

VPRS-NEA-84-174

PREX 7. 20. 84/174

10/8/84

IRAQ

VARIOUS AMBITIOUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANS, PROJECTS REVIEWED

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 84 p 5

[Article by Sana' Khalil al-Naqqash: "A Conversation with the Minister of Local Government: A Broad System of Service Projects"]

[Text] The Ministry of Local Government's activities and projects extend to all governorates of the country, where it is working with an extensive network of ministry agencies to provide the best in the area of services to Iraqi citizens.

So that we could learn about the projects which the Ministry of Local Government is endeavoring to carry out, AL-JUMHURIYAH had this conversation with Mr 'Adnan Da'ud Salman, the minister of local government.

Man Is the Highest Value

AL-JUMHURIYAH: The Ministry of Local Government is the ministry concerned with providing basic services for citizens in the governorates. What is the ministry's view on expanding these services to include broader segments of the people?

The minister:

Since the national socialist 17-30 July revolution burst forth, our country has been progressing along the road of socialist construction and the service of man with broad, brisk strides. The revolution inherited a deteriorated, backward situation in various areas and activities. The political report issued by the party's Eighth Regional Conference referred to this situation and the new tasks which the leadership and the revolution were undertaking in order to realize a quantum leap in the lives of Iraqi citizens and to set all the facilities of life on the road to resurgence and development.

During the stage which followed the regional conference, as the central report of the party's Ninth Regional Conference pointed out, our country experienced a quantum transformation and great leap in regard to the provision of the best services to the Iraqi citizen.

Therefore, the role of the Ministry of Local Government, which was anxious to offer all necessary services to the citizen, became apparent. It carried out a number of service projects within the national development plan embracing all sectors, such as the construction of schools, kindergartens, houses for teachers, potable and untreated water projects, the laying of water and sewage systems for the governorates of the country in general except for the city of Baghdad, the operation and management of them, the building and paving of streets, the construction of parks, concern for the sanitation of the cities and coordination with many ministries to carry out their projects for the sake of serving the citizens. The ministry is continuing with this program in service of the Iraqi citizen; man is the highest value in the society, the government must realize all the people's legitimate aspirations and provide all the citizens' requirements, and our commander and teacher, the president and commander, Saddam Husayn, has taught us that work is life and that the good, the whole good, is for the people first and last.

With the Conference of Governors

AL-JUMHURIYAH: The governors' conferences constitute an annual pause to evaluate the governorates' performance of their work and ways of upgrading it. What was achieved at the latest conference, which was held this year? How did the ministry carry out the directives of the president and commander, Saddam Husayn, at the conference?

The minister:

The third annual governors' conference held in the early part of last May realized important results in the direction of seeking to carry out the development plan projects in the services sector which our ministry is working on. These results are embodied in the resolutions and recommendations taken by the conference, which laid emphasis on continuous work to carry out these projects in spite of the circumstances of the war which the vindictive Iranian enemy has imposed upon us.

As a new incentive for us, the directives by the president and commander, Saddam Husayn, have stressed our leadership's insistence in principle on continuing to carry out the development projects and realize the best of services for the citizens, and they were approved by the conference as a clear plan of action and program for carrying out the projects which are under construction and future projects which are listed in the development plan and carrying them out with the desired specifications and quality. Proceeding from the directives of the president and commander, may God preserve him, we have set out an annual evaluation, on the basis of which the most active governorate and the most active governor in the country are chosen, in terms of the achievements and activities they and the agencies of their governorate have carried out. In the light of the results, as we have declared, the most active governor will be designated the "first governor" and the most active governorate the "first governorate." The celebration will take place at a special party held on this occasion. We will start with this evaluation starting the beginning of the coming year, 1985.

In addition, we will annually hold a sanitation week through the country's municipalities. This will be a civilized display to make the Iraqi city appear in its proper way, in a manner which is in keeping with the development which has occurred in the country in the era of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. Central committees will meet in the governorates to prepare for this week, along with other branch committees in the districts and subdistricts.

There is no doubt that the purpose of this week is not limited to the days in it, but that rather it must continue throughout the days of the year, in cooperation with the citizens, in order to bring about the cleanest of cities.

Extensive Service Projects

AL-JUMHURIYAH: Could we learn about the most prominent projects whose construction is taking place in the area of water and sewers, buildings, schools and service projects in the governorates?

The minister of local government:

The ministry's services are numerous and diverse. In the realm of General Water and Sewer Organization activity, 18 central water projects have been carried out in 1983 with a total capacity of 354,171 cubic meters per day; these will meet the needs of about 1 million people in a number of the country's governorates. The organization has constructed 34 new water systems and has laid new pipes to modern residential sections with a total length of 2,200 kilometers of water pipe. It has constructed 104 combined water units and prefabricated water projects with a total capacity of 137,280 cubic meters per day, serving 550,000 citizens.

