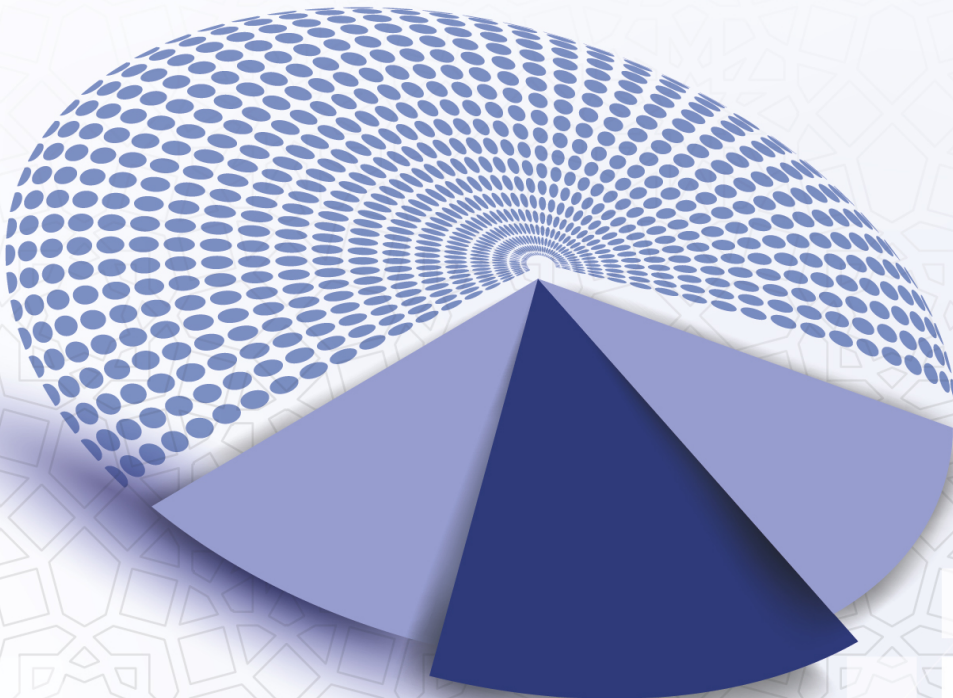




Economic Initiatives and Public Feedback

Solar Hijri 1405
2nd REPORT





د ریاست الوزراء اقتصادي معاونت
Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Deputy PM for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund Inaugurates Second Abu Ali Sina Balkhi Specialized National and International Exhibition	1
Fifth Section of Hairatan–Mazar-e-Sharif Railway Reopened	7
Foundation Stone Laid for Lajward Residential Complex in Balkh....	13
Emphasis on the Swift Finalization of the Afghanistan–Kazakhstan Economic Cooperation Roadmap	20
Regular Meeting of the Economic Commission Held.....	27
Five-Year Electricity Sector Development Plan Approved	33
Construction of Second Jabal al-Saraj Cement Production Plant Launched	39
Azizi Energy Purchases All Technical Equipment for Generating 10,000 Megawatts of Electricity	46
Telecommunications and Information Technology Exhibition Inaugurated	53
Two-Day Visit of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs to Herat Province.....	61

1

**DEPUTY PM FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
MULLAH ABDUL GHANI BARADAR AKHUND
INAUGURATES SECOND ABU ALI SINA BALKHI
SPECIALIZED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION**



The pharmaceutical industry is vital to healthcare services, as high-quality medicines can help save lives and prevent diseases. The development of this sector is currently essential, and advances in science and technology have also contributed to the progress of the pharmaceutical industry.

Afghanistan had been affected by decades of war; however, with the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, war and insecurity came to an end, paving the way for development in various sectors across the country. Currently, 134 pharmaceutical manufacturing factories are operating throughout Afghanistan, producing 1,170 types of medicines. A total of \$450 million has been invested in these factories, which meet 38 percent of the country's pharmaceutical needs.

With medicines now being produced on a large scale domestically, exhibitions are also being organized to attract further investment in this sector. To this end, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund inaugurated the Second Abu Ali Sina Balkhi Specialized National and International Exhibition on May 26, 2026.

Speaking at a ceremony held on the occasion, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs said that necessary measures have been taken to strengthen Afghanistan's pharmaceutical sector and that a significant portion of the population's needs is now being met through domestic production. He added that the most effective way to withstand external pressures and economic sanctions is to strengthen and support domestic production.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund said that the recent reduction in pharmaceutical imports has enabled Afghanistan's pharmaceutical sector to achieve significant growth within a short period, with people increasingly using domestically produced medicines instead of imported ones. He added that, considering the country's needs, these achievements are not sufficient and that pharmaceutical manufacturing factories need to further improve their standards and expand production in accordance with recognized standards.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described the organization of the exhibition as important for strengthening the pharmaceutical sector and called on all health-sector officials and citizens to have confidence in and use domestically produced medicines. He also strongly urged traders and pharmaceutical

sellers not to sell medicines at excessive prices and to refrain from hoarding. He further called on the relevant government institutions and officials to take strict measures to prevent such practices.

The Deputy PM called on all investors to invest in Afghanistan. He assured them that the Islamic Emirate stands by investors, that work is underway to streamline investment procedures, and that an electronic system will gradually be established.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund further stated that the Islamic Emirate does not focus solely on the domestic economy but also seeks stronger relations with other countries in the areas of regional and international economic connectivity. He noted that economic engagement with regional and neighboring countries has increased.

Dozens of pharmaceutical manufacturing factories showcased their products at the Second Abu Ali Sina Balkhi Specialized National and International Exhibition.

Purpose of the Initiative:

To promote internally produced medicine and help this sector to grow.

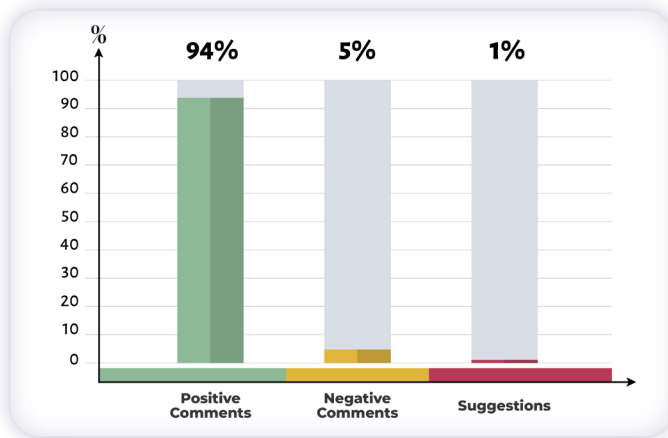
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

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

- Positive comments: 358
- Negative comments: 19
- Constructive recommendations: 2

In percentage

- Positive comments: 94%
- Negative comments: 5%
- Constructive recommendations: 1%



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. Greater attention should be paid to the quality of medicines, as most domestically produced medicines have proven to be of poor quality.
2. Domestically produced medicines are very expensive. Another issue is the need for doctors to become more specialized and professional. We should have qualified doctors specializing in the treatment of every type of disease. In addition, we need the necessary medical equipment so that our patients can be treated within our own country.
3. Respected Mullah Baradar Sahib, the commitments you have made regarding the pharmaceutical sector have either been fulfilled or are currently being implemented. Please also work to improve the treatment of patients within our own country.
4. We wish you would provide small loans to pharmaceutical manufacturing factories.

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

- ✓ **First:** The majority of citizens on social media have reacted positively to this news. According to them, greater attention should be paid to the quality of medicines. This concern raised by citizens is valid, as human health depends on medicines, and if medicines do not meet the required standards, they can put people's lives at risk. Given this importance, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has paid considerable attention to the pharmaceutical industry. Currently, medicines produced in the country are regularly monitored by the relevant authorities, with particular attention paid to their standards and quality. Therefore, citizens should not be concerned in this regard, as the Islamic Emirate is paying close attention to these areas. Second, since the routes with Pakistan have been closed, a large portion of the domestic demand for medicines has been met by locally produced medicines. These Afghan-made medicines are prescribed by doctors to patients. If their quality were low, doctors would not prescribe domestically produced medicines.
- ✓ **Second:** Some citizens have stated in their comments that the prices of domestically produced medicines are high. They have also emphasized the need for professional doctors and adequate medical equipment so that patients can receive treatment within their own country instead of traveling abroad for medical care. The pharmaceutical industry in our country has only recently entered a new stage of development. Most of the raw materials used in pharmaceutical manufacturing are imported from abroad, which is one of the reasons medicines are relatively expensive. Nevertheless, officials of the Islamic Emirate consistently emphasize this issue and urge pharmaceutical manufacturers to keep medicine prices low so that citizens can easily afford and access them. Efforts are also underway to enable the treatment of all patients within the country so that they do not have to travel abroad for medical care. Hospitals are being constructed in various provinces of the country, while professional medical personnel are being trained at the university level. However, progress in both areas requires time. Over time, we will become largely self-sufficient in the pharmaceutical sector and will also have specialized and highly qualified doctors in all fields. At that point, our citizens will no longer need to travel abroad for medical treatment.

- ✓ **Third:** A number of citizens have called for the provision of small loans to pharmaceutical manufacturing factories. The Islamic Emirate has developed a framework for providing small loans. Under this framework, citizens who wish to obtain financing to expand their businesses can receive funds in the form of loans in accordance with Sharia principles. Recently, a microfinance institution named “Apex Amanat” officially began operations in the provision of Islamic financial services and financing after obtaining licenses from Da Afghanistan Bank and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The head of the institution has stated that its aim is to provide accessible and Sharia-compliant financial services to Afghan families, entrepreneurs, and businesspeople. The Islamic Emirate has taken concrete steps in this regard and seeks to support people not only in the pharmaceutical industry but also across businesses of all sizes, attract investment in various sectors, and further expand businesses throughout the country. Therefore, these facilities are also available to pharmaceutical manufacturing factories.

Conclusion

The inauguration of the Second Abu Ali Sina Balkhi Specialized National and International Exhibition will contribute to increasing domestic pharmaceutical production and attracting further investment in this sector. Strengthening the pharmaceutical sector will, on the one hand, facilitate the provision of healthcare services to citizens and, on the other hand, help the country achieve self-sufficiency in medicines, thereby saving a significant amount of money currently spent on pharmaceutical imports. This, in turn, will contribute to economic development.

