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

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APPROVAL OF 12 PROJECTS WORTH AFN 2.7 BILLION BY THE PROCUREMENT COMMISSION

The approval by the Procurement Commission of 12 projects worth approximately AFN 2.7 billion demonstrates the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's ongoing efforts to develop the country's essential economic infrastructure. These projects are in the health, transport, and energy sectors—sectors that provide essential infrastructure for the expansion of economic activity. At its regular meeting chaired by the

Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Procurement Commission reviewed 30 projects. Following evaluation, 12 projects worth approximately AFN 2.7 billion were approved. The approved projects include the construction of hospitals in Khost wa Farang districts of Baghlan Province and Sayed Karam District of Paktia Province, the construction of a

number of internal roads in Kabul City, and the expansion of electricity supply and distribution networks in various provinces. From an economic perspective, the significance of these projects is not limited to the construction of buildings and physical facilities. The expansion of roads helps reduce the cost and time required for the transportation of goods, strengthens connectivity between cities and markets, and creates opportunities for the expansion of commercial activities. Similarly, the expansion of electricity networks increases access to energy for productive and service activities and contributes to the expansion of economic activity. As part of this process, amendments related to 10 other projects were also approved, including the completion of outstanding works at the Ministry of Finance's Dar-ul-Aman Complex, the 200-bed hospital in Kunar, Al-Shifa Hospital in Kabul, and a number of other projects. Completing ongoing projects is economically important because it enables full utilization of investments already made and creates the conditions necessary for incomplete public facilities to become operational. All of the aforementioned projects are financed by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and are being implemented with the aim of strengthening economic and social infrastructure through continued investment in the health, transport, and energy sectors.



APPROVAL OF 36 NATIONAL STANDARDS AND 30 TESTING METHODS: A NEW STEP TOWARD REGULATING THE QUALITY OF PRODUCTION AND THE MARKET

The approval by the Economic Commission of 36 national standards and 30 testing methods is an important measure toward standardizing the country's production and commercial activities, strengthening product quality assessment, and enhancing the supply of standardized goods in the market. At the regular meeting of the Economic Commission, chaired by the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, 66 draft national standards were presented by the Standards and Quality Authority. Following discussion and evaluation, 36 standards and 30 testing methods were approved. These standards cover agricultural products, food products, medicines, textiles, chemicals and plastics, telecommunications and electrical equipment, mining, construction

materials, environmental protection, and a number of other sectors. From the perspective of economic development, the existence of specific standards for these sectors provides producers and traders with a clear framework for complying with quality requirements and strengthens the basis for product assessment. The economic importance of standards is linked to market confidence, production competitiveness, and product marketing. In particular, in sectors such as agricultural products, food products, medicines, and construction materials, standardized production can establish an organized framework for regulating quality in the domestic market. The meeting also reviewed the issue of ownership of coal unloading, loading, processing, and packaging centers in Paktia,

Paktika, Khost, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces. Following the assessment, it was decided that these centers fall under the authority of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, which will manage their operations, while the Ministry of Finance will be responsible for its respective affairs at customs offices. Clarifying responsibility for these centers is economically important for organizing operations and ensuring clarity in the division of responsibilities among institutions. In an economic activity, a clear allocation of responsibilities prevents duplication and overlap of functions and facilitates the follow-up of relevant affairs. Overall, the approval of new standards and the specification of testing methods are considered among the fundamental measures toward improving the quality of economic activities, standardizing the productive sector, and regulating the market.