The organization is currently carrying out 39 central water projects and 36 clean water systems and it is hoped that they will be finished in the course of the next year. It is constructing 28 combined water units and prefabricated water projects in various governorates with a total capacity of 36,960 cubic meters per day, to meet the needs of 140,000 people.

The General Water and Sewer Organization is now operating and maintaining 6,269 artesian wells serving 1.5 million citizens.

In the same year, the organization also carried out the al-Nasiriyah sewer project and the system belonging to it, with a capacity of 17,000 cubic meters per day, through a network 70 kilometers in length. The project serves about half a million people at present, and this can be increased. There is the al-'Amarah sewer project, with a system that has a capacity of 14,000 cubic meters a day, and the sewer project for the city of al-Diwaniyah was inaugurated at the beginning of 1984. It also started in the same year with the al-Hindiyah District sewer project and the al-Dujayl Subdistrict and Balad District sewer project; these projects will serve 49,370 people.

The designs have been completed for 14 sewer projects serving 2,265,000 persons in various governorates, al-Ta'mim, Irbil, Diyala, al-Anbac, Wasit, al-Muthanna, Dahuk, Nineveh, Salah-al-Din and Basrah.

There is the intention to recommend new projects in accordance with the requisite need and priorities.

In the Service of the Other Ministries

Regarding the other projects, these for the most part belong to various ministries, for instance the health, youth, cultural and media projects and building projects for the Ministry of Justice, the People's Army headquarters, organization headquarters, and the provision of internal transportation for citizens inside the governorates through the passenger transportation departments. The latest governors' conference read the ministries' observations concerning the projects which the Ministry of Local Government is carrying out on their behalf, or the ones whose management it will supervise. Of these, I can mention the ones that concern the Ministry of Industry, for instance. We are guaranteeing that land is provided for public and private industrial projects and industrial and craft areas are being determined in the governorates as part of the basic design for each city.

Coordination is also taking place with the General Tourist Organization by providing antiquity and tourist sites in addition to forming cooperative societies for administering housing complexes and guaranteeing that services reach them. Our ministry is helping to set out the annual general framework for the governorates' cultural and artistic program, in addition to programs on national and domestic occasions, through the central media advisory board in the governorate, which is headed by the governor, while providing buildings for the media in the governorate, such as cultural centers and halls.

The ministry is also constructing buildings for the Ministry of the Interior and other ministries such as the customs centers, the police centers, houses for government officials and also buildings for civil status departments, and the construction of centers for young people, clubs, halls and playgrounds. In addition, the governors devote attention to seeking to develop the state of youth activity in their governorates as well as attention to various youth activities.

An Upsurge in the Educational Field

AL-JUMHURIYAH: What arrangements have you made to provide educational personnel for the primary level and kindergartens and fill gaps in the schools? What bases have been authorized for distributing new teachers who have graduated from male and female teachers' institutes and organizations?

The minister:

In the light of the quantitative development of education, in terms of the numbers of students admitted to the elementary level, and the need to provide them with the necessary number of male and female teachers, the ministry has devoted the necessary attention to preparing these staffs. This

will of necessity be followed by the development of work in the department of local education in a form which will embody a view of the future of primary education, especially since the revolution has authorized the principle of accommodating all children who are 6 years of age in the primary level. This is what we are working with great effort to apply, in cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Education, since the numbers of pupils who have reached age six or will reach it by December of each year are being tabulated with the goal of accommodating them and providing them with study requirements.

Therefore the ministry, through these departments, has devoted attention to opening up educational symposia in the governorates in coordination with the Ministry of Education to fill gaps in primary education personnel, in addition to the graduates of the male and female teachers' and fine arts institutes and organizations.

School buildings will be provided in a manner which will guarantee an academic atmosphere and developed educational methods. In addition the existing buildings of schools are being maintained, labor personnel are provided for schools and kindergartens in keeping with their numbers of students, and school furniture will be provided, especially for the new schools which are being opened, in light of the expansion which is taking place in primary education, in accordance with the specifications of the law making education compulsory.

We have not stopped at this point. Rather, our ministry has sought to organize and grant sabbaticals for male and female teachers so that they can obtain bachelors' and masters' degrees and doctorates from the country's universities. We recently announced 250 sabbaticals in the education faculties in the country's university for the coming academic year.

Land for Everyone

AL-JUMHURIYAH: The president and commander, Saddam Husayn, has asserted that suitable housing should be provided for every Iraqi citizen. How are you carrying out this directive by distributing land for housing to the citizens in all areas of the country, and what rules do you rely on in governing the distribution activities?