Overall, citizens’ views indicate that the quality and affordability of medicines, the expansion of healthcare services, and support for domestic producers are among their key concerns and demands. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has taken practical steps to develop the pharmaceutical industry, monitor the quality of medicines, expand healthcare infrastructure, and support domestic manufacturing factories through Islamic financial services. Although the pharmaceutical industry is still in a stage of development and certain challenges remain, the continuation of ongoing efforts can gradually lead Afghanistan toward self-sufficiency in pharmaceutical production and healthcare services and enable the country to better meet the needs of its citizens.

FIFTH SECTION OF HAIRATAN-MAZAR-E-SHARIF RAILWAY REOPENED



The construction of highways, roads, railway networks, air routes, and standard airports is essential for trade and transit, as a country's prosperity and development are not possible without the development of such transit and transportation infrastructure. With this in mind, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan seeks to utilize existing railway lines and construct new ones alongside other infrastructure projects.

On May 21, 2026, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund inaugurated the reopening of the fifth section of the Hairatan–Mazar-e-Sharif Railway in Balkh province.

The Deputy PM praised the efforts of the Ministry of Public Works to expand railway networks in the country and also expressed appreciation for Uzbekistan's cooperation. He added that economic and trade relations between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have strengthened compared with the past and that, to further expand these relations, a joint committee comprising relevant authorities has been established under the leadership of the Governor of Balkh.

The fifth section of the Hairatan–Mazar-e-Sharif Railway is 70 kilometers long, includes 30 kilometers of branch lines and five stations, and has the capacity to unload 50 wagons. The reopening of this section will significantly facilitate the transportation of commercial goods and contribute to an increase in trade volumes.

Purpose of the Initiative:

To expand trade with the help of railways

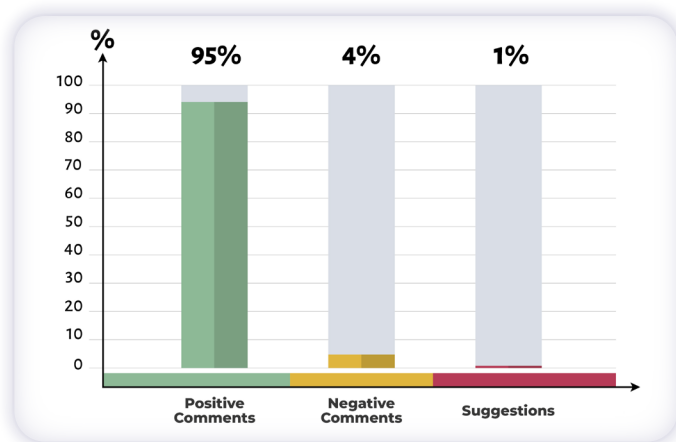
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

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

- Positive comments: 603
- Negative comments: 36
- Constructive recommendations: 3

In percentage

- Positive comments: 94%
- Negative comments: 5%
- Constructive recommendations: 1%



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. All wealthy Afghans around the world should invest in Afghanistan. This will contribute to the country's development, reduce unemployment, and create job opportunities for the people.
2. Mazar-e-Sharif is an important economic hub of Afghanistan, but it would have been better if factories had also been established there.
3. The important issue is that serious discussions should be held with neighboring and other countries regarding visa policies and appropriate solutions should be found, whether for business, medical, or tourist visas.

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

- ✓ **First:** In their comments on social media, citizens have called on wealthy Afghans to invest in Afghanistan so that the country can be developed and employment opportunities can be created for the people. Investment in various sectors can pave the way for development and economic growth. Considering the value and importance of investment, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has sought to create a favorable environment for both domestic and foreign investors. Nationwide security, abundant natural resources, an investment-supportive government, affordable labor, low costs of trade and doing business, easy access to international markets through regional connectivity, trade agreements, a broad business environment, an untapped market with limited competition, the establishment of a one-stop center to facilitate services for investors, investor-friendly laws, and attractive tax packages are among the factors that have so far encouraged dozens of major foreign companies to express interest in investing in mining, agriculture, electricity and energy, transportation, small and medium-sized enterprises, customs, service delivery at airports, transit, industrial parks, railways, and various other sectors. This demonstrates that the Islamic Emirate has not only made efforts to attract investment but has also achieved considerable success in this area, attracting millions of Afghans in investment across various sectors. Wealthy Afghans who wish to invest in Afghanistan can do so, and the Islamic Emirate welcomes and supports their investment.
- ✓ **Second:** A number of citizens, in their comments, have raised the issue of establishing industrial factories in the country alongside the development of railway infrastructure. They have called for more industrial factories to be established in Afghanistan. Their view is valid, as every country that has reached high levels of development and prosperity has, among other sectors, developed a strong industrial sector. In other words, when a country's industry grows, it can move toward greater economic development. Recognizing the importance of industry, the Islamic Emirate has launched efforts to develop this sector. So far, dozens of industrial factories have become operational across the country. From iron-smelting factories to pharmaceutical plants and other industrial production facilities, dozens of factories are currently operational and producing various goods. Afghanistan is now approaching self-sufficiency

in iron, food products, and certain other sectors. The Islamic Emirate seeks to further develop the industrial sector and attract foreign investment alongside domestic investment. By attracting more investment, we will be able to further expand the industrial sector, enable Afghanistan to achieve self-sufficiency in various areas, and reduce its dependence on others. Industrial development will accelerate economic growth and move the country further toward development.

Third: A number of citizens have suggested facilitating the issuance of business, medical, and tourist visas by neighboring countries. They have called for discussions with these countries to facilitate visa procedures in this regard. Visas are essential for travel between countries, whether for business, medical treatment, or tourism. A visa is not merely a travel authorization; it is also an important instrument for strengthening national security, economic relations, legal order, and international relations. The Islamic Emirate has introduced facilities in the issuance of visas to foreign traders and other individuals traveling to Afghanistan. Similarly, discussions have been held with neighboring and regional countries to facilitate the issuance of visas to Afghan citizens. Considerable progress has been made in this area, and Afghan traders can now obtain business visas from various countries without significant difficulties and conduct their business activities. Although challenges still remain in obtaining visas from some countries for medical treatment and tourism, these challenges are expected to be resolved over time.

Conclusion

The fifth section of the Hairatan–Mazar-e-Sharif Railway has been reopened in Balkh province. This railway will contribute to the further expansion of Afghanistan's trade and the growth of economic activities.

Citizens have expressed satisfaction with the reopening of the fifth section of the railway. At the same time, they have emphasized that if industrial factories are established within the country and Afghans living abroad invest in various sectors, it will contribute to the country's development and create employment opportunities for the people.

The Islamic Emirate has not focused on only one sector; rather, it is working to achieve progress in all areas, strengthen the country's economy, and enable the people to enjoy a prosperous and peaceful life. If economic and recon-

struction activities continue at the current pace, we will witness a developed and self-reliant Afghanistan in the future.

3

FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR LAJWARD RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX IN BALKH



In addition to providing housing for people, residential complexes play an important role in employment, investment, government revenues, urban development, and economic growth. Moreover, the construction of such complexes also contributes to the growth of industries related to cement, steel, bricks, paint, wood, furniture, and construction materials and equipment.

Considering these benefits, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has attracted investment in the construction of residential complexes, and such complexes are currently under construction in several provinces. In this regard, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund laid the foundation stone for the Lajward Residential Complex in Balkh province on May 19, 2026.

Speaking at a ceremony held on the occasion, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs said that the Islamic Emirate has paid special attention to the country's economic independence, attracting domestic and foreign investment, and implementing infrastructure projects, with the Lajward Residential Complex being a good example.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund added that, just as practical work is underway on the major Qosh Tepa project, industrial factories, highways, power generation projects, and projects in other sectors across the country, practical efforts are also underway to finalize and implement master plans in the area of urban development. He said that the Islamic Emirate considers itself responsible for creating a favorable environment and providing facilities for domestic and foreign investors to invest in construction projects.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund emphasized the importance of cooperation between the government and the private sector in achieving economic stability and reconstruction and assured the private sector of the Islamic Emirate's full support. He called on all investors to invest in the construction sector alongside other sectors.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs also said that during his visit to Balkh province, he would visit commercial ports with the aim of making their

services operational 24 hours a day and ensuring that all relevant authorities provide export and import services without delay.

The private sector will invest \$150 million in the Lajward Residential Complex, where approximately 1,448 apartments will be constructed in a modern and standard manner, creating employment opportunities for around 7,000 people. The complex will be built on approximately 21 jeribs of land and will include all necessary facilities, including commercial and healthcare facilities, schools, green spaces, a mosque, and recreational and sports facilities.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Urban development, providing housing for citizens, and creating employment opportunities.

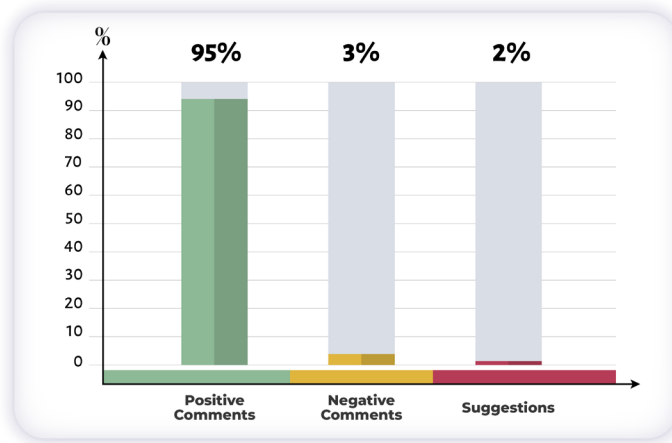
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

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

- Positive comments: 437
- Negative comments: 16
- Constructive recommendations: 6

In percentage

- Positive comments: 95%
- Negative comments: 3%
- Constructive recommendations: 2%



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. Respected Mullah Baradar Akhund has truly made tireless efforts to promote the country's economic development, attract investment, and strengthen infrastructure projects. The implementation of such projects is an important and positive step toward Afghanistan's economic independence, urban development, and the well-being of its people. May Allah grant him even greater success.
2. The country's development and the implementation of major infrastructure projects can strengthen the national economy and create employment opportunities for young people.
3. Please provide comprehensive support to traders and investors in the area of investment so that they are encouraged to invest in their own country.

