

## **Sayyid Al-Hakeem calls to provide services to Baghdad's suburbs, stresses decentralization in the country**



Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem, Head of Al-Hikma National Movement, met with the Chairperson and members of the Baghdad Provincial Council on 19/2/2024, extending congratulations on the trust placed in them by their constituents and the successful formation of their council. His Eminence underscored that provincial councils serve as a practical implementation of the decentralization principles outlined in the Iraqi constitution. The focus was on the vital task of activating the roles of these councils, reclaiming functions previously centralized, and assigning responsibility to local governments for upholding the principles of decentralization. H.E. emphasized the importance of activating the service-oriented aspects of local government and placed a strong emphasis on field presence and fostering a collaborative spirit among team members. H.E. also emphasized the intricate connection between service delivery and the political system in the country, urging a departure from political and social conflicts in Iraq.

H.E. stressed the need for significant improvements in the service landscape for suburban areas within Baghdad, aligning them with the actual population size and ensuring a fair distribution of wealth. H.E. expressed concern about competition for positions in some provinces, and called for a collaborative approach with the Baghdad Municipality, drawing on the valuable experiences of past local governments and governors, H.E. also stressed the Stability within local governments as a key factor.

H.E. called for both short-term and long-term solutions, with a particular focus on the importance of attention to the infrastructural and design aspects of local government buildings.