.

Mirwais Azizi, Chairman of Azizi Energy, who attended the meeting, informed the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs that all the necessary technical equipment for generating 10,000 megawatts of electricity had

been purchased and would soon be transported to Afghanistan. The procurement of this equipment is a major step toward the practical implementation of the project.

In its report to the meeting, the technical committee stated that three solar power projects in Naghlu, Kabul province; Barikab, Parwan province; and Ghazni province, with a combined capacity of 331 megawatts, have completed the feasibility study stage, their power purchase agreements have been signed, and practical work has begun at the project sites. In addition to generating clean energy, these projects will directly contribute to reducing electricity imports and increasing domestic power generation.

Power generation projects with a combined capacity of 515 megawatts in Takhar and Baghlan provinces are also in the final stage of technical

evaluation. Furthermore, the construction of substations in Naghlu and Ghazni and the extension of a transmission line from the Tarakhil area of Kabul to the Green Industrial Park area are considered important components of strengthening the national power grid, as the transmission and distribution of generated electricity depend on the completion of this infrastructure.

Afghanistan imports a large portion of the electricity it needs from neighboring countries each year, spending millions of dollars in the process. The implementation of these projects will reduce dependence on imported electricity, curb the outflow of foreign currency, ensure a more reliable electricity supply for industrial factories and the productive sector, and create a favorable environment for domestic and foreign investment. Increased electricity generation will also play an important role in job creation, expanding economic activity, and advancing the country toward energy self-sufficiency.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, emphasized the need to accelerate the implementation of the projects, instructed the relevant institutions to complete the remaining work, and assured Azizi Energy of comprehensive cooperation so that the projects are completed on schedule and contribute effectively to the country's economic growth.

EXPANSION OF SOLAR POWER: A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND INVESTMENT

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has accelerated efforts to attract private investment in the energy sector with the aim of increasing domestic electricity generation and reducing dependence on imported power. At a recent meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee, proposals submitted by the private sector for solar power generation in six provinces—Uruzgan, Daikundi, Ghor, Zabul, Paktika, and Farah—were reviewed, reflecting growing investor interest in the development of the country's energy sector.

The assessment of these solar power projects comes at a time when investment opportunities are being created to increase electricity

generation across the country. Azizi Energy has also launched a major investment program to generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity and has purchased the necessary technical equipment for the project. Alongside such large-scale energy projects, the development of small- and medium-scale solar power projects can help diversify electricity generation sources and strengthen the country's power grid.

The Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee decided that Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat should jointly conduct a technical and economic assessment of the proposed solar power projects in the six provinces with the relevant

company and submit its report.

Expanding private investment in the energy sector offers significant benefits to the country's economy. Increasing domestic electricity generation will reduce the need for imported power, curb the outflow of foreign currency, support industrial development, and create numerous employment opportunities across the country.

The assessment of new solar power projects and Azizi Energy's large-scale investment program are clear indications of transformation in the country's energy sector. The implementation of these projects will lay an important foundation for Afghanistan's energy self-sufficiency, the expansion of economic activities, and the attraction of investment.