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

- ✓ **First:** A number of citizens, in their comments, have praised the efforts of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs in the areas of economic development, attracting investment, and implementing infrastructure projects. They have described the launch of the Lajward Residential Complex project as an important and positive step toward the country's economic independence, urban development, and the well-being of its citizens. As Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund has inaugurated major economic projects in various parts of the country. Some of these projects have been completed, while work on others is progressing rapidly. These include highways, water dams, railway networks, electricity projects, and other similar projects. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund does not consider these efforts a burden but rather his responsibility, and he consistently strives to enable Afghanistan to stand on its own feet in all areas, particularly in the economic sector. Afghanistan has faced challenges in urban development for many years, and many of its cities have remained largely in their old form. Given the growth in population, there is a need to address these challenges and expand and develop the country's cities. To this end, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is implementing master plans aimed at ensuring the orderly development and expansion of cities. The implementation of these master plans and the development of cities will improve urban order and contribute to the growth of economic activities alongside social development.
- ✓ **Second:** Some citizens have expressed satisfaction with the news in their comments, stating that infrastructure projects can help strengthen the country's economy. Indeed, the implementation of major projects is key to the country's development. Whether these projects are related to transportation and transit, water management, industry, agriculture, healthcare, urban development, or other sectors, they can help develop the country's infrastructure and accelerate economic growth. Since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, major infrastructure projects have been launched in almost all sectors. Highways have been constructed, water dams have been built while work on others is

ongoing, electricity projects have been implemented, and considerable progress has been made in industry, agriculture, healthcare, and several other sectors. Work on major water canals is underway, efforts have been made to attract investment, and railway networks have been expanded, with further work continuing in this area. The important TAPI project has also been launched, and its work is progressing rapidly. Several other projects are also planned, with practical work expected to begin in the future. The Islamic Emirate is committed to implementing major infrastructure projects and seeks to develop the country's infrastructure through these projects and pave the way for economic and social development.

- ✓ **Third:** A number of commentators have called on the Islamic Emirate to provide facilities and support to traders and investors in the area of investment. Indeed, the economy of a society or a country relies heavily on investment, because investment leads to production, and production brings together the efforts and activities of individuals that drive economic activity. Some people are directly involved in the production process, some supply raw materials, others are engaged in marketing, while many others work in related fields. All these activities stem from investment. Therefore, investment should be encouraged, supported, and promoted in order to stimulate economic activity. Considering the value and importance of investment, the Islamic Emirate has introduced facilities for investors. In accordance with a decision of the Economic Commission, the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee operates under the framework of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs. The committee was established to accelerate the attraction of domestic and foreign investment, ensure coordination among relevant ministries and institutions in processing investment proposals, create a favorable investment environment and improve the management of related affairs, and provide investors with the necessary information regarding investment projects in Afghanistan. Furthermore, an investment guide has been prepared to provide information on existing facilities and available investment opportunities. All these measures are intended to facilitate investment and encourage investors to invest in Afghanistan. So far, billions of Afghanis in investment have been attracted, through which several projects have already

been launched. The construction of the Lajward Residential Complex is a clear example of this progress.

Conclusion

The construction of the Lajward Residential Complex will provide housing for people, create employment opportunities, attract investment, increase government revenues, contribute to urban development, and accelerate economic growth.

The Islamic Emirate has taken steps toward the development of cities, and urban master plans are currently being worked on. The implementation of these urban master plans will not only contribute to urban development and provide various facilities in cities but will also accelerate economic activities.

Citizens have expressed satisfaction with the news of the Lajward Residential Complex and stated that the implementation of such projects will contribute to the country's economic independence and urban development and provide people with various facilities. The construction of this major complex will also create permanent employment opportunities for a large number of citizens.

The development of infrastructure will, on the one hand, contribute to economic progress and, on the other hand, help bring our cities in line with modern standards while providing people with housing and business opportunities.

EMPHASIS ON THE SWIFT FINALIZATION OF THE AFGHANISTAN-KAZAKHSTAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION ROADMAP



Since the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan came to power, Afghanistan's economic relations with Kazakhstan have expanded significantly. Although the two countries do not share a common border, their ties in trade, transit, agriculture, energy, logistics, and other related sectors have continued to strengthen.

Kazakhstan has the largest economy in Central Asia, while Afghanistan is strategically positioned as an important geographical link between South and Central Asia. With this in mind, the Islamic Emirate seeks to make maximum use of this opportunity by strengthening economic relations with Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries to bolster Afghanistan's economy and achieve greater economic self-reliance.

In this regard, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met with a delegation led by the Deputy PM of Kazakhstan on June 20, 2026, at Chahar Chenar Palace of the Arg.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs described Afghanistan and Kazakhstan as important trading partners and expressed hope that, with the implementation of the cooperation roadmap between the two countries, bilateral trade would reach USD 3 billion.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that key components of the roadmap include joint cooperation in agriculture, mining, transport, railways, and industry; increasing exports of agricultural products; strengthening banking relations; agreements related to agriculture and livestock; technical cooperation in financial markets; the use of national currencies; expansion of transport and logistics cooperation; the proposal to establish a joint center involving Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan; and the establishment of a logistics center at Khorgos Port for goods imported into Afghanistan.

Deputy PM Mullah Baradar Akhund added that Afghanistan has finalized its part of the draft roadmap and called on the Kazakh side to finalize the sections related to Kazakhstan and pave the way for its implementation.

He highlighted the important role of the private sector in expanding economic cooperation. He stated that holding trade exhibitions and joint economic forums, strengthening cooperation between chambers of commerce, and

increasing reciprocal visits by traders could create new economic opportunities and boost investment.

Serik Zhumangarin then spoke, stating that the President of Kazakhstan attaches particular importance to expanding relations and increasing economic cooperation with Afghanistan, and that the visit had been undertaken at the President's direction.

He added that Kazakhstan is ready to cooperate with Afghanistan in the diagnosis of heart diseases, strengthening the security sector, and water management. He also stated that Kazakhstan would establish a scientific center for water management at Kabul University to provide training to Afghan specialists.

The meeting also included discussions on increasing transport connectivity, exports and imports, facilitating banking services, swiftly finalizing the economic cooperation roadmap, and several other issues. It was emphasized that the technical committees would continue their work on these matters.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Increase in bilateral trade and progress in various sectors

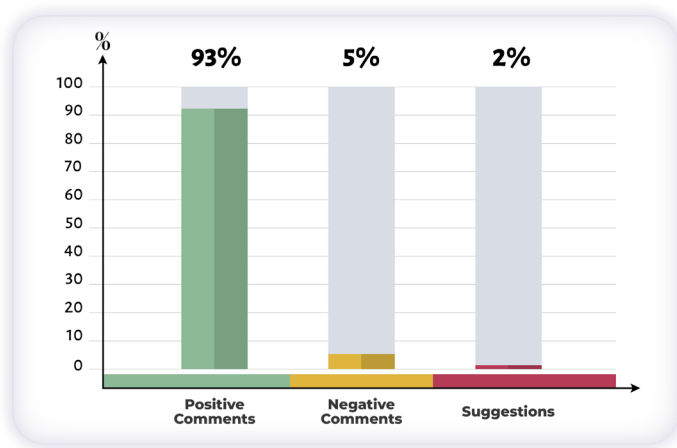
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

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

- Positive comments: 254
- Negative comments: 15
- Constructive recommendations: 4

In percentage

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



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. Throughout history, such a secure environment and the ability of a foreign leader to move around so freely attest to the existence of a strong political and security environment. It is hoped that the security and intelligence forces will remain highly vigilant in preserving this divine blessing.
2. Kazakhstan enjoys friendly relations with Afghanistan. We completed our master's program in Almaty. If Kazakhstan shares its academic and economic resources and expertise with Afghanistan, it would be a significant contribution and welcome news for Afghanistan.
3. The project to transfer water to Kabul should be launched. A water shortage is looming, so work on the project should begin before the situation becomes critical.

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

- ✓ **First:** In their comments, a number of citizens described the current security situation in the country as unprecedented, stating that such a secure environment and the ability of a foreign official—namely, the Deputy PM of Kazakhstan—to move around so freely demonstrate the level of security prevailing in the country. They called on the security forces to remain vigilant in maintaining peace and security. After nearly four decades, Afghanistan is now experiencing an unprecedented level of security. Today, there is a single governing system across the country, and the fragmentation of authority seen in the past no longer exists. Afghans are united under a single system, and security has been ensured throughout the country. This level of security is the result of the policies adopted and plans implemented by the leadership of the Islamic Emirate. With the prevailing security, major economic projects have been launched across Afghanistan within a relatively short period. Work on the reconstruction and development of infrastructure is underway, trade has expanded, and agriculture—a sector in which a large portion of the country’s population is engaged—is making steady progress. These and other sectors are also witnessing continued development. All these achievements have been made possible by the security established in the country, and progress continues. The preservation and strengthening of security are the result of the leadership’s guidance and the tireless efforts of the security forces. These forces work day and night to maintain security across the country and provide citizens with a peaceful and secure environment.
- ✓ **Second:** Some citizens stated in their comments that Kazakhstan possesses valuable academic and economic resources and expertise, and that Afghanistan could benefit greatly if Kazakhstan shared its experience in these areas. The Islamic Emirate has repeatedly called not only on Kazakhstan but also on neighboring and other Central Asian countries to continue their cooperation with Afghanistan in the field of higher education. During his meeting with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, the Deputy PM of Kazakhstan stated that his country was ready to cooperate with Afghanistan in

the diagnosis of heart diseases, strengthening the security sector, and water management. He also stated that Kazakhstan would establish a scientific center for water management at Kabul University to provide training to Afghan specialists. This is in line with what the Islamic Emirate seeks to achieve. Officials of the Islamic Emirate are working to secure cooperation from friend countries in developing and strengthening Afghanistan's scientific and academic infrastructure.

