

## RAMADAN OPENS IRRIGATION PROJECT IN AL-TA'MIM GOVERNORATE

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[Article: "Under Patronage of President and Leader Saddam Husayn, First Deputy Prime Minister Inaugurates First Phase of Saddam Irrigation Projects; 1984 Will Witness Announcement of New Projects in Fields of Irrigation, Oil and Gas"]

[Text] Under the patronage of His Excellency President and Leader Saddam Husayn, First Deputy Prime Minister and Revolution Command Council member Taha Yasin Ramadan inaugurated yesterday morning the first phase of the Saddam irrigation project in al-Ta'min Governorate.

On the occasion, Taha Yasin Ramadan delivered an address describing the project as one of the major projects in the development plan that continues to be implemented despite the war conditions imposed on our country.

The first deputy prime minister asserted that the fundamental objectives of the 1980-1985 5-year plan will be accomplished with the definite resolution of our unique leadership and of the sons of our great people so that the development and building movement may continue.

He said that we believe that in this phase, as Leader and President Saddam Husayn has asserted repeatedly, the economic confrontation parallels and complements the military confrontation because we have been certain from the first moment that the aggression was imposed on our struggling country to obstruct the development process.

He added that our struggling people have created for the first time ever a unique and unprecedented situation. Despite the conditions of the war we have been waging for more than 3 years along a 1,180-km front, we have been able, to achieve at the same time high rates of project implementation on the one hand and to increase the capacity of the existence projects on the other.

Taha Yasin Ramadan noted that 1981, the 2d year of the war, recorded the highest figure in allocations for development investment--a figure that exceeded all the figures allocated in the pre-war phases.

He also said that the major part of the allocations was connected with the infrastructures of the national economy, such as roads and communications in addition to the future-oriented strategic projects seeking to transform this economy from a one-dimensional one relying on oil as a sole source to a many-sided economy ranging from the processing of most oil byproducts, to the development of the agricultural situation and to the setting up of advanced industries relying on national technology.

The Revolution Command Council member also pointed out that despite the war conditions and the difficulties emanating from them, work has continued in the strategic projects being implemented, especially agricultural, irrigation and industrial projects.

Ramadan asserted that 1984 will witness the announcement of new projects in the fields of irrigation, land reclamation, oil and gas and of a number of export projects so that our struggling country's development activity may continue.

Taha Yasin Ramadan further said that if we want to continue implementing our development projects even under the conditions of the war in which we have scored crushing defeats against the rulers of Tehran, the enemies of our people and of our people's progress--if we want to continue implementing our development projects, we must work more seriously and must work with our minds and hands in every position in which we exist.

Concluding his address, Ramadan asserted that the future belongs to Iraq and said that this is the conviction of all the other countries and not just our conviction as Iraqis. Were it not for this certainty regarding our country's future, there would not be all this international demand to implement our development projects and to increase our economic and commercial cooperation with the world.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, the minister of irrigation, delivered an address at the outset of the inauguration ceremony in which he said that this project was completed 6 months ahead of schedule and that it is one of the world's enormous irrigation projects--a project in whose implementation of the latest scientific and technological methods have been employed.

The minister also reviewed the major irrigation projects currently being undertaken by the ministry, noting that the allocations for the ministry rose from 120 million dinars in 1978 to 465 million dinars in 1983 in order to construct the immense irrigation projects and to achieve food security for Iraq and for the Arab nation.

He said further that these projects will lead to the ideal utilization of water, will transform the deserts into green fields and will secure an honorable life for our people and for future generations.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the Regional Command member and the secretary of the Northern Organization Bureau of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party; a number of ministers; the governors of al-Ta'mim, Salah al-Din and D'wala Governorates; the comrade secretaries and members of the leaderships of the party branches in the three governorates; and a number of officials of the Ministry of Irrigation.

The project's general director also delivered an address in which he reviewed the project specifications and the technical methods employed in implementing it, noting the volume of the main activities in the first phase--activities embodied in the removal of 47 million cubic meters of earth, 500,000 cubic meters of concrete work and 950,000 meters of asbestos piping.

The first phase of the project includes a main canal with a length of 67 km, 4 main regulators, 56 small regulators, 4 siphons pumps, 72 culverts and 25,000 donums irrigated by sprinkling.

The Saddam irrigation project, considered the biggest of its kind in Iraq and one of the biggest in the world, will irrigate 1 million donums, including 350,000 donums in the first phase.

The project also contains 7 complete modern villages with a total of 577 houses, major road networks, 4 experimental farms for research, a beet farm which is about to be completed and an automatic control system for operating the main canal and the regulators.

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