The minister:

This is one of the most important issues for the citizen, since it is the aspiration of every citizen to obtain a suitable house for himself. The fighting president and commander, Saddam Husayn, has asserted this on more than one occasion. Therefore, we have worked with great effort to provide land for housing for everyone who needs it and meets the real conditions of need. We have been given the task of distributing land for housing among citizens and constructing buildings for commercial and housing purposes out of concern for the construction development of the cities.

We might point out that the number of housing plots which the municipalities have distributed to citizens in the various governorates came to more than

51,000, most of which were distributed between 1981 and 1983. The distribution is continuing up to now in accordance with the honored commands and directives of the president and commander Saddam Husayn.

Out of commitment to the ministry's plan and the directives of the office of the president, 323,744 plots of land have been set aside for distribution to citizens, and the governorates have prepared and completed the arrangements for sorting out and distributing 114,532 plots of land for dwellings. In addition, 92,670 plots which were sorted and ready for distribution throughout the governorates have been made ready.

Rules on Land Distribution

Here it is necessary to point out that the ministry is distributing these plots in accordance with the central conditions and rules that have been set out, primarily the commitment to the condition of place of birth. This condition will guarantee equity in distribution and equality among citizens, where each will receive his due. In addition, one of the advantages of this condition is that the ministry will be enabled to set out sound planning for the basic designs of cities and specify the number and type of service projects they require in the light of their actual population density and the plan set out for their development. In addition, this condition is of importance relative to the form and manner of land use in the coming period, that is, as regards the ambitious view of the future the leadership of the party and the revolution has taken regarding the form our cities must assume.

Here I would like to point out that no excesses are permitted to occur on the part of citizens against the lands belonging to the government, and that the effort will be made to alleviate and eliminate these excesses in legal manner, without any leniency, because the excesses now constitute an obstacle to the execution of the projects within the development plan, as well as creating a state of chaos and deficiency in planning, and as a result amount to a distortion of the features of the cities themselves.

Therefore we have indicated to the municipal departments in all the governorates that they should eliminate all existing excesses and deprive the people committing them of any type of service. Through the development planning department belonging to the ministry, we will be working to prepare designs for the cities in accordance with their present and future requirements and those of their inhabitants, in order to bring about the modern Iraqi city which the leadership of the party and the revolution are seeking to realize. We have adopted an important principle as far as the preparation of these designs goes, which is founded on getting all the citizens, represented by the people's assemblies, the people's and mass organizations and the official departments, to participate in stating their views and recommendations through symposia held for this purpose to bring about the design they wish for their cities.

They are the people with the primary interests in this area, since the basic design of their city must respond to their requirements and absorb the development of the city now and in the future.

AL-JUMHURIYAH: How much of this year's plan has the ministry carried out?

[Answer] The ministry has carried out many projects. Among our projects which were inaugurated on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution were the project for water in the al-Qadisiyah section of Takrit and Dahuk and a number of government buildings, a tourist hotel, 22 houses for government employees and a number of secondary schools in al-Sulaymaniyah. In Baghdad, a center for young people has been opened in al-Yusufiyah and one in al-Latifiyah, along with three kindergartens in al-Sayyidiyah and Saba' Abkar, six schools in the districts of al-Taji, al-Jadiriya, Saddam City and the al-Mahmudiya District, and the Arab children's library in al-Rusafah.

In Nineveh, an intermediate school has been opened in al-Hamdaniya District along with a public library in 'Aqrah District, a youth center in Hamam al-'Alil Subdistrict, a municipality office in 'Aqrah, three homes for doctors in the Districts of al-Ba'aj and al-Sharqat, and a garage for trucks in al-Khidr District. The main road to the entrance of New al-Hadr, leading to al-Hadr, and two new roads in al-Sharqat District have been inaugurated.

In al-Anbar, an intermediate [school] for boys, a primary school, a kindergarten and the New al-Rumadi water project have been opened. With respect to the Governorate of Diyala, the Baladruz housing project, an intermediate and primary school, houses for government employees, a youth center in al-Khalis al-Miqdadiyah, markets for craftsmen in al-Khalis, the paving of streets in the city of al-Mansuriyah, a modern shop, a building for the municipality, a tourist recreation center, a water project in Kan'an and two intermediate and elementary schools, a tourist hotel, and a public health laboratory in al-Muthanna have been inaugurated.

In Karbala' Governorate, the first stage of the project of President and Commander Saddam Husayn Street, two primary schools and an intermediate school have been inaugurated. In Irbil, 42 homes for people belonging to the government and the New Makhmur water project have been inaugurated.