- ✓ **Third:** A number of commentators called on the Islamic Emirate to provide drinking water to the residents of Kabul. Several consecutive years of drought, excessive water consumption, the large-scale extraction of groundwater from deep wells using solar-powered pumps, and rising global temperatures are among the factors that have intensified the drought to a critical level, adversely affecting both surface water and groundwater resources. Afghanistan, particularly Kabul city, has not been spared from these effects. The problem is not new; it has persisted for many years, with groundwater levels in the city continuing to decline. Under previous governments, neither adequate attention was given to implementing the city's master plan nor were sufficient measures taken to develop a proper sewerage system. Furthermore, there was no effective plan to replenish groundwater and raise underground water levels in the city. Had sufficient attention been paid to these issues at the time, Kabul residents would not be facing such serious challenges today. Since the Islamic Emirate came to power, greater attention has been given to this issue. To comprehensively address Kabul city's water shortage, a project to transfer water from the Panjshir River has been designed, and some preliminary work has already been carried out. In 2025, a drinking water supply network worth AFN 169 million was completed and put into operation in Kabul, providing clean drinking water to approximately 6,200 families. The project included drilling wells in the Qargha area, extending a pipeline to a water reservoir, and constructing related facilities. In addition, a plan to transfer water from the Shah wa Arus Dam to Kabul city is under consideration. In short, the Islamic Emirate is working to address Kabul city's water shortage and continues its efforts in this regard.

Conclusion

The economic cooperation roadmap was the most important topic discussed during the meeting between Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, and the Deputy PM of Kazakhstan. The implementation of this roadmap is expected to contribute to progress across various sectors in Afghanistan and accelerate the country's economic growth. In their comments, citizens described this initiative as beneficial to Afghanistan.

Indeed, if the roadmap is implemented, it will, on the one hand, lead to significant progress across various sectors and, on the other, increase the volume of Afghanistan's trade and transit. This will help expand Afghanistan's exports not only to Kazakhstan but also to other Central Asian countries and markets around the world.

Furthermore, progress is expected in mining, industry, banking, financial markets, agriculture, livestock, and other sectors. These developments, coupled with increased domestic production, will help improve the economic situation of citizens and contribute to the overall expansion of trade.

In addition, the implementation of the roadmap will not only strengthen Afghanistan's economy and help it become more self-reliant but will also play an important role in strengthening and advancing the regional economy.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION HELD



Investment plays a vital role in economic growth, job creation, increased production, and improving people's well-being. Any country that creates a secure, transparent, and favorable environment for investment can achieve economic development, poverty reduction, and sustainable prosperity. Therefore, governments should formulate and implement effective policies and guidelines to attract investment, increase investment in the country's economic sectors, and promote economic growth.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has paid particular attention to attracting investment and has introduced numerous facilities in this regard.

On June 28, 2026, the regular meeting of the Economic Commission was held at the Marmarin Palace, chaired by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs.

During the meeting, the guideline for implementing tax and customs exemptions to encourage and attract new domestic and foreign investment was discussed. Following deliberations, the designated committee was tasked with holding technical meetings to further improve the guideline and present its finalized version at the next meeting of the Economic Commission.

The meeting also approved a plan to construct a commercial market on municipality land in Taloqan city, the capital of Takhar province. Under the plan, the private sector will invest AFN 110 million to construct a seven-story commercial market, creating employment opportunities for dozens of citizens.

The meeting also reviewed reports on several follow-up matters, and the relevant authorities were provided with the necessary instructions.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Attracting investment and developing infrastructure through it

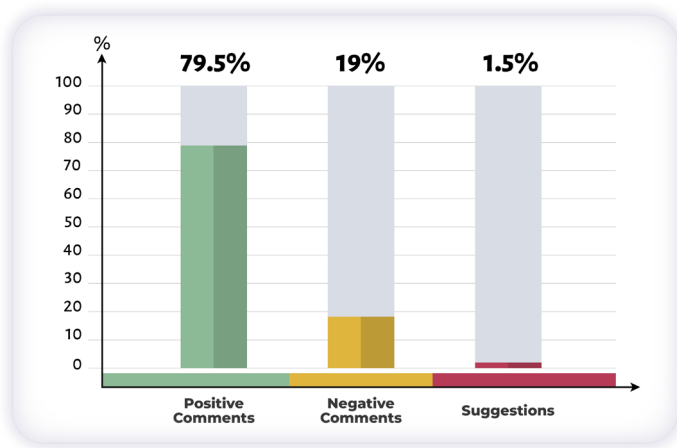
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

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

- Positive comments: 265
- Negative comments: 63
- Constructive recommendations: 45

In percentage

- Positive comments: 79.5%
- Negative comments: 19%
- Constructive recommendations: 1.5%



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. This is a very important step. We are all suffering from unemployment.
2. Consumer-based countries build markets, while industrialized countries build factories.
3. Have compassion for the people, as they are living in poverty and financial hardship. Exempt them from taxes or reduce the tax burden so that they can overcome these economic difficulties.

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

- ✓ **First:** In their comments, citizens welcomed the introduction of incentives aimed at attracting new investment, but expressed concern over unemployment in the country. They called for the creation of employment opportunities within Afghanistan. Unemployment adversely affects people's lives and gives rise to social problems. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has sought to reduce unemployment, create employment opportunities for the people, and prevent young people from leaving the country through irregular migration. Since coming to power, the Islamic Emirate has taken practical steps to promote economic growth and reduce unemployment. In addition to major highway projects, it has taken important measures in areas such as mining, railway construction, industry, agriculture, healthcare, trade, water management, and the legal deployment of skilled workers abroad. Through these efforts, employment opportunities have been created for thousands of citizens, both directly and indirectly. The Islamic Emirate seeks to fully address the problem of unemployment.
- ✓ **Second:** Some citizens stated in their comments that consumer-based countries build markets, while industrialized countries build factories and manufacturing plants. There is no doubt that industry is a key driver of a country's development. Many countries that have reached advanced levels of development have done so largely through industrialization. Every country strives to strengthen and develop its industrial sector alongside other sectors. Industry drives production, and domestically produced goods help meet the needs of citizens within the country. At the same time, these products can be exported to foreign markets, thereby expanding trade and increasing national revenues. As a country's revenues increase, greater economic activity and growth are generated. Recognizing the importance of industry, the Islamic Emirate has taken significant steps in this sector. From iron smelting to the production of pharmaceuticals, plastic products, cement, and other goods, manufacturing plants have either been reactivated or established by the private sector through investment. Recently, speaking at the closing ceremony of the Fifth International Exhibition of Industry

and Mines Week, the Minister of Industry and Commerce stated that Afghanistan has currently achieved self-sufficiency in a number of sectors. Nooruddin Azizi added that since the Islamic Emirate came to power, the number of different types of domestically manufactured products has increased from 500 to 2,000. According to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, tariffs on industrial inputs have been reduced to one percent to support the industrial sector. Furthermore, land was allocated to approximately 576 factories last year, while support was also provided through various other measures. This demonstrates the Islamic Emirate's commitment to establishing manufacturing plants and promoting the growth and development of the industrial sector. At the same time, the development of the urban economy requires cities to expand in a planned and standardized manner so that trade and commercial activities can grow accordingly. Commercial markets are also essential for urban order and the development of urban economies. For this reason, the Islamic Emirate has undertaken the construction of commercial markets in major cities across the country to support urban development and promote trade.

- ✓ **Third:** A number of citizens proposed that taxes be either exempted or reduced. For countries seeking economic development, taxes are highly important because they constitute one of the primary sources of government revenue and provide the financial resources needed to fund public expenditures. Recently, the esteemed Amir al-Mu'minin (may Allah protect him) approved tax reductions in four areas. This measure was taken to support investment, promote economic activity, and reduce the financial burden on the public and the private sector. With the exception of mining companies, the income tax rate for all legal entities, including companies and private hospitals, has been reduced to 10 percent. In addition, the annual tax-exemption threshold for individuals has been increased from AFN 60,000 to AFN 120,000, meaning that individuals whose annual income does not exceed this amount are exempt from paying income tax. The Islamic Emirate is mindful of this issue and has reduced taxes to the extent possible. However, eliminating taxes entirely would make it difficult to finance public expenditures and sustain economic development.

Conclusion

The most important issue discussed at the Economic Commission meeting was the guideline for implementing tax and customs exemptions to encourage and attract new domestic and foreign investment. Through tax and customs incentives, the Islamic Emirate seeks to encourage and attract both domestic and foreign investment.

By attracting investment, Afghanistan will be better positioned to develop its infrastructure, while trade and commercial activities will also gain momentum. Citizens have welcomed this development and described the implementation of such a guideline as an important step toward attracting investment.

Indeed, once implemented, this guideline can help Afghanistan attract foreign investment alongside domestic investment. Such investment can contribute to strengthening various sectors of the country, enabling them to become more self-reliant while paving the way for greater economic activity, growth, and development.

FIVE-YEAR ELECTRICITY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVED



Electricity is considered a key factor in economic growth, as every sector of the economy depends on electricity in one way or another. Electricity generation requires the effective utilization of natural resources, advanced technology, and human resources. Today, particular attention must be given to the electricity sector, as virtually no activity can be carried out without electricity.

Afghanistan possesses abundant resources for electricity generation, including water, oil and gas, coal, as well as solar and wind energy. Given the importance of electricity and its economic value, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has taken concrete steps to address the existing challenges in the electricity sector. The latest initiative in this regard is the Five-Year Electricity Sector Development Plan, which was endorsed by the Economic Commission, chaired by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, and subsequently approved by the esteemed Amir al-Mu'minin (may Allah protect him). The plan includes 25 electricity generation projects utilizing domestic energy sources such as hydropower, solar, wind, and coal; 13 incomplete and 23 planned electricity transmission line projects; 21 incomplete and 21 planned substation projects; and 34 planned electricity distribution projects. Upon completion of these projects, the energy sector is expected to witness significant development and progress, while the country's dependence on imported electricity will be reduced. The implementation of this plan will further enhance the role of the energy sector in the country's economic reconstruction and in strengthening financial independence, contributing to the achievement of the established goals of self-sufficiency and energy security.

