

PLANNING MINISTER ON WEST BANK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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[Text] Planning Minister Dr Tahir Kan'an has said the estimated total amount of the public sector's investments in the 1986-1990 economic and social development plan for the occupied territory has reached 362,500,000 dinars. This estimation reflects the best choice among a number of investment alternatives which were presented throughout the stages of preparing the plan. In a statement to PETRA, Dr Kan'an added that development plans and proposed projects were distributed among various sectors. The plan allocates 61,700,000 dinars for the agriculture sector, 22,500,000 dinars for the industrial sector, 155,000,000 dinars for the housing and construction sector, 78,697,000 dinars for the education sector, 34,400,000 dinars for the health sector, and 10,174,000 dinars for the social development sector.

The planning minister added the plan aims to enhance the citizens' capability under the occupation to resist the occupation authorities' pressures aimed at uprooting them by promoting the quality of work by Arab citizens and their national institutions and by confronting and reducing permanent and temporary emigration. The plan also aims to reduce the Arab labor force working in Israeli activities and to lower Arab consumption of and limit dependence on Israeli products. He noted the plan will develop and diversify individual skills, expand job opportunities, strengthen the people's relationship with the land and society, and promote the attraction of Arab villages as a suitable environment for a stable life.

On its implementation and its mechanism, Dr Kan'an stated that the outside serious work to improve economic and social activities in the occupied Arab territory is not an easy job. Many people doubt the outside world can achieve such a positive effect on the existing system. The planning minister added there are obstacles and deterrents limiting the abilities of the occupation authorities to deal freely with the fate of the 1.5 million Arabs under occupation. The Arab citizens have succeeded to a great extent in safeguarding the standard of stability on their territory. They made construction and development steps in many fields, thus maintaining growth in the population and in the standard of living despite all obstacles.

They were supported in this by contacts with their sons working abroad as well as by using the open bridges to transport agricultural products to East Bank

markets and by the aid which continued at different levels, including the salaries of employees in Jordanian civil service departments, the municipalities' shares from fuel revenues allocated in the Jordanian treasury, and Arab and foreign aid. He noted that many factors affecting economic and social activities in the occupied territory are linked to the policies, systems, and measures decided and adopted in the East Bank.

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