On the same occasion, as part of the celebrations of the July revolution holidays in the Governorate of Babil, a vehicular traffic tunnel was opened in al-Hillah, a recreation center in the al-Imam Subdistrict, and a primary school and kindergarten in al-Musayyib and al-Mahawil, and the foundation stone was laid for the asphalt plant in the municipality of al-Hillah and two youth centers in al-Mahawil and al-Qasim.

In the governorate of steadfastness, the heroic Basrah, four primary schools, in the areas of al-Ma'qal and al-Harithah, and a kindergarten in Basrah are being inaugurated. During this period, the Governorate of al-Qadisiyah witnessed the inauguration of a number of projects which our ministry created as part of its current plan, including a modern market in al-Hamzah, a primary school in 'Afak, an eight-story health center in al-Siniyah and al-Mahnawiyah and one with three stories for officials in Sumar, three centers for young people in 'Afak, al-Dugharah, and Ghimas, a model sporting club in al-Diwaniyah, a multi-purpose hall in al-Dagharah, and the paving and surfacing of diverse streets in the city of al-Diwaniyah.

The governorate of al-Ta'mim has its accomplishments. A number of streets in various sections there have been paved, and a hotel is being inaugurated in al-Huwayjah and a kindergarten in the village of al-Riyadh along with 22 homes for people working in the government.

The project of the building for the Governorate of al-Najaf, with a primary school, has been inaugurated, and the cornerstone has been laid for another, intermediate school with 20 classrooms, and the Saddam hospital in al-Najaf with a capacity of 400 beds.

In Wasit, great efforts are evident in labors forming part of the current plan and in our future projects. On the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution, a boarding area has been built for students along with a firefighting center in Badrah, an intermediate school with 24 classrooms in the countryside of al-Suwayrah, with a primary school in the town, a 12-classroom school in al-'Aziziyah, a primary school with 12 classrooms in al-Hayy, a 24-classroom school in al-Fallahiyah, a primary school with 18 classrooms in al-Fallahiyah also, an integrated garage for local administration in al-Kut, an intermediary school with auditorium in al-Kuwayt, a tourist recreation center and restaurant in al-Kut, five homes for employees in al-'Aziziyah, a water system for the al-'Aziziyah section, a guest house and a municipality warehouse in Badrah, and the opening of new streets in the District of al-Nu'maniyah.

Special Projects

These projects have been carried out in accordance with suggestions by the president and commander, may God protect him, during his visits to the governorates. These have been called the special projects, to distinguish them from the other projects which they are carrying out in accordance with their general development plan. The number of these projects came to 939, mostly service projects; so far 738 of these have been carried out in various governorates of the country. Work started on these projects in 1981 and it is hoped that the remaining projects will be completed in final form at the end of this year or the beginning of 1985.

Special Attention to the Autonomy Area

AL-JUMHURIYAH: The autonomy area has its importance in your ministry's plan, as we know; what projects have been carried out there?

The minister:

With support from the command of the party and the revolution and the directives of the president and commander Saddam Husayn, the ministry, since it was created in 1979, has been offering services to the general masses of the people and has been upgrading the level of the governorates, including the autonomy region, which has received particular attention from the leadership of the party and the revolution and the president and commander in person. The number of projects carried out in the region from 1 January 1983 to 31 December 1983 has been as follows:

In Dahuk, five kindergartens, eight schools, 17 houses, two government departments and two boarding areas; in Irbil, 9 kindergartens, 22 schools, 23 houses, one government office, two boarding areas and a youth center; and in al-Sulaymaniyah, three kindergartens, 22 schools, nine buildings, five boarding areas and three youth centers. With respect to the service projects whose construction the president and commander (may God preserve him) has suggested in the autonomy region, these came to 165, most of which are on the verge of completion, and it is hoped that they will be finally completed at the end of this year. At the same time, the number of contracting assignments on service projects whose construction the ministry is undertaking in the region as a whole which will be completed at the end of this year, in addition to water and sewer projects, schools, youth centers, homes for government employees, and boarding areas, comes to 227. In each governorate, a number of these will be carried out in accordance with an extensive schedule, and we will exert our utmost effort to carry them out.

In the area of education in the governorates of the autonomy region, large numbers of male and female teachers have been appointed and transfers have been made among them for the 1983-84 academic year with the goal of creating a form of stability in educational personnel in accordance with each governorate's need. The number of appointed teachers who were graduates of the male and female teachers' institutions and institutes came to 1,450 -- 344 for the Governorate of Irbil, 876 for the Governorate of al-Sulaymaniyah and 240 for the Governorate of Dahuk.

These have been our ministry's achievements in all areas of the country as we continue unrelenting work and great effort for the sake of raising the level of the Iraqis and providing the best of services.

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