Purpose of the Initiative:

Meeting domestic electricity needs and achieving economic reconstruction and financial independence through it

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

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

Positive comments: 455

Negative comments: 28

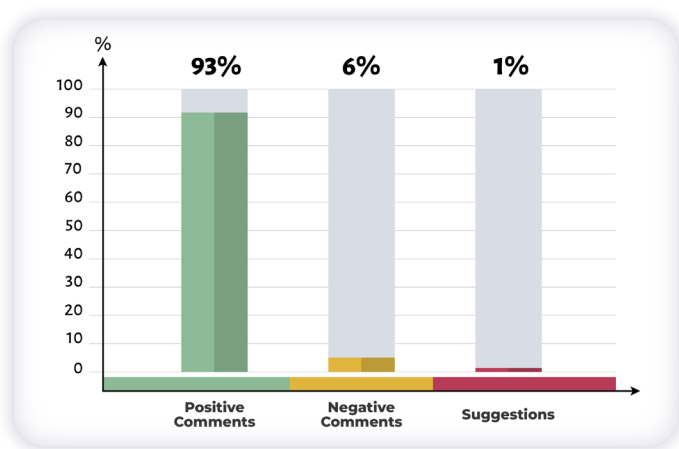
Constructive recommendations: 7

In percentage

Positive comments: 93%

Negative comments: 6%

Constructive recommendations: 1%



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. If we want to rebuild Afghanistan, we must prioritize electricity and education.
2. The implementation of this major plan can help free the country from poverty and unemployment. We not only support it but are also ready to contribute in every possible way within our capacity.

3. Electricity is absolutely essential for improving people's lives and promoting a country's economic development.

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

- ✓ **First:** A number of citizens stated in their comments that a country's development and prosperity depend on electricity and education. Indeed, both electricity and education are essential for national development, economic growth, and the well-being of the people. If a country has sufficient electricity to meet its needs, it can make progress in many areas of life. Reliable electricity enables industrial factories and commercial centers to operate, increases production, creates opportunities for investment in various sectors, and generates employment. With adequate electricity, we can also make use of advanced agricultural and medical equipment. Electricity can contribute to improving education, facilitating people's daily lives, and enhancing the delivery of public services. Countries that produce sufficient, affordable, and reliable electricity generally have stronger economies, more developed industries, better healthcare and educational services, and higher standards of living. At the same time, education is the right of every individual and a key instrument for the success of every nation. Countries that recognize the importance of education make rapid progress in the fields of economy, science, healthcare, and technology. Therefore, investment in the education sector is one of the best investments a country can make for a brighter future. If we strengthen these two sectors and enable them to become self-reliant, we can overcome the country's challenges and move toward greater development and prosperity.
- ✓ **Second:** Some citizens not only welcomed the plan in their comments but also expressed their willingness to contribute to its implementation, stating that the plan could help alleviate poverty and unemployment in the country. Governments are more likely to succeed and achieve progress when they have the strong support of their people. Governments implement their plans with the support and cooperation of their citizens. It is the responsibility of a government to formulate plans,

policies, and programs for the country's development, while citizens also have a role to play in supporting their implementation. Afghanistan requires extensive efforts for its reconstruction and development. Therefore, citizens should support the government and contribute, either directly or indirectly, to the implementation of its development plans. The fact that a number of citizens have expressed their willingness to cooperate in implementing this plan demonstrates their sense of responsibility. Likewise, all citizens should contribute to the implementation of plans and policies aimed at the country's development. Commentators also noted that the implementation of this plan would create employment opportunities and provide jobs for many people. The Islamic Emirate recognizes the challenge of unemployment and, with this in mind, has launched various projects across different sectors throughout the country. Currently, ongoing projects and activities in industry, agriculture, and other sectors have provided employment opportunities for thousands of citizens.

- ✓ **Third:** A number of citizens stated in their comments that electricity is essential for economic development and plays an important role in improving people's lives. Electricity is of great importance to human development and to strengthening a country's economy. It plays a fundamental role in both daily life and industrial activities.

Afghanistan is among the countries with abundant resources for electricity generation. Globally, water is one of the major sources used for electricity generation, followed by resources such as coal, uranium, oil, and gas. Studies conducted on electricity generation from various sources indicate that Afghanistan has the potential to generate tens of thousands of megawatts of electricity from hydropower, solar, wind, and natural gas. Given the importance of electricity and Afghanistan's abundant domestic energy resources, the Islamic Emirate is working to generate electricity from these resources and develop the necessary power infrastructure. The latest major initiative in this regard is the Five-Year Electricity Sector Development Plan, which was endorsed by the Economic Commission, chaired by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, and subsequently approved by the esteemed Amir al-Mu'minin (may Allah protect him).

The plan includes 25 electricity generation projects utilizing domestic energy sources such as hydropower, solar, wind, and coal; 13 incomplete and 23 planned electricity transmission line projects; 21 incomplete and 21 planned substation projects; and 34 planned electricity distribution projects.

Upon completion of these projects, the energy sector is expected to witness significant development and progress, while the country's dependence on imported electricity will be reduced. In short, the Islamic Emirate has given attention to the sectors and infrastructure necessary for the development of Afghanistan's industry, agriculture, trade, and other key sectors. If major projects and infrastructure development continue at this pace, Afghanistan will be able to make significant progress toward becoming an industrialized and developed country.

Conclusion

The Five-Year Electricity Sector Development Plan encompasses electricity generation, transmission, and distribution, as well as a number of planned and incomplete projects in the power sector. Its implementation will help address existing challenges in the electricity sector to a considerable extent and reduce the country's dependence on imported electricity.

Citizens have also welcomed the plan, describing it as an important step toward the country's economic growth. Indeed, Afghanistan currently has a significant need for electricity, as virtually all sectors depend on it. The country possesses abundant resources for electricity generation, and the Islamic Emirate is working to utilize these resources for domestic power production.

Recognizing the value and importance of electricity, the Islamic Emirate has taken effective steps to increase electricity generation and strengthen the country's energy sector.

7

CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND JABAL AL-SARAJ CEMENT PRODUCTION PLANT LAUNCHED



Alongside the development of other industries, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has focused on expanding the country's cement industry to meet domestic demand. Several factories have been made operational, while construction of cement production plants in Kandahar and Herat provinces is underway, with the facilities expected to become operational in the future. In addition, a contract for the construction of the Yatim Taq Cement Plant has been signed with a Turkish company, while a contract for the Al-Tamur Cement Production Plant in Logar has been signed with a Chinese company.

On July 9, 2026, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, inaugurated the construction work of the second major Jabal al-Saraj Cement Production Plant in Jabal al-Saraj district of Parwan province.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs described the plant as an important project for Afghanistan's industrial development, economic independence, and the strengthening of domestic production. He stated that strengthening the country's industrial base plays an important role in reducing unemployment and increasing exports.

He said that, with its abundant natural resources and human resources, Afghanistan has significant potential for industrial development, and that the Islamic Emirate is working to transform the country from an import-dependent economy into a production- and export-oriented economy.

The Deputy PM described cement as an essential material for the construction and implementation of infrastructure projects in the country. He added that domestic production of this essential construction material would reduce the need for imports, prevent the outflow of foreign currency, and, at the same time, create employment opportunities for thousands of citizens.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs called on all investors to invest in various sectors in Afghanistan. According to him, security has now been ensured across the country, corruption has been reduced to an unprecedented level, administrative procedures have been streamlined, and a favorable and secure environment for investment has been created.

He also emphasized the proper management of natural resources and the importance of joint efforts by the government, the private sector, and the public in promoting the country's economic growth.

In conclusion, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund called on all officials, engineers, and workers involved in the second Jabal al-Saraj Cement Plant to complete the project within the specified timeframe and to a high standard of quality.

It is worth noting that the second Jabal al-Saraj Cement Production Plant will have a daily production capacity of 5,000 tons of cement and will create employment opportunities for thousands of citizens. Once the plant begins production, Afghanistan will take another important step toward self-sufficiency in cement production.

Purpose of the Initiative:

To meet domestic cement demand and reach self-reliance in this sector

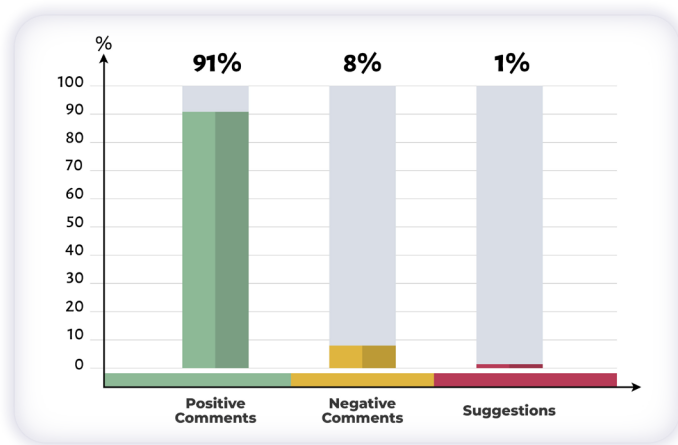
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

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

- Positive comments: 582
- Negative comments: 50
- Constructive recommendations: 9

In percentage

- Positive comments: 91%
- Negative comments: 8%
- Constructive recommendations: 1%



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. This factory will be a major asset for the country, as Afghanistan spends a significant amount of foreign currency on cement imports every year, resulting in a substantial outflow of money from the country.
2. If sufficient cement were produced domestically, we could have constructed world-class high-rise buildings in our country. However, due to the shortage and high cost of cement, many construction projects have been delayed or left incomplete.
3. It would be beneficial to establish a cement factory in the eastern region, as it is conveniently located near both the central and eastern provinces.

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

- ✓ **First:** Some citizens welcomed the news in their comments, describing the project as a major asset for the country. They stated that if Afghani-

stan produces its own cement, it will be able to save a significant amount of money. Indeed, Afghanistan's cement industry has not yet developed sufficiently to meet the country's domestic demand. According to some estimates, Afghanistan requires between five and seven million tons of cement annually. However, only a small percentage of this demand is met through domestic production, while the remainder is imported from abroad. As a result, millions of dollars leave the country each year to pay for cement imports. During the inauguration of construction work on the second Jabal al-Saraj Cement Production Plant, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, also highlighted this issue. He stated that cement is an essential material for the construction and implementation of infrastructure projects in the country. Producing this essential construction material domestically will reduce the need for imports, prevent the outflow of foreign currency, and, at the same time, create employment opportunities for thousands of citizens. The Islamic Emirate is mindful of this issue. For this reason, in addition to rehabilitating the country's existing cement factories, it has initiated the construction of cement production plants in Kandahar, Herat, Jawzjan, and Logar provinces and has now also launched the construction of a new cement plant in Jabal al-Saraj. Once these factories are completed and begin production, they will meet a significant portion of the country's demand for cement.

- ✓ **Second:** A number of citizens also highlighted the shortage of cement in the country and its high prices. Currently, only a limited amount of cement is produced domestically in Afghanistan, while the majority is imported from abroad. As a result, cement shortages are frequently experienced, and prices may also rise. Afghanistan possesses sufficient mineral resources for cement production, but its cement industry has not developed to the level required. This is not a recent problem; rather, it has existed for many years. To address this issue, the Islamic Emirate has focused on developing the cement industry and has initiated the construction of cement production plants in various provinces of the country. Increasing domestic cement production will help address both the shortage of cement and its high prices. However, developing such a major industry requires time. Therefore, citizens need to allow sufficient time for the industry to fully develop. If the Islamic Emirate's

current efforts to increase cement production continue at the same pace, Afghanistan will not only achieve self-sufficiency in cement production but may, over time, also be able to export surplus cement to foreign markets.

- ✓ **Third:** A number of commentators called on the Islamic Emirate to establish a cement factory in the eastern region of the country. The Islamic Emirate is committed to balanced development across Afghanistan. Infrastructure construction and reconstruction projects are currently underway in various provinces of the country, with priorities taken into consideration. It should also be noted that cement factories are generally established in provinces where the mineral resources required for cement production are available and are of suitable quality. The provinces where cement factories are currently under construction possess high-quality mineral resources suitable for cement production. If similar mineral resources are available in the eastern provinces, the Islamic Emirate will also seek to establish cement production plants there. Furthermore, the Islamic Emirate is working to attract both domestic and foreign investment in such infrastructure and industrial projects. Once the necessary conditions and facilities are provided by the Islamic Emirate, and provided that suitable mineral resources for cement production are available in these provinces, cement production plants may also be established there in the future.

Conclusion

One of the main objectives behind the construction of the second Jabal al-Saraj Cement Production Plant is to expand the country's cement industry and, through this, address some of the existing challenges in the sector. Increasing domestic cement production will also enable Afghanistan to meet its domestic demand through locally produced cement.

Another important economic benefit is that domestic production will reduce the outflow of money currently spent on cement imports, while also creating employment opportunities for thousands of people in cement production plants. All these factors will contribute to the country's economic growth.

Citizens' comments also demonstrate broad support for the launch of such

major projects. They have called for the implementation of more similar projects, noting that by producing cement domestically and using locally produced cement in infrastructure projects, Afghanistan can save a significant amount of money that could then be invested in other areas of the country's development.

The expansion of the cement industry will contribute significantly to Afghanistan's economic development.

**AZIZI ENERGY PURCHASES ALL TECHNICAL
EQUIPMENT FOR GENERATING 10,000
MEGAWATTS OF ELECTRICITY**



Afghanistan has extensive resources for electricity generation. These resources have the capacity to generate thousands of megawatts of electricity. However, in the past, these resources had not been utilized to generate the electricity required by Afghanistan. Following the establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, efforts have been initiated in the power generation sector, and a number of electricity generation projects utilizing water, solar energy, wind, and coal have now been launched.

On August 2, 2025, an agreement was signed between the Ministry of Water and Energy and Azizi Energy, involving an investment of \$10 billion in the generation, transmission, and distribution of 10,000 megawatts of electricity. Following the signing of the agreement, Azizi Energy also commenced the initial activities of this major project. In this regard, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met on July 21, 2026, at his office with the country's national businessman and investor, Mirwais Azizi, and his technical team.

The CEO of Azizi Energy, Mirwais Azizi, said that the company had purchased all the technical equipment required for generating 10,000 megawatts of electricity and would soon begin transporting the equipment to the country. He added that work on the construction of a major hospital for the treatment of cancer patients would also commence in the near future.

Subsequently, a technical committee composed of representatives of the relevant government institutions and Azizi Energy, under the leadership of the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, presented its report. According to the report, feasibility studies for a 100-megawatt solar power project in the Naghlu area of Kabul Province, a 100-megawatt solar power project in the Barikab area of Parwan Province, and a 131-megawatt solar power project in Ghazni Province have been completed, and power purchase agreements for the projects have been signed. The committee further stated in its report that work on the projects has practically commenced at the sites.

In addition, discussions are underway on the technical aspects of a 165-megawatt coal-fired power project in Takhar Province, a 350-megawatt coal-fired power project in Baghlan Province, the construction of the Naghlu and Ghazni substations, and the construction of a transmission line from the Tarakhil area of Kabul Province to Sana-e-Sabz Industrial Park. These matters will be finalized soon.

The committee also shared its recommendations aimed at accelerating the implementation of the projects. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs praised the committee's achievements and issued the necessary instructions to the relevant government institutions to further accelerate the work. He directed them to complete the outstanding tasks in a number of areas within two weeks and submit a report to the Office of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund assured Azizi Energy of full cooperation and called on the company to complete its work properly and within the specified timeframe.

Purpose of the Initiative:

To initiate and complete the projects of the 10,000 MW electricity.

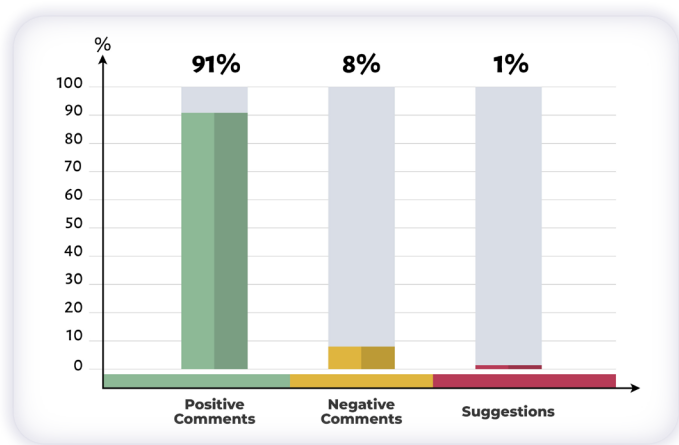
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

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

- Positive comments: 558
- Negative comments: 92
- Constructive recommendations: 11

In percentage

- Positive comments: 84%
- Negative comments: 14%
- Constructive recommendations: 2%



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. This is a very good initiative, but at present, the water shortage is being felt much more severely than the electricity shortage in Kabul, and people are under great pressure due to the lack of clean drinking water.
2. In my opinion, constructing dams is more important than generating additional electricity.
3. Mr. Azizi, we are proud of you. In addition to these projects, it would be excellent if you could also build a good hospital and select highly qualified and competent personnel to work there.

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

- ✓ **First:** Some Afghan citizens have welcomed this news in their comments, but have said that Kabul is facing a shortage of drinking water and called for the problem to be addressed. Several consecu-

tive years of drought, climate change, excessive water consumption by residents, and the extraction of large quantities of water from deep wells using solar-powered systems are among the factors that have contributed to drought and lowered the groundwater table. Kabul City has also not been spared from these effects. This is not a new problem; rather, it has persisted for the past two decades, and the groundwater level in the city has been declining day by day. Under previous governments, neither adequate attention was paid to implementing the city's master plan nor was sufficient attention given to sewerage systems. In addition, there was no comprehensive plan to raise the groundwater level in the city by increasing and replenishing underground water resources. Had these issues received attention at the time, the residents of Kabul City would not be facing such serious problems today. Since the Islamic Emirate came to power, attention has been given to this sector. The first step taken by the Islamic Emirate was to prohibit the drilling of deep wells in Kabul City and its surrounding areas, and currently, no one is permitted to independently drill such wells. Second, groundwater recharge projects have been implemented in some areas of the city. Under these projects, infiltration trenches and water-retention structures have been constructed along the foothills and hillsides of mountains in Kabul and surrounding districts, enabling snowmelt and rainwater to be stored and playing an important role in replenishing groundwater. In addition, the Economic Commission has approved a plan to lay a water pipeline from the Panjshir River. Several other similar projects are also underway, through which the water shortage problem in Kabul City will be addressed.

- ✓ **Second:** Some Afghan citizens have called for the construction of dams to generate electricity. It is a fact that Afghanistan has abundant water resources. If dams are constructed on these resources and electricity is generated, sufficient electricity could be produced to meet Afghanistan's domestic needs and even generate surplus electricity for export. The Islamic Emirate has begun rehabilitating water dams that can generate electricity in addition to irrigating agricultural land. Some electricity-generating dams across the country have already been put into operation, while work is still underway on others. The construction of water dams requires funding, and once the necessary budget and

resources are made available, new power-generating dams will also be constructed in various parts of the country. The Islamic Emirate has not focused solely on hydropower; it has also turned its attention to other sources of electricity generation, including solar, wind, and coal, and has signed agreements with the private sector for various projects in these areas. Some of these projects have already been put into operation, while solar power projects are currently under construction in various provinces, including Herat, Logar, Laghman, and others. Likewise, initial work has begun on some of the electricity generation projects included in the \$10 billion investment agreement for generating 10,000 megawatts of electricity. Once completed, these projects will increase the country's electricity generation capacity.

- ✓ **Third:** Some Afghan citizens have called on national businessman Mirwais Azizi to build a hospital that meets all required standards in addition to generating electricity. Afghanistan, having been affected by decades of war and having received insufficient attention to infrastructure development, genuinely needs infrastructure development across all sectors. The public health sector is also one of these sectors and requires significant attention. Currently, health services are being provided to citizens through the hospitals operating across the country. Some Afghans travel abroad to seek treatment for serious and complex diseases. The Islamic Emirate has accelerated its efforts to strengthen and standardize the public health sector. However, if the private sector also invests in this area, many of the diseases for which Afghans are currently compelled to travel abroad for treatment could be treated within the country. Mirwais Azizi, a national businessman, has announced plans to establish a modern, standards-compliant hospital for the treatment of cancer patients in Afghanistan. It is expected that work on this hospital will begin in the near future, and once it becomes operational, Afghan citizens will no longer need to travel abroad for cancer treatment.

Conclusion

The persistent shortage of electricity in Afghanistan is a serious and vital challenge that negatively affects daily life and is also considered a major obstacle to the development of the country's industrial sector. This situation also hinders the well-being of ordinary citizens. At the same time, Afghanistan is one of the countries with extensive resources for electricity generation. Among these resources, only water has been utilized—and even then, only to a very limited extent—while the remaining resources have largely remained untapped.

Recognizing the importance of electricity, the Islamic Emirate has initiated several electricity generation projects within the country and has also invited the private sector to invest in this field. Among these initiatives, Azizi Energy has signed an agreement worth \$10 billion for projects to generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity, and initial work has now begun on some of these projects. The procurement and transportation of the technical equipment required for these projects to the country will further accelerate their implementation.

Citizens have welcomed these developments in their comments on social media, saying that they will help resolve the country's electricity shortage and enable Afghanistan to make progress across various sectors.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION INAUGURATED



Technology is one of humanity's major achievements and has brought about a profound revolution in people's lives. Today, virtually no aspect of life can move forward without the use of technology. From communications to education, healthcare, and commerce, almost everything relies on modern technological tools. This has demonstrated that technology forms the foundation of a country's economic development, as it increases productivity, reduces costs, creates employment opportunities, and improves people's standard of living.

Given the importance of technology, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has also taken steps in this sector. An exhibition was organized to highlight the importance of technology and showcase technological equipment. The first exhibition of its kind in the telecommunications and technology sector was inaugurated by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on July 26, 2026, at the Afghanistan International Exhibition Center.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund said that, in the present era, technological advancement and means of strengthening connectivity are among the top priorities of countries, and that this progress has intensified global competition.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs added that advancing in the fields of technology and telecommunications in accordance with the demands of the modern era is a major responsibility. He said that the Islamic Emirate seeks to gradually utilize its available resources and capabilities to make Afghanistan competitive with the region and the world in this sector.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund highlighted the country's geographical location as an important factor in making Afghanistan a connectivity hub for the region and stated, "Afghanistan can connect South Asia with Central Asia in terms of data transit."

The Deputy PM further said that, since the Islamic Emirate reassumed governance, Afghanistan has made progress in telecommunications and technology. Many previously underserved areas have been brought under telecommunications coverage, while significant progress has also been made in digital governance. A notable example is the implementation, some time ago, of a system for producing official documents for government institutions.

The Deputy PM described the organization of the exhibition as important for promoting and improving the culture of technology and added that technological advancement ensures greater transparency in work, proper revenue management, time savings, streamlined processes, and reduced errors in administrative affairs.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund said that, in order to compete with the world and achieve balanced development, it is necessary to utilize advanced technology across every aspect of life. He added, "It is our religious and moral responsibility to make ourselves competitive with the world."

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs also considered the exhibition essential for nurturing the talents of Afghan youth, supporting their innovations, and developing an innovative generation for the country through technical programs. He expressed hope that such exhibitions would strengthen cooperation among the Islamic Emirate, the private sector, academic institutions, and young innovators, enabling Afghanistan to make further progress in the fields of technology and digital development.

Finally, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund assured the people of Afghanistan that the Islamic Emirate is making every possible effort to create employment opportunities for citizens within the country and address unemployment.

The Deputy PM said that, to this end, the Islamic Emirate has launched major development projects in various sectors, trade has expanded, and tax incentives have been provided to facilitate the activities of the private sector, creating employment opportunities for many citizens. However, he noted that further efforts are still required to reduce the unemployment rate.

Purpose of the Initiative:

To initiate and complete the projects of the 10,000 MW electricity.

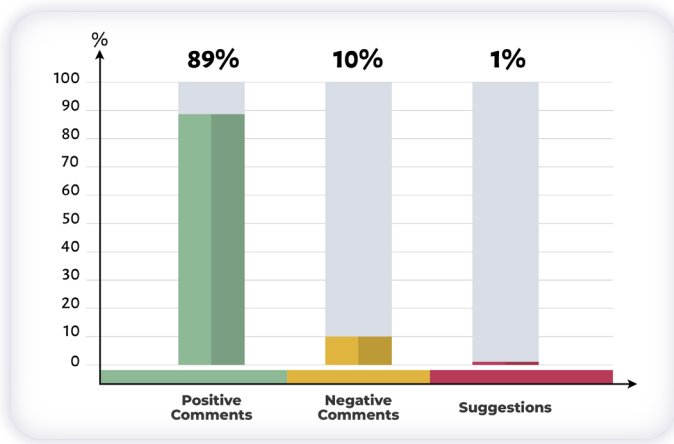
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

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

- Positive comments: 578
- Negative comments: 64
- Constructive recommendations: 5

In percentage

- Positive comments: 89%
- Negative comments: 10%
- Constructive recommendations: 1%



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. If the development of telecommunications and technology in line with the needs of the time is indeed one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Islamic Emirate, then serious attention should also be paid to the basic needs of the people. In many areas, internet services are very expensive, low-quality, and do not meet people's needs. People want

fast, affordable, and high-quality internet. Technological advancement only has real meaning when ordinary people can access and use it at a reasonable price and with good quality.

2. Telecommunications and technology are the foundation of development in today's world. If we are truly working for the development of the country, greater opportunities should be created for young people to learn, work, and innovate in the field of technology. Afghanistan has a young generation that, if provided with the necessary resources, quality education, and suitable opportunities, can compete with developed countries around the world. It is hoped that this technological development will not remain limited to exhibitions, but that its benefits will reach every province and every young person in the country.
3. The contracts for the road project in Baghlan, Parwan, and Kabul should be approved, because this route connects eight provinces and is also a trade route to Central Asia.

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

- ✓ **First:** A number of Afghan citizens have called on the Islamic Emirate in their comments to reduce internet prices and improve service quality. At present, telecommunications and internet services have reached a large proportion of the people across Afghanistan. Since the Islamic Emirate came to power, progress has been made in the telecommunications sector, and many areas that previously lacked telecommunications services have been brought under telecommunications coverage. At the inauguration ceremony of the Telecommunications and Technology Exhibition, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, referred to this matter. He said that advancing in technology and telecommunications in accordance with the demands of the modern era is a major responsibility, and that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan seeks to gradually utilize its available resources and capabilities to make the country competitive with the region and the world in this sector. The Deputy PM said that, since the Islamic Emirate reassumed governance, Afghanistan has made progress in tele-

communications and technology, many underserved areas have been brought under telecommunications coverage, and significant advances have been made in digital governance. A good example of this is the implementation, some time ago, of a system developed for producing official documents for government institutions. It has become clear that the Islamic Emirate is firmly committed to advancing technology and providing technological services to the people. Regarding the high cost of internet services, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, as well as the Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority (ATRA), have held periodic meetings with companies providing telecommunications and internet services in the country to reduce internet prices and improve quality. Over time, God willing, the prices of telecommunications and internet services will decrease and their quality will improve.

- ✓ **Second:** Some commentators have described telecommunications and technology as the foundation of development in today's world and have said that if we are genuinely working for the development of the country, greater opportunities must be created for young people to learn, work, and innovate in the field of technology. Technological development and the training of young people in this field constitute an important foundation for the development of every country. Today's world is rapidly moving toward information technology, artificial intelligence, and digital services. Countries that provide their young people with technology education and practical skills remain at the forefront of economic growth, innovation, and competition. Young people should be trained in areas such as computer technology, programming, cybersecurity, digital commerce, and other related fields. Schools, universities, and vocational training centers can enhance young people's capabilities through modern education. Likewise, providing practical projects, competitions, and training workshops plays an important role in strengthening their skills. Investment in technology not only increases employment opportunities for young people, but also contributes to the development of society, the resolution of problems, and the creation of new businesses. If young people are equipped with modern technology, they can make an effective contribution to the economic, scientific, and social development of their country.

- ✓ Recognizing the importance of technology, the Islamic Emirate has expressed its commitment to training young talents in this field. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs also referred to this issue at the Telecommunications and Technology Exhibition. He described the exhibition as essential for developing the talents of Afghan youth, supporting their innovations, and fostering an innovative generation for the country through technical programs. He expressed hope that such exhibitions would strengthen cooperation among the Islamic Emirate, the private sector, academic institutions, and young innovators, enabling the country to make further progress in technology and digital development. The Islamic Emirate is committed to achieving further accomplishments in the field of technology and strengthening this sector in the country.
- ✓ **Third:** Some Afghan citizens have called for the construction of the second road of the Baghlan–Parwan–Kabul road, saying that this road connects eight provinces and also serves as a commercial route. Highways and roads are the backbone of a country's trade and economy. Until standard roads are constructed, a country cannot achieve sustainable development. On the one hand, roads connect a country with the countries of the region, and on the other hand, they enable agricultural products and industrial goods to reach markets in other countries more easily and in less time. For this reason, countries should prioritize the construction and rehabilitation of roads and highways. Recognizing the importance of roads, the Islamic Emirate has given priority to this sector. Currently, work is underway on most of Afghanistan's major highways that have significant commercial and transit value. Rehabilitation work on the Salang route is underway. In addition, construction work is progressing on the Kandahar–Uruzgan and Herat–Ghor roads. The second road projects of the Kabul–Ghazni and Kabul–Jalalabad roads are also underway. Since the Islamic Emirate came to power, most roads have been rehabilitated. In addition to constructing roads in major cities, roads extending to the provinces and from provincial centers to districts are also being rehabilitated. The Islamic Emirate has rehabilitated, or is currently rehabilitating, all roads that have significant transit and commercial importance. Therefore, once the necessary budget and resources are made available for the construction of the

second road of the Baghlan–Parwan–Kabul road, work on the project will also commence.

Conclusion

Technology and telecommunications are among the most important foundations of development in today's world. They have made people's lives easier, accelerated economic growth, and, most importantly, strengthened connections among countries.

People can communicate with one another much more easily through telephones, the internet, and social media. Online education and electronic books have created extensive opportunities for learning. Technology and telecommunications expand trade, create new employment opportunities, and facilitate investment.

E-governance is made possible through technology, making it easier and faster to obtain documents, pay taxes, and access other government services. Technology is also highly effective in the healthcare sector.

Recognizing the importance of technology and telecommunications, the Islamic Emirate has accelerated its efforts in these fields. The organization of the Telecommunications and Technology Exhibition is a good example of these efforts.

Citizens have welcomed the organization of the exhibition and said that the development of the country is impossible without technology. This is indeed a valid point. In today's world, one of the reasons why countries are progressing is that they have utilized technology, enabling them to advance across various sectors.

The Islamic Emirate also seeks to use technology to facilitate progress in different sectors. If Afghanistan adopts new technologies across all fields and trains its young people in these areas, there is no doubt that Afghanistan will also take significant steps toward development.

TWO-DAY VISIT OF THE DEPUTY PM FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TO HERAT PROVINCE



During his two-day visit to Herat Province, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, on August 9, 2026, inaugurated a standardized laboratory for quality assessment of food products, medicines, and health products at the western zone level. He also laid the foundation stone for the new production plant of Gulbahar Cement.

On August 10, 2026, at Torghundi in Herat Province, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs held discussions with Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the National Leader of Turkmenistan, on the latest developments in the TAPI project and future joint economic activities between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. At the ceremony marking the inauguration of the standardized laboratory for quality assessment of food products, medicines, and health products, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, said that Afghanistan has taken its initial steps toward economic growth and that it is necessary to provide products and services in accordance with national and international standards and properly comply with the established standards for the importation of products.

The Deputy PM highlighted the importance of the operation of standardized laboratories in this regard, noting that they help ensure the quality and credibility of products and manufactured goods.

During the foundation-laying ceremony for the new Gulbahar Cement production plant, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund described production plants as important for meeting domestic needs, increasing exports, generating national revenue, and promoting economic growth. He described the establishment of the cement plant as an important step toward self-sufficiency and said that it would reduce dependence on imported cement, create employment opportunities for citizens, and contribute to the expansion of construction activities.

During his discussions with Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the National Leader of Turkmenistan, at Torghundi in Herat Province regarding the latest developments in the TAPI project and future joint economic activities between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs said that work on the TAPI project in Herat Province is progressing well and expressed hope that the remaining activities would be completed within the scheduled timeframe.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs called on the National Leader of Turkmenistan to reach an agreement on the price of gas and adjust the pricing formula in a way that would prevent the gas price from being affected by significant fluctuations in European markets. He further proposed that the contract be concluded for a long-term period, with simplified conditions and a flexible mechanism for reviewing the contract.

The Deputy PM also called for joint efforts and cooperation from the Turkmen side in establishing a gas distribution and consumption network in Herat Province, creating a joint technical and legal commission to resolve the remaining issues related to the TAPI project, and providing employment opportunities for more Afghans through the project.

Subsequently, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the National Leader of Turkmenistan, said that relations between Turkmenistan and Afghanistan have been strengthened on the basis of goodwill and good-neighborly relations, creating opportunities for joint cooperation in various fields.

He added that, in addition to extending the TAPI pipeline to Herat Province, Turkmenistan is ready to establish a gas distribution network in Herat and to begin the practical implementation of the TAP project. The National Leader of Turkmenistan said that a number of foreign companies had expressed their readiness to invest in the TAP project.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov further stated that Ashgabat is ready to provide all necessary facilities at the Port of Turkmenbashi for Afghanistan's transit and commercial goods. He also emphasized the need for joint efforts to activate the Lapis Lazuli Corridor in order to increase trade between the two countries and the wider region.

He assured the Afghan side that work on projects initiated in Afghanistan in the fields of electricity and railways would be completed on schedule and at an accelerated pace.

At the end of the meeting, both sides agreed to establish a technical committee, headed by senior officials, to follow up on and implement the TAPI, TAP, fiber-optic, and railway projects, with the aim of ensuring that the projects proceed effectively.

In the presence of the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, and the National Leader of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, a memorandum of understanding on the purchase of gas under the TAPI project was signed on August 10, 2026, at Torghundi in Herat Province, between the Afghan Gas state-owned company and Turkmen Gas, the Turkmen state gas company.

Under the memorandum of understanding, the price of gas, the level of gas demand, and the process for gas distribution will be determined.

Purpose of the Initiative:

To initiate and complete the projects of the 10,000 MW electricity.

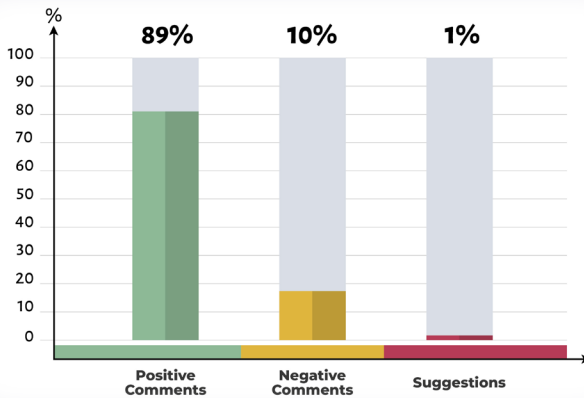
A Compilation of Opinions and Recommendations in State-Owned and Private Media

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

- Positive comments: 328
- Negative comments: 69
- Constructive recommendations: 6

In percentage

- Positive comments: 81%
- Negative comments: 17%
- Constructive recommendations: 2%



Summary of Public Opinions in Media and Social Networks:

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

1. This is an important step toward quality control and protecting public health. Every effort aimed at the development and prosperity of the country is commendable.
2. MashaAllah, the use of gas will bring many benefits to the people of Afghanistan. Most importantly, it will help protect Afghanistan's vegetation, grasslands, forests, and mountains from unnecessary cutting and the excessive use of firewood.
3. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund should pay serious attention to the water shortage problems in the southwestern zone and take measures to address them, because this zone has not received adequate attention under any government.

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

- ✓ **First:** A number of Afghan citizens have welcomed the inauguration of the standardized laboratory for assessing the quality of food products, medicines, and health products, describing it as an important step toward the development and prosperity of the country. They have said that controlling the quality of goods will help protect public health.

Laboratories for assessing the quality of food products, medicines, and health products have numerous benefits. Through such laboratories, we can ensure the safety of products. They provide assurance that food products, medicines, and health products meet required quality standards. Such laboratories can also help prevent the distribution of counterfeit and substandard medicines. Preventing the use of such medicines creates an opportunity to protect the health of the people and citizens.

When we have food products, medicines, and other health products that meet established standards, we can not only build public confidence in domestic products in local markets, but also export our standardized products and goods to international markets. In addition, these laboratories create the conditions for ensuring that imported products meet required standards and for preventing substandard products and goods from entering the country. With the establishment of such laboratories, we will have domestic products and goods that meet established standards. Likewise, by preventing substandard imports, we can expand our trade and, through this process, gain both domestic and international confidence in our products and goods.

For this purpose, the Islamic Emirate has taken concrete steps to establish such laboratories in various parts of the country, particularly at border crossings through which imports and exports are conducted. The establishment of such a laboratory at the western-zone level in Herat Province is a good example. At the ceremony marking the inauguration of the standardized laboratory for assessing the quality of food products, medicines, and health products, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, said that Afghanistan has

taken its initial steps toward economic growth and that it is necessary to provide products and services in accordance with national and international standards and properly comply with the established standards governing the importation of products.

This demonstrates that the Islamic Emirate is paying full attention to standardizing domestic production and products and is working to maintain this process so that trade can be expanded and domestic and foreign markets can be supplied with standardized products and goods.

- ✓ **Second:** A number of Afghan citizens have said in their comments that the arrival of gas from the TAPI project in Herat Province will bring significant benefits to the people of Afghanistan. Among these benefits, they have particularly highlighted that once gas becomes available in Afghanistan, people will no longer need to cut down forests or mountain vegetation for use as fuel. Their point is entirely valid. We cannot overlook the importance of forests. We need forests for our survival. Forests play an important role in preventing floods, soil erosion, and climate change.

With the arrival of gas from the TAPI project in Herat, not only will the cutting of forests in the country be reduced, but the availability of this gas will also contribute to the growth of our industries. All of these factors will contribute to the country's economic development and the prosperity, well-being, and comfort of its people.

- ✓ **Third:** Some Afghan citizens have called on the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, to pay serious attention to the problem of water shortages in the southwestern zone.

Water is of vital importance in the modern era. Constructing water dams requires substantial investment, but to manage surface water, replenish groundwater reserves, and prevent the wasteful use of water, it is necessary to construct dams or complete the remaining work on dams that were previously constructed but whose projects were left unfinished.

This would, on the one hand, promote the agricultural and commercial sectors in the country and, on the other hand, reduce the country's dependence, to some extent, on imported electricity. Addressing

challenges in the electricity sector will contribute to the development of the country's industries, while industrial development will in turn create economic stability. Recognizing these factors, the Islamic Emirate has taken constructive steps toward water management and the development of water resources. In response to citizens' calls for addressing water shortages in the southwestern zone, the Islamic Emirate has taken concrete measures to manage water resources in the region.

The construction of the second phase of the Kajaki Dam in Helmand, the construction and commissioning of the Omari Dam in Zabul, and the completion of the remaining work on the Kamal Khan Dam in Nimroz are good examples. Small dams have also been constructed in the region. The Islamic Emirate is strongly committed to controlling and managing the country's abundant water resources. Its efforts are aimed at utilizing the country's water resources to their full potential, turning barren lands into green and productive areas, and providing people with drinking water.

Conclusion

During his two-day visit to Herat Province, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, inaugurated a standardized laboratory for assessing the quality of food products, medicines, and health products at the western-zone level. He also laid the foundation stone for the new production plant of Gulbahar Cement and, at Torghundi in Herat Province, held discussions with the National Leader of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, on the latest developments in the TAPI project and future joint economic activities between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.

All of these are infrastructure projects whose completion will contribute both to the expansion of trade and to the growth of industrial activities across the country. Citizens have also welcomed these developments in their comments, saying that if infrastructure continues to be developed in this manner and gas reaches the country, Afghanistan will be able to make progress across all sectors and its people will enjoy a more prosperous and comfortable life